

## Reach Out Brazil Spring Break 2010

*Dates:* March 6-18

*Cost:* \$1500-1600

*Language:* Portuguese (not required)



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Favelas—severely impoverished communities in Brazil—are commonly misrepresented in popular media as dangerous hubs for drugs and violence. These sources, however, often fail to portray the people's sense of community and drive for betterment akin to many disadvantaged neighborhoods around the world. Reach Out Brazil will give its participants the opportunity to work first-hand with the citizens of Favela da Maré in a community center that was built in their honor from grants awarded by the government and the Brazilian oil company PETROBRAS. In Vila Olímpica da Maré, members can interact, learn, and play in a safe haven that maintains the unique sense of community of Favela da Maré, one of Rio's largest favelas.

The Vila Olímpica da Maré, which extends over 30,000 m<sup>2</sup> of land, currently serves more than 8,000 citizens of every age group from the Favela da Maré. The center is equipped with a large gym, two tennis courts, two pools, two soccer fields, classrooms, computer labs, a library, and a small clinic. The center offers competitions in a variety of sports including soccer, volleyball, swimming and track, as well as workshops in topics ranging from healthy eating to first aid and CPR. Participants of Reach Out Brazil can expect to partake in already existing workshops and sporting events as well as help plan a new workshop which the group will collectively facilitate and present.

Students in the trip will also have a chance to explore the vibrant culture and customs unique to Brazil. Its ethnically diverse population makes Brazilian culture and lifestyle unlike any other place in the world. During the time spent outside the Vila Olímpica, participants can expect to visit an array of attractions and institutions that will introduce them to the political, cultural, and economic sectors of Rio de Janeiro including: Corcovado, Pão de Açúcar, PETROBRAS headquarters, Pontifícia Universidade Católica-Rio, Santa Teresa, Jardim Botânico, Lapa, museums, samba clubs, a capoeira club, and trips to the beach. We hope that through immersion in Brazil's unique culture we can work to increase awareness and foster intercultural dialogue between American student leaders and the people of Brazil.

To learn more information about the Vila Olímpica da Maré please visit [www.vilaolimpicadamare.org.br/](http://www.vilaolimpicadamare.org.br/)

### Tentative Itinerary (abridged)



*Saturday, March 6:* Leave JFK

*Sunday, March 7:* Arrive in Rio de Janeiro and settle into apartment

*Weekdays of March 8-16 (mornings):* Work at Vila Olímpica da Maré from around 10-2 pm.

*Weekends and Weekdays of March 8-16 (late afternoons/evenings):* Visits to: Corcovado, Pão de Açúcar, PETROBRAS headquarters, Pontifícia Universidade Católica-Rio, Santa Teresa, Jardim Botânico, Lapa, museums, samba club, capoeira club, and a lot more!

*Thursday, March 18:* Depart Rio de Janeiro.