Q: Why would I participate in Chicago Bound?

- To become more informed about Chicago and methods of effecting social change, including direct service, research and evaluation, advocacy and activism, community organizing, public policy, social entrepreneurship, impact investing, and philanthropy.
- To learn about different nonprofit organizations, businesses, and government agencies.
- To discover the diverse neighborhoods of Chicago and to engage with fellow residents in the third largest city in the country.
- To build strong relationships with fellow incoming students and Group Leaders.
- To apply what you’ll learn in college to what you’ll experience through Chicago Bound and in the city.

Q: What does a typical day look like?

7:45am-8:00am Review the day’s agenda at I-House (International House) on campus
8:00am-9:00am Breakfast at Cathey Dining Commons
9:00am-10:00am Take the CTA (Chicago Transit Authority) bus or train to service site
10:00am-12:00pm Meet community residents and leaders
12:00pm-1:00pm Lunch
1:00pm – 5:00pm Meet staff of community organization and work on service project
6:00pm – 7:30pm Dinner and discussion of day’s activities
7:30pm – 9:00pm Evening social activity or event with community members
9:00pm-10:00pm Return to I-House
10:00pm-10:30am Reflect on day’s experiences and foreshadow next day
10:30 -- Sleep!

Q: When does Chicago