

Making Travel and Lodging Arrangements

Here are some tips for making travel and lodging arrangements for your group:

If you are volunteering on an American Red Cross relief project, the Red Cross may help pay for transportation, lodging, and food for your trip. Check with your local Red Cross chapter for information.

If you are traveling in cars or vans, you may be able to get special rates on rentals for the trip. Check with individual vehicle rental agencies and online travel companies. Many trip leaders have complained that van and car rentals have been very expensive, especially if they are rented in the affected areas. Taxis, especially in New Orleans, are very expensive. Most car rental agencies require that drivers be over 25; make sure you have drivers who are old enough to take the wheel.

Many colleges and universities have vans and buses. Check with campus officials to see if they can be made available for your trip.

Craigslist, the online resource, continues to have a section relating to Hurricane Katrina (www.neworleans.craigslist.org). This website offers information on ridesharing to major cities in the Gulf Coast region and housing information.

Your contacts in the Gulf Coast may be able to provide or suggest lodging. The lodging may turn out to be in campgrounds, group quarters, shelters, or family homes. Make sure to have lodging plans arranged before you leave.