

Great Hostel Give Back

Our Communities

Giving back
& building bridges



Summary

The Great Hostel Give Back (GHGB) is a program that supports the HI USA mission by donating a free hostel stay to groups who do service work that will benefit the community surrounding the hostel.

During January and February, GHGB rewards groups of 8 or more with a free night's stay at a participating hostel for each day they volunteer a minimum of 2 hours - up to 5 nights. (Groups must find their own service project. Groups may pay for additional overnights beyond the 5.)

The program allows participants to engage in civic responsibility through service and learn about hostelling, HI USA, and our mission. In addition to the required service, they are asked to participate in a hostel activity and a Hostelling 101 session. The Hostelling 101 session allows the members to better understand Hostelling, HI USA, and our mission.

While all are eligible to participate, the target audience for GHGB is groups which include first time hostellers including between the ages of 18-30. Groups can be of any kinds – college/university groups, faith-based groups, groups of friends, even high school and Girl/Boy Scout.

All associate hostels are asked to participate. Participating hostels are asked to provide a hostel activity and a Hostelling 101 session for GHGB groups.

National HI Association HI USA

Hostel Participants in 2017 Every Associate Hostel (non-seasonal)

SDG Contribution

Depends on the type of service project. These three apply to the overall program. Specific service projects may hit on a number of other different SDGs.



HI USA GHGB Program Goals:

- Introduce FIT groups to HI USA and hostelling as a way to increase global awareness and intercultural understanding (via Hostelling 101 Session).
- Promote civic responsibility through action (via the Service Project).
- Facilitate communication among people of diverse backgrounds (via the Hostel Activity).

Participant Outcomes:

- Awareness of HI USA mission, programs and the relationship between hostelling and increased intercultural understanding and tolerance.
- Engagement with people of diverse cultures and backgrounds
- Service to the community surrounding the hostel in a meaningful way.

Triple Bottom Line Impact

Economic

Local Economic Development
(depending on service project)

Customer and Brand Development
and Awareness Building

* dependent on service project

Social

Local Community Development
(depending on service project)

Civic/Community Engagement

Environmental

Local environmental restoration
(depending on service project)

Methodology

- Decide upon eligibility criteria, and program requirements
(program requirements should include ways to assess the impact of the program on recipients)
- Determine which hostels are included in the offer
- Develop website, application, and selection process
- Launch the application
(application period should open 1 month before program start and close 2 weeks prior to program close)
- Evaluate the applications in a way that is fair and legal
- Notify the participants and those who did not qualify and allow them to meet the qualifications
- Have fair and legal processes and policies for the entire program – including, but not limited to: verifying eligibility, submitting legal documentation, verifying completion of program requirements, and change change/cancellation of travel.)



Group Testimonials

Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity AmeriCorps Program – Minneapolis, MN to [HI Austin](#)



The Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity AmeriCorps Program had 22 AmeriCorps members travel from Minneapolis, Minnesota to Austin, Texas. For their volunteer program, the group built homes and fences for the Austin Habitat for Humanity.

One group member shared that the experience was a “great way to get to know Austin and meet other travelers in the area. Location is on point.” Another group member wrote, “I was able to meet some very interesting people who were also staying at the hostel.”



Alternative Bronco Breaks from Western Michigan University – Kalamazoo Michigan to [HI Richmond](#)

The Alternative Bronco Breaks from Western Michigan University visited Richmond, Virginia from Kalamazoo, Michigan.

The members divided into two service groups; one group volunteered at Adult Day Services and the other group volunteered at a local animal shelter.

For their hostel activity, the group participated in a local tour hosted by HI Richmond. Through the tour, group members were able to learn about the history and important sites in Richmond, while meeting other travelers visiting the hostel .



Master of Science in Hospitality Management Club (Cal Poly Pomona) – Los Angeles to [HI San Diego Downtown](#)

The Master of Science in Hospitality Management Club at Cal Poly Pomona in Los Angeles visited San Diego and volunteered at a non profit called Urban Angels. The members served dinner to individuals involved in a housing program designed to reduce homelessness.



Rutgers University – New Brunswick, NJ to [HI Washington DC](#)

The Rutgers University group visited Washington DC from New Brunswick, NJ. The group of students volunteered with two separate organizations including Capitol Hill United Methodist Church and A Wider Circle, which focuses on ending poverty.

They continued to serve as part of their hostel activity, the group prepared a communal meal for the hostel guests in honor of Martin Luther King Day. They were able to sit down with guests from all over the world to share the meal.

Technical details

Funding: HI USA funded

Target audience: Groups of 8 or more, ages 18-30, but all are permitted to participate

Reach: Across the United States



Duration: Application Period – 16 weeks, Program – 2 months (January/February)

Risks: Fair and legal evaluation process and program policies

Partners involved: Local Community Organizations for Volunteering

Communication plan: Grassroots, social media, emails from staff

Estimated number of guests using the facilities: 25 Groups, 478 participants, 16 hostels with groups (out of 25 available), 1160 comped overnights, 205 paid overnights (beyond the 5 free)

3,941 hours of volunteer service to local communities. Volunteer projects included: serving dinner to the homeless, volunteering at an adult day care, food prep for individuals living with HIV/AIDS, beach clean ups, sorting donations at a homeless shelter, participating in the Hackathon 2030, helping at food pantries, gardening at an urban farm and graffiti abatement.

Partners' satisfaction: N/A

Participants' satisfaction:

Survey Question	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	
PRE-Stay - How would you rate your perception of a hostel?	26%	55%	18%	4%	
POST-Stay – Based on your experience with the Great Hostel Give Back Program, how would you now rate your perception of a hostel?	78%	20%			
	Extremely Familiar	Very Familiar	Moderately Familiar	Slightly Familiar	Not at all Familiar
PRE-Stay - How familiar are you with Hostelling International USA (HI USA)?	6%	15%	10%	19%	50%
	Extremely Likely	Very Likely	Moderately Likely	Slightly Likely	Not at all Likely
PRE-Stay – How likely are you to recommend staying in a hostel to a friend?	72%	17%	5%	5%	0%

Hostel/Association's satisfaction with the activity: HI USA is pleased with our ability to meet program goals and deliver participant outcomes. We plan to continue to with Great Hostel Give Back each year in January and February.

Would you like to know more about this initiative?

Contact: Candice Washington, Director of Education

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Read more about HI USA [here](#)

Read more about the community-based projects at HI USA [here](#)

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