



National Orientation & Beginning of Year 2018-19 Logistics

Questions? Contact Drea Mast: operations@lutheranvolunteercorps.org, (202) 387-3222 x221

National Orientation is the beginning of the LVC 2018-19 program year, a gathering for all incoming Volunteers that lays a foundation to define program expectations for your journey throughout the year, to describe and introduce spirituality as a practice in the context of LVC's mission, and to create a reflective, empowering space in which you are able to engage your own story and others' stories.

You are responsible for showing up at National Orientation on **Saturday, August 11 between 1-3:30 PM.**

NATIONAL ORIENTATION

Location:

The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC)
1100 E 55th Street
Chicago, IL 60615

Time:

Registration begins at **1 PM** and closes at **3:30 PM**

SUGGESTIONS FOR TRAVELING TO NATIONAL ORIENTATION ON AUGUST 11 (PLANNED BY YOU)

Please confirm travel arrangements no later than July 1 via our Travel Arrangements form (located on LVC's website: <http://lutheranvolunteercorps.org/current-volunteers/>).

- LSTC is accessible by all modes of public transportation. Please refer to the Chicago Transit Authority website for detailed information and for the Trip Planner at www.transitchicago.com.
- If flying into Chicago, Midway airport is recommend, but you may also fly into O'Hare. From Midway, you can easily take the 55 Garfield Eastbound bus directly from Midway to LSTC, at the 55th and University stop. Bus details here: <https://www.transitchicago.com/bus/55/>.
- If you are driving to LSTC and plan to have your car during Orientation, you are responsible for finding street parking. There are limited free parking spots around the perimeter of LSTC.

TRAVEL TO YOUR LVC CITY ON AUGUST 15 (ARRANGED BY LVC)

- LVC will make the travel arrangements to your LVC City, unless you are authorized to drive (such as if your Placement requires a vehicle*). All Volunteers will leave directly from National Orientation to their LVC City on Wednesday, August 15, sometime after the Sending Ceremony. For those flying to their LVC City, a shuttle bus will be provided to take you to the airport based

on your flight departure, and you will be provided with a schedule for your shuttle departure time at Orientation. For those flying from National Orientation to their LVC city, **LVC will cover the cost of one checked piece of luggage** that does not exceed the standard weight requirements issued by major airlines.

- If your LVC City is on the east coast, you are **not** permitted to drive directly from Chicago to your City on August 15. If your Placement requires a car or you are planning on bringing a car, you must drive and store your car in your City prior to National Orientation. Your Program Manager will be able to help you make arrangements for storing your car during Orientation.

*If your LVC City is not on the east coast, and your Placement requires the use of a car/you have received prior authorization to bring your car to your LVC City, LVC will ask you carpool your housemates on August 15. Please indicate your passenger capacity on the Travel Arrangements form.

NOTES ABOUT NATIONAL ORIENTATION

When you arrive at LSTC for Registration, you will enter the glass lobby doors to the front desk area to sign in, and someone will show you to your housing, which you will share with your future housemates or Volunteers in the same region. You will then continue with Registration in the LSTC Refectory, where you will meet with your Program Manager. The Opening Ceremony will begin at 4:30, followed by a Welcome Cookout for dinner.

While National Orientation will be fun and you will have some time in the evening to explore Chicago with your housemates, Orientation is meant to lay a foundation for the upcoming year, and has a very full schedule. Please keep this in mind as you prepare for the week. You will receive a schedule of National Orientation's events at Registration on August 11.

What to Bring to National Orientation

- Casual, lightweight clothing, walking shoes
- Cash (\$20-\$40, including small bills and coins)
- Notebook/ Journal and Pen
- Toiletries, etc.
- Reusable water bottle

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

LVC Houses are Simply Furnished

Each LVC City has a group of people that supports the local program (Local Support Network). Many will volunteer with Program Staff during the summer to ensure that everything is set up and ready for your arrival. Our Local Supporters will also provide basic staple foods for your fridge and cabinets so you don't have to go grocery shopping the minute you arrive in your city!

All LVC houses are furnished with:

- Beds
- Dressers

- Tables
- Chairs
- Lamps
- Appliances
- Basic kitchen supplies
- Most of the houses are furnished with fans
- Most houses have an old television or small radio, but some do not.
- Most houses have washers and dryers and, again, some do not. For those of you who do not have in-house laundry facilities, one of the ways you'll get acquainted with your neighborhood is by being a regular at the local Laundromat! For houses that don't have a washer & dryer, your house community will receive a laundry stipend.

What to Bring for the Year

In addition to your clothing and personal care items, you will need to **supply your own linens** including pillow(s), sheets, blankets and towels. You may choose to pack lightly for the year and carry all of your personal effects to National Orientation and then on to your LVC City or you may ship your personal effects to your LVC house. You will receive options for early shipping in your House Packet in July. LVC does not reimburse the cost of shipping.

A note about simple and sustainable living: Part of building community this year will be to determine your collective understanding of simple and sustainable living, particularly as it relates to household belongings, how you spend your time, what kind of food will you eat, etc.

That said, LVC suggests that you leave behind personal televisions and other "luxury" items. In recent years, many Volunteers have chosen to bring cell phones, laptops, and tablets, but we encourage you to consider that these items may be considered "luxuries" rather than necessities, and we challenge you to think about the impact having these items has on the Core Practice of living simply and sustainably. In addition, having these items makes you susceptible to the possibility of theft, which can occur while you are out at a coffee shop, sitting in the park, at your Placement, or waiting for public transportation. Likewise, LVC houses, while not more susceptible to burglary than other homes, have been burglarized in the past. Even with safety training and awareness these situations cannot always be controlled.

Remember Your Identification Documents

It takes a little time to get yourself established financially in your city. You will receive your first stipend check on your first day of work, August 20, 2018. However, opening a new bank account may take up to 10 days and cashing a check without a local state ID can sometimes be difficult. LVC will provide a letter of residence indicating you are a participant in the program and confirming your LVC house address. However, you **will need your social security card and/or a birth certificate** (or passport) to obtain a state I.D. with your new address, open a bank account to establish residency.

Purchasing Renter's Insurance

We strongly recommend that you consider purchasing a renter's insurance plan to cover your personal belongings. **LVC does not provide renter's insurance for volunteers.** You and your housemates may want to do some research to find an insurance company that could provide a group policy, but even an individual policy would cost an average of \$10 per month. We also recommend recording serial numbers of

all electronic equipment or engraving items with an I.D. number. LVC claims no responsibility for lost, damaged or stolen items.

Your New Mailing Address

Housing assignments are made by Program Managers in the early summer. You will receive this information from your PM in your House Packet prior to your arrival to National Orientation in July, in time for you to ship any personal items to your LVC City.

Your Stipend: What is it, when is it paid?

You should receive 1½ month's stipend on your first day of service (for half of August and the full month of September). You should then receive your next stipend on the 1st of the October, and on the 1st of every month following. Your last stipend check will be on July 1st. It is very important that you receive your stipend at the beginning of each month. If your Placement is unable to provide you with a check on the first day of each month, a Contract Amendment will be made outlining a schedule of your stipend checks.

Your monthly stipend is made up of three or four amounts:

1. Food stipend: \$130
2. Living stipend: \$130 (\$150 for second years)
3. Rent due to LVC: Varies from City to City
4. Transportation stipend: Varies from City to City; may not be included in your monthly stipend if your Placement gives you a monthly pass or card for public transportation.