

ISV UW-Madison Kick-Off Meeting 2.10.05

I. Welcome to ISV!

Who We Are & What We're About

We are the campus chapter of a larger organization based out in California that sends university students from across the world on month-long trips to places such as Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, New Zealand, and Australia. For the first two weeks of this trip, students engage in volunteer work focusing on community development and conservation. For the second two weeks, the students travel around their host country, taking in the sights and participating in really fun activities, such as sky diving and white water rafting.

What we do is try to bring that down to the Madison level by offering students here a chance to do conservation and community development volunteering in the local area. We have worked with organizations such as the Red Cross, Salvation Army, and Habitat for Humanity in the past. However, we're also about having a good time and enjoying ourselves. We have gone skiing, apple picking, and are currently looking into a bunch of fun activities for everyone!

II. A Quick Word from the Red Cross

We had a guest speaker come in to talk about the importance of giving blood and also about our upcoming blood drive, which is happening on Wednesday, February 16th in the On Wisconsin Room of the Red Gym from 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM. For more information, please go to:

<http://www.givelife.org>

Or contact Lindsay Schaffner at lrschaffner@wisc.edu. We need donors for this, so please sign up to donate if you can!!!!

III. Intros All Around

Brynna Larsen – Co-President
Patrick Schuette – Co-President
Nicole Granacki – Volunteer Co-Coordinator
Lindsay Schaffner – Volunteer Co-Coordinator
Molly Sedarski – Social Co-Chair
Lyndsey Schorr – Social Co-Chair
Emily Bethea – Secretary
Sheradyn Mikul – Webmaster
Jamie Johnson - Treasurer
Annie Hernandez – Fundraising Coordinator

IV. Announcements

Things Around Campus

-Intern abroad in Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia, or United Arab Emirates for business, econ, or IT majors through AIESEC. For more information, go to this website:

<http://salaam.aieseconline.net/>

-International Opportunities Month: Search the International Institute's website:

<http://www.intlstudies.wisc.edu/news/events/>

-Peace Corp Info Sessions (3rd Wednesday of every month). Next one is February 16th at 6:00 in the Red Gym Media Room

Things We'll Be Doing

-We will be taking a car ride to see the movie *Hotel Rwanda*, a movie about the Rwandan Genocides on Wednesday, February 16th in the evening. For more information, please email Nicole Granacki at nikkistar@aol.com

-Tsunami Relief Benefit Concert: February 17th from 7-9 PM in Mills Music Hall (in the Humanities Building). Come see local musical acts along with performances! \$5-\$10 donations recommended; all proceeds go to help Tsunami victims. If you want to join in the group going, please email Annie Hernandez at amhernandez@wisc.edu!

V. Where We've Been and Where We're At

This Semester So Far

-We have logged 57 hours so far with our projects at Wexford Ridge and Vera Court! Thanks to everyone who helped us get here!

-Sponsorship Project: Our first \$100 donated! We're hoping this project really takes off in the near future; keep your eyes peeled for it! Also, we have had two articles written about our club so far in the past month! Please check them out!

Wisconsin State Journal:

<http://www.madison.com/archives/read.php?ref=wsj:2005:01:24:401346:LOCAL/WIS>

Daily Cardinal:

<http://www.dailycardinal.com/news/2004/11/10/News/Group.Aims.To.Turn.Travel.Abroad.Into.Service.Aboard-799248.shtml>

-Along with a bunch of other major international organizations around campus, we will be helping to set up and sponsor a major Tsunami Relief Fundraiser this spring to help the victims as much as possible. Right now, it seems like we will either be having a volleyball tournament or a basketball tournament with required donations for each team. We will be keeping you guys posted on this!

V. Upcoming Events

Fun Volunteer Events!

Wexford Ridge Neighborhood Center

-Every Friday, from 3:30 to 5:30, we head over to the Wexford Ridge Neighborhood Center, over by West Town Mall, to help out with an after-school program hosted for children between the ages of 7 and 11 years old. We play with the children, give them positive attention, help them with their talent shows, and also help out with the people who run the program.

This weekly project is one of our most successful and enjoyable projects! If you want to be on the mailing list for this, please contact Patrick Schuette at ptschuette@wisc.edu! Unfortunately, there is limited space, so please be prompt if you want to participate. People who are willing to drive are quite welcome!

Vera Court Neighborhood Center

-Every Tuesday, from 3:15 to 5:00 PM, we head over to Vera Court, which hosts an after school and tutoring program for elementary and middle school students. There are two shifts for this program, playing with the elementary school kids from 3:15 to 4:00 PM, and then tutoring the middle school students from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM. The first shift leaves at 2:45 PM, the second leaves at 3:30 PM. People on the first shift will stay for the second shift to help out, as well.

If you would like to be on the email list for this project, please email Nicole Granacki at nikkistar@aol.com and indicate if you are available for either both shifts or just the second shift.

ISV Sponsored Blood Drive

-This is a big one guys! This blood drive will be happening on Wednesday, February 16th from 12:00 PM until 5:00 PM in the On Wisconsin Room of the Red Gym, as mentioned above. We need everything from volunteers to donors! If you are able to spare some time, PLEASE email Lindsay Schaffner at lrschaffner@wisc.edu and let her know that you can donate or volunteer! Tell your friends!!!

Polar Bear Plunge

-Take the plunge for Special Olympics! A hole will be cut into the ice of Lake Monona and groups will be jumping into the water on Saturday, February 19th! All jumpers are asked to get sponsorships of at least \$10. If you would like to jump with the ISV group, email Lindsay Schaffner at lrschaffner@wisc.edu!

Habitat for Humanity

-We will be helping out with building a house for Habitat for Humanity (Dane County Chapter) on March 5th from 7:45 AM to 4:00 PM. Meals will be provided. Unfortunately, there is currently a waiting list for this activity, so if you would like to be placed on it, email Lindsay Schaffner at lrschaffner@wisc.edu so she can put you down.

We will hopefully be having another session with these people, so don't worry if you don't get in!

Social Event!

Ski Trip to Tyrol Basin

-Once again, we will be heading over to Tyrol Basin for skiing and snowboarding! We will most likely be having this event on Saturday, February 26th; expect to get updates from us on this event in the near future! We had a lot of fun when we went in December; hopefully this time will be even better!

VI That's All Folks!

Thanks to everyone who came out to the meeting this week! Check out our website at <http://isv.rso.wisc.edu> for updates!