



The Ulster Project
Castleberg/New Orleans
Initial Teen Application Form



We would like you to give your honest opinion about how you would deal with the following situation and what do you think you could learn.

You arrive in New Orleans, it seems at first that you and your host teen have very little in common and this person wouldn't be your usual choice of friend. What would you do?

Parental Involvement

Participation in the Ulster Project involves not only the teen but also their parents. It will be necessary for parent(s) to attend regular meetings (at *least* once/twice a month) in order to organise and run fundraising events. It is important that parents are aware of this commitment from the outset and agree to full participation by signing below.

Also, this provides consent to the Ulster Project to follow up the references provided above as deemed necessary

Parents Signature



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What leadership training or experience have you had? (Scouts, BB/GB, church youth groups, class or club officer, etc.)

How would you describe yourself? How would your friends describe you? (If you're not sure you should ask a friend)

In the space below please tell us a little bit about yourself, your family, your interests, what are your hopes and plans for the future and what you love to do.



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Detailed Information

Please give as much information as you can, you may also attach additional paper if you need to.

Tell us the reasons why are you interested in participating in the Ulster Project.

What do you hope to gain from the experience?

What do you think you can offer as a participant on the Ulster Project and what qualities would you bring to the group?

List your church and club activities.



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Please complete application in BLOCK LETTERING

Personal Information and Contact Details

Full Name (as detailed on passport): _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____ Home Phone Number (including code) _____

Your E-Mail Address _____
(please indicate if this is an address of a friend/relative. If you don't have an e-mail address, please write NO EMAIL ADDRESS)

Date of Birth (DD/MM/YY) _____ Name You Go By _____

Parents'/Guardians' Names _____

Parents'/Guardians' E-Mail Address _____
(Please indicate if this is an address of a friend/relative. If you don't have an e-mail address, please write NO EMAIL ADDRESS)

Mobile Phone Number Teen _____ Parent _____

Protestant Roman Catholic Your Church/Parish Name _____

Personal References

Please provide the information below in full for two adult individuals who are sufficiently familiar with you to provide a character reference. A Church or Youth Organisation Leader should provide one reference and your School Head or Form Teacher should provide the other. Teen applicants will not view comments submitted by references.

	Reference 1	Reference 2
Name	_____	_____
Address	_____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____
Relationship/Role	_____	_____

WHAT IS EXPECTED FROM YOU?

While there is a lot of focus on the July month on America, the Ulster Project requires a large commitment and energy in the weeks leading up to the summer.

If you participate in the Ulster Project, you will be **FULLY** expected to attend meetings to get to know the other teens, and prepare for the Annual Talent show at the end of June.

You will also be expected to participate in any fundraising which the Ulster Project requires to function.

The Ulster Project also participates in other Community Events in the Castlederg area, in which we are to volunteer.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO NOW?

Together with these information pages, you should have received an application form for the Ulster Project. This form should be completed, and returned to your Priest or Minister by **Sunday 9th December at the latest**.

Please ensure that the form is **FULLY** completed.

Please ensure that you have asked your referees for their permission to be contacted for a reference about you.

If you have any questions after this meeting you can always contact:

Jonny Harron – Mobile: 07968 141123, email jonnyharron@yahoo.co.uk or
Sheryl Smith – Mobile: 07709 837981, email sherylwilliamson@hotmail.com

*Thank you for your interest in the Ulster Project, Castlederg.
We look forward to hearing from you very soon!*

ABOUT NEW ORLEANS

If you are selected for the Ulster Project, your month in America will be spent in New Orleans, in the southern state of Louisiana. Groups have been travelling to the 'Big Easy' from Castlederg since 1991. This should give you an idea what the city, and the people are like.

GEOGRAPHY: With the exception of Miami, Florida, New Orleans is the most southerly large city in the United States (It is further south than the Mediterranean Sea and on the same latitude as Cairo, Egypt) The city is located in the middle of the North Coast of the Gulf of Mexico, and is approximately 100 miles upriver on the Mississippi River from the Gulf. New Orleans does not have the beautiful natural beaches of Ireland, since the Mississippi River (which runs through New Orleans) carries a heavy silt load over half of North America.

CLIMATE: The New Orleans area has a near tropical climate, with frequent afternoon rains during the summer. July is the hottest and wettest month of the year with the normal daytime temperatures going over 90°F (32°C) and can exceed 100°F. Night time temperatures drop only to about 75°F (24°C). The sun is intense, and sunburn can begin within the first 15 minutes of exposure. Most people who travel from Northern Ireland to New Orleans in the summer feel as though they have entered a sauna when they first arrive, but adjustment is fast. To ensure protection from sunburn, ensure that you remember to frequently reapply the sunscreen which is provided.

The area can also be particularly difficult for those with respiratory conditions, due to the high humidity, especially as so much time is spent outdoors.

PEOPLE: New Orleans has had successive waves of immigrants from all of Northern Europe, (including Ireland), Mediterranean countries, Africa, the Near East, and the Far East. You will hear a great variety of languages in the city, though the dominant cultural strains are Mediterranean in many ways, the black population and cultures are well represented.

