2022 PORTLAND PLUNGE

After a 2-year hiatus, the Portland Plunge is back! The Portland Plunge is a weeklong in-person opportunity for high school students to learn about houselessness and poverty in Portland. The Plunge is an experience to…

* Listen to the stories of our neighbors living on the margins
* Serve at organizations working for social justice
* See the city in new ways
* Meet new friends
* Step outside your comfort zone
* Experience a simpler lifestyle
* Engage in deep conversation and reflection

The Plunge is a week of intense learning, hard work, and challenging experiences, but it is also full of fun and joy. For most, it becomes a rewarding and exciting experience they carry with them for the rest of their lives.

WHAT: The Plunge is a weeklong service-learning experience facilitated by JOIN designed to provide exposure to high-school students on issues such as houselessness, poverty, barriers preventing people from getting the support they need, and cultural differences. During the week, you will have volunteering opportunities at different agencies across Portland.

WHERE: The Plunge will be coordinated by JOIN in NE Portland. You are responsible for coordinating your own transportation. Students will use public transportation throughout the day to access different service sites; TriMet passes will be provided free of

charge. If using public transportation to get to/from the Plunge, please reach out ahead of time to receive those passes beforehand.

WHEN: June 20th to June 25th, 2022. You must commit to the entire week experience. Due to COVID-19 restrictions at JOIN, the Plunge will not be an overnight experience as in previous years; expect to be there from 8:00-5:00/6:00 from Monday through Saturday.

WHAT’S THE COST: There is no cost for this program, but personally it will be the price of a week of intense learning and confronting tough issues. If individuals would like to make a

donation to support the Plunge and other JOIN programming, please make checks payable to JOIN.

SAFETY: Participants will be required to be fully vaccinated (2 doses of a COVID vaccine) and will be asked to wear masks for much of the experience, for the safety of each other and for vulnerable members of our community that we may interact with. Additionally, a qualified staff will ensure a safe and meaningful Plunge experience.

APPLICATION: Four things are needed for a complete application: 1) a permission slip signed by you and your parents; 2) the application itself; 3) proof of full vaccination (2 doses of a COVID vaccine); and 4) 1 recommendation filled out by an adult such as a teacher, coach, mentor, youth minister, etc. Recommendations filled out by relatives will not be accepted. Please submit the application materials and references (or have your references submit their recommendations directly) to Andrew Magel at the email address [immersion@joinpdx.org](mailto:immersion@joinpdx.org) by May 23, 2022.

QUESTIONS? Please email Andrew at [immersion@joinpdx.org](mailto:immersion@joinpdx.org) or text/call at 971-930-3518.

**2022 Portland Plunge Application**

**Deadline: May 23, 2022**

NAME\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

GENDER IDENTITY\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ PREFERRED PRONOUNS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 

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T-SHIRT SIZE\_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

AGE\_\_\_\_\_ (as of June 20th)

GRADE \_\_\_\_\_ (this year)

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFO \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU A PREVIOUS PLUNGE PARTICIPANT? YES\_\_\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_\_\_

IF NOT, HAVE YOU EVER APPLIED BEFORE? YES\_\_\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_\_\_

Please type your responses to each of the following questions. Please try to have your responses fit on two pages.

1. Why do you want to participate in the Portland Plunge? What are you hoping to gain from the experience?
2. What do you expect will be the most challenging aspect of the Plunge for you?
3. What is your biggest strength in interacting and working with others? What is your biggest area for growth when it comes to interacting and working with others?
4. Do you have any experience volunteering or interacting with people experiencing homelessness or other vulnerable populations?
5. What type of issues or questions would you like to learn about during the Plunge?

Please list any community activities that you have participated in during your high school years (sports, clubs, service activities, etc.) Please mention if you have participated in any JOIN immersion programs.

**YEAR(S)** **ACTIVITY**

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**Please email a scanned copy of the signed agreement form and application, reference, proof of full vaccination against COVID, and parent/guardian agreement form by Monday, May 23 to** [**immersion@joinpdx.org**](mailto:immersion@joinpdx.org).

**Please reach out to** [**immersion@joinpdx.org**](mailto:immersion@joinpdx.org) **or 971-930-3518 with any questions/concerns.**

**Portland Plunge Agreement Form:** To be read and signed by both the student and a parent or guardian

I understand that my child has applied to participate in the Portland Plunge experience. I realize that the retreat is primarily an experience of learning from individuals experiencing homelessness and of living a simple lifestyle. Youth will be chaperoned at all times and, although there will be needed free time, youth will be on a tight schedule of service work, personal interaction with people who are experiencing homelessness, discussion of their experience and reflection in reconciling their experience with their assumptions.

Safety is a primary concern for all participants. While working in the social service agencies, youth will be divided into groups of five youth and one adult Plunge leader. The leader, along with the regular service agencies staff, will be with the youth at all times. During the evening, participants will be staying at a facility in NE Portland. Under no circumstances are the youth allowed free time away from the housing facility in the evening. Although many fun and relaxing activities are planned for the evening time, they will be conducted as a group.

I realize that my child’s health will be constantly monitored; however, at times the youth will be working around five to six hours a day in the summer heat. My child is in average to good physical condition for a person his/her/their age. *I will record any potential health concerns and allergies on the back of this sheet.*

A qualified team made up of teachers, college students, social workers and other professionals will lead the youth throughout the week.

I understand that participation in the Portland Plunge is based upon an application process, and therefore, participation is not guaranteed upon submission of an application. Medical forms and waivers will be sent upon acceptance into the program.

There will be no smoking, drinking of alcohol, or use of other drugs allowed on this retreat, by either the participants or the leaders.

I realize that if my child breaks the established rules and is posing a serious threat to his/her/their safety or the success of the experience for the others, I will be called to take my child home.

I, as a participant, recognize that we will be discussing some very serious topics, and promise to be mature and engaged throughout the week, recognize that individuals will be sharing very personal stories with the group, and promise to act respectfully towards everyone.

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Parent/Guardian Signature Date

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Student Signature Date

1435 NE 81st Ave; Suite 100; Portland, OR 97213 www.joinpdx.org Tel: (503) 232-2031 ext 106 Fax: (503) 232-4640