

Marist Volunteer Community at The MBCE

Hallmarks of the Marist Volunteer Life-

- Hospitality
- Youth Ministry
- Manual Labor
- Community Life

Description of the Program –

During the Winter Months the Marist Volunteers provide a Hospitality Ministry to the many groups of young people who use our Center as a place of retreat. We make groups feel welcome and at home here at the MBCE. This takes many forms, sometimes serving meals, making beds, or helping to clean the house.

Some groups ask us to provide a retreat program for their confirmation classes or high school students. These retreat programs are offered as day or overnight programs in either our Main Retreat House or in our Outdoor Adventure course, the MVC will help develop and run these programs as part of their youth ministry work.

During the summer months the Marist Volunteers have the opportunity to serve in a variety of capacities during our summer camps for special needs populations. Children, Young Adults, and Adults with physical and mental disabilities call the MBCE home and enjoy our property June through August, with a staff of over 500 volunteers throughout the summer there are a lot of opportunities to serve.

Throughout the year the beautiful 120 acres of the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus need a lot of attention. From raking leaves in the fall, plowing snow in the winter, and painting the pool in the spring there are many projects to be done, the MVC helps to keep the property beautiful year round!

During the year our aim is to help you grow in each of these areas and in your own personal and spiritual development. In addition the support of the staff here at the MBCE and the greater Marist family, the Marist Volunteers have the support of their fellow community members. Openness to community life is an important part of the MVC life. The community members help to support each other, through prayer, friendship, and service together.

Marist Volunteer Community Logistics

Housing - MBCE Cottage

- MVC live in a community with lay Marists, Marist Brothers, and other volunteers.
- It is the responsibility of each community member to keep the house clean and be respectful of each other's space.
- Room and Board are provided by the MBCE

Stipend - \$50 per week

Food –

- Many meals are provided at the Center;
- A food budget is allotted for the community, depending on the size of the community
- It is expected that the MVC eat together with community when possible; at least 3 times per week.
- The MVC may also be invited and should feel welcome to join the other communities on property for meals

Spiritual development –

- While being respectful of people at all levels of relationship with God, it is expected that prayer is a pivotal part of the community.
- Prayer should be scheduled at least 2 times per week as a community
- The MVC may be invited to join other communities on the property for prayer
- There are a number of trained spiritual directors on property and in the area, the MVC are encouraged to take advantage of this resource
- Each year the MVC will have a Retreat, this may be in conjunction with the MBCE Staff

Health insurance –

- Health insurance is provided through the Catholic Volunteer Network the center absorbs this cost of this.

Transportation –

- While on property the MVC has access to the several vehicles owned by the MBCE
- Work related gas expenses are paid for by the MBCE.

Orientation –

- Upon arrival at the MBCE the MVC will have an orientation period to get acquainted with the each other, the staff, communities and their responsibilities at the center.