HOUSES AND LANGUAGE: Houses, as well as public buildings and vehicles, are air-conditioned, so windows and doors are almost always closed, especially in the summer. Cooling, not heating is the big concern in the area. Both plants and insect pests thrive in the hot, humid climate; therefore windows and doors are almost always fitted with screen wire for protection from insects on those limited occasions when windows are open.

SPEECH: Speech in New Orleans reflects the modifications to 'standard English' found in many of the sections of the U.S., the difference is emphasized because of the influence of other languages and the typically slower pattern of the South. Americans love the accents and phrases of the Castlederg visitors – but many have to ask several times for slower repeats, especially at first.

FOOD: Most of the ethnic groups, which have come to the New Orleans area, have preserved their cultural cuisines. Because most people have adopted some of the dominant Mediterranean styles of cooking, food will frequently be relatively spicy, compared to Northern European preparation. Seafood plays a large part in local diets, and rice is commonly used much more than potatoes.

NEW ORLEANS AND THE ULSTER PROJECT

When the initial 12 teenagers and 2 counsellors left Castlederg for New Orleans in 1991 people in both places wondered if what was starting would last, and be successful. Those initial doubts have all disappeared, to be replaced by a confidence, a familiarity, an understanding and a real transatlantic community that the years have brought. With the return to a more customary program in 2007 following the enforced break in 2006 as a result of the after effects of Hurricane Katrina, the Ulster Project is here to stay and grow.

There is a very broad-base of support for the Ulster Project in New Orleans area. Over the years, it has received support from members of over 115 New Orleans area parishes and congregations, along with a similar number of other organisations and an even greater number of individuals.

After the 2018 project, there have been 382 teenagers and 38 counsellors from Castlederg who have been involved with the Project. Many lasting friendships have developed in local communities on both sides of the Atlantic. In the 'off year' of 2006, 21 visitors from the New Orleans Ulster Project were hosted in Castlederg.

Many host families in New Orleans, as well as other friends, come back year after year to assist the Ulster Project, even if they are not hosting either teenagers or counsellors. Although not an exchange program, more than half of the host American teenagers have travelled to Castlederg after becoming involved with the Ulster Project.

In Castlederg three 'Reunions' (2001,2006,2011) have been held, with visitors travelling from New Orleans to stay with families in Castlederg, catch up with old friends and see the surrounding area.

The strong community links were also in evidence when Castlederg held a Variety Concert to aid those who were affected by Hurricane Katrina in the New Orleans area in September 2005, with monies raised distributed to charities in the New Orleans area.

In 2013, the success of our Project and the hard work completed by many people in both Castlederg and New Orleans since 1991 was acknowledged through Castlederg Ulster Project receiving the Queens Award for Voluntary Service. The Award, an MBE for volunteer groups, recognises and honours excellence in voluntary activities carried out by groups in the community, and is given in recognition of volunteers who offer their own time to enhance and improve the quality of life for others, encouraging and giving opportunities to individuals or other groups. The Award provides new encouragement that going forward, with the continued support of people in Castlederg, the Ulster Project will continue to promote its aims and objectives and work towards our shared future.

2016 marked the 25th Anniversary of the Ulster Project in Castlederg. We celebrated this in November with a Mardi Gras themed Dinner Dance. This was a great opportunity to meet with past teens and counsellors, to reminisce about all the good times that they had experienced throughout the project. It was truly humbling to see the lasting friendships that have been made through Ulster Project.

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in the Ulster Project. You are sure to have many questions about what will it be like and what will I have to do to participate in the Ulster Project. Hopefully what is provided here will answer all your questions about what will be expected from you, and what you need to do now.

BACKGROUND

The Ulster Project is an ecumenical, non-profit, non-political, peacemaking organisation working with teenagers from N. Ireland. It was founded in 1975 by Canon A. T. (Kerry) and Mrs. Waterstone.

The Ulster Project is dedicated to promoting peaceful co-existence of Roman Catholics and Protestants in N. Ireland by building tolerance, trust and ongoing positive relationships between potential leaders from both traditions. The Project is committed to:

1. Presenting a programme that brings N. Irish teens together with American teens to emphasise acceptance of all people regardless of creed.
2. Alleviating attitudes and actions which can disturb relations between Roman Catholics and Protestants.
3. Encouraging participating teens, their families, N. Irish leaders and clergy involved in the Project to continue to foster the spirit of the Ulster Project, even after the current year's project
4. Promoting a spirit of co-operation and commitment to peacemaking and reconciliation among American supporters and participants.

There are various projects throughout Northern Ireland and in America. Each project is composed of equal numbers of Roman Catholics and Protestants boys and girls, under the guidance of two adult leaders, one Roman Catholic, one Protestant, one male, one female. They participate in Educational, Recreational, Social and Devotional activities, including a residential during July in American homes.

SYMBOL:

The four interlaced circles represent the four elements of the Project which are brought together – Protestant, Roman Catholic, Northern Ireland, and America. The inclusion of the cross needs no explanation.



If you want to learn more about the Ulster Project in general, or the New Orleans project in particular, you can check out the following websites on the Internet.

For information on the Ulster Project in general go to <http://www.ulsterproject.org>

For information on the New Orleans Project specifically <http://www.ulsterneworleans.org>

THE ULSTER PROJECT 2019



CASTLEDERG
NEW ORLEANS