

“TORCHBEARER”

ST. PIUS X HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL 11th GRADE RETREAT – CLASS OF 2021 JANUARY 15, 16 & 17, 2020



NEW AND IMPROVED JUNIOR RETREAT SCHEDULE 2020

Wednesday, January 15 | Part I: Service Immersion Experience:

Service Immersion Experience at Various Houston Social Agencies
SPX Check In 8:30am | Service 9:30am–2:00pm | Dismissal 2:45–3:00pm

Thursday & Friday, January 16 & 17 | Part II: Overnight Retreat Experience:

Overnight Retreat Experience at Camp Cho-Yeh, Livingston, Texas
SPX Check In 8:30am | Depart 9:30am on Thursday | Dismissal 4:00–4:15pm on Friday



TRANSPORTATION

Wednesday, January 15 | Part I: Service Immersion Experience:

A combination of SPX busses and a contracted bus will be used to transport students to and from various local service sites.

All students are required to ride their assigned bus to and from the immersion site.

Thursday & Friday, January 16 & 17 | Part II: Overnight Retreat Experience:

Charter Bus services will provide transportation to and from Camp Cho-Yeh in Livingston, Texas



MEALS

Wednesday, January 15 | Part I: Service Immersion Experience:

A simple sack lunch will be provided for all.

Thursday & Friday, January 16 & 17 | Part II: Overnight Retreat Experience:

Camp Cho-Yeh will provide all meals for the overnight retreat experience.

We are happy to try and accommodate special medical, religious, or nutritional/dietary needs.

Please make request to the Office for Campus Ministry by phone or e-mail *seventy-two hours prior to the retreat* at spedalep@stpiusx.org. Food and nut allergies should be noted on the permission waiver and medical form.



ATTIRE/WHAT TO PACK

Wednesday, January 15 | Part I: Service Immersion Experience:

Blue jeans or uniform bottoms only with the 2020 junior retreat t-shirt
(t-shirts will be distributed on Tuesday, January 14, after school)

Thursday & Friday, January 16 & 17 | Part II: Overnight Retreat Experience:

ONLY blue jeans may be worn for the overnight retreat experience with any SPX t-shirt, polo, sweatshirt, team jacket. Closed toe shoes only. Outerwear jackets of any kind are permitted. Check the weather conditions and be prepared for cold and wet weather.

A packing list, instructions for turning in medications (prescription and/or over the counter), what not to bring will be provided by the Office for Campus Ministry and reviewed with juniors by the Dean of Students.



EMERGENCY CONTACT

In an emergency, parents/guardians may contact the Director of the Office for Campus Ministry at (713) 494-0390. The Camp Cho-Yeh Telephone Number is 936-328-3200.

YEAR 11 RETREAT FAQ

Q: What is the goal of the junior retreat experience ?

A: Junior retreat provides students the opportunity to build community, serve those in needs, have dedicated time away from classes to have a break from their busy schedules, unplug from technology, reflect on their spiritual journey and have opportunities for private and communal prayer in an inviting retreat setting. All students are required to participate in their annual class retreat.

Q: How religious are the retreats ?

A: As a Catholic school, all of our retreats are Christocentric. However, students of all faiths are welcome to participate in and to help serve as retreat leaders. Through participating in a retreat, students are able to deepen their personal spirituality as well as their friendships with classmates. Students of all faith traditions benefit from the class retreat experience wherever they may be on their own spiritual journey.

Q: What is the focus of the junior retreat ?

A: The TORCHBEARER retreat introduces juniors to the components of the Christian Service Learning Course of SPX. Retreatants review and reflect on the principal themes of Catholic Social Teaching and the direction the teaching provides for responding to the crucial social justice needs of our times. Senior retreat leaders present and share with juniors first hand insights and stories of their own service experiences and the impact it has made in their own lives as VERITAS men and women.

Q: What will my son/daughter be doing on the retreat ?

A: Juniors will experience a mini-service immersion opportunity, reflect and discuss the service rendered, those served, and the impact made in their service. They will experience a variety of fun community and team building activities, small reflection and discussion groups, journal and meditation exercises, presentations by seniors and faculty/staff members, and celebrate together in prayer and worship.

Q: Who will be leading/chaperoning the retreat ?

A: SPX faculty/staff members chaperone this retreat. Senior Peer Ministers who have been specially trained and prepared through retreat leader formation, serve as small group leaders. Faculty and staff members supervise each session.

Q: How will my son/daughter get to the retreat center and back to SPX ?

A: There will be an assigned bus to transport all retreatants to from the immersions sites and also to and from Camp Cho-Yeh.

Q: Is this an excused absence ?

A: Yes. All retreats are school-sponsored events and participation counts as a regular school day function.

Q: What about missing schoolwork ?

A: The juniors will have a three days out of classes and, therefore, will not have work or homework assigned on the days of retreat.

Q: Can you accommodate my son's/daughter's food allergies/restrictions ?

A: Yes, we are happy to work with you to accommodate most dietary needs or restrictions. In some cases, it may be recommended that a student bring their own snacks, meal supplements, or even specialized dietary meals.

Q: How Do I need to fill out the SPX Field Trip Permission Form and Camp Cho -Yeh Waiver for my son/daughter?

A: An electronic copy of the SPX Field Trip Permission Form for 11th Grade Retreat and a Camp Cho-Yeh Waiver will be sent directly to parents/guardians. Copies of the SPX Field trip Permission Form – 11th Grade Retreat and the Camp Cho-Yeh Waiver may also be found under the retreat page of the ministry tab on the school website. Completed and signed electronic copies of both of these forms is due no later than **8am on Monday, January 13, 2020.**

Q: May my son/daughter take their cellular phone on retreat?

A: No. Because this is a time to retreat and “unplug”, students are not permitted to have their cell phones on the overnight retreat experience. We suggest cell phones be powered off and left secured in the student's assigned school lockers until after the retreat. All retreat staff will have access to their personal cell phones at all time in case of an emergency.