

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Day of Service Hosted by Penn State Homecoming

Volunteers serve State College Community

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (Apr. 2, 2017) — Penn State Homecoming hosted its annual Day of Service Saturday April 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The day was an opportunity for Penn State students to interact and give back to the State College community.

Bailey Gibson, the University Relations Director in charge of planning the event, feels this event is one that truly embodies Homecoming's mission to "celebrate tradition and instill pride in all members of the Penn State family through active engagement of students, alumni, faculty, and staff across the community."

Gibson said, "By volunteering in Penn State Day of Service, I think all of the volunteers can look back and be proud of the tradition that they are a part of. It always amazes me that each year, we can get 200+ volunteers to wake up and dedicate their time to our organization and to the community. This really emphasizes the pride they have for their university."

This year 230 volunteers participated in Day of Service, all stationed throughout 16 different service sites. Service sites visited by Penn State volunteers ranged from various nursing homes to local parks. Some students also stayed on campus and created Mail Call for patients at the Penn State Hershey Medical Center as well as wrote letters to send to troops overseas.

Penn State Homecoming was excited to add a new service opportunity to their list this year. Gibson said that the MorningStar Solar Home contacted Homecoming looking for volunteers to help out during this year's Day of Service. MorningStar Solar Home is a 100% renewable energy-powered home located on the Penn State campus. The project is used as a tool to teach students about sustainability and various other learning topics. The home produces all of its required energy through solar, wind, and geothermal systems. "I'm very excited to see how our volunteers react toward this new opportunity!" said Gibson.

Jamie O'Hare, a Penn State Homecoming volunteer stationed at MorningStar Solar Homes, said she really enjoyed learning more about Penn State's advances in sustainability and solar energy, but what she enjoyed most was "looking at all the hard work put in and how it actually contributed to making a difference." She was not alone as many students took great joy in the efforts put forth to get to know and help the community.

Penn State Homecoming's Day of Service is aimed at connecting Penn State students to the outside Penn State community. By doing so, the event brings together Penn Staters of every journey and walk of life. Each year the University Relations Committee works to grow the event by adding service sites so more students can share in the experience of giving back. When asked about her future hopes for Homecoming Day of Service, Gibson said "I hope that we continue to see the pride in each volunteer as they return from their service experience and realize that they made a difference that day. That is what our Day of Service is all about."

Penn State Homecoming's 7th Annual Legacy Celebration is set to occur on Wednesday, April 26, in the HUB. Days prior to this event, the Homecoming Executive Committee will reveal the 2017 Homecoming Logo during halftime at the Blue and White Football game on Saturday, April 22.

About Us

Penn State Homecoming is a student-run organization with aims to celebrate tradition and instill pride in all members of the Penn State family through active engagement of students, alumni, faculty and staff across the community. Our organization is comprised of many student volunteers who donate their time to creating a multitude of events that make the Homecoming celebration a yearlong event.

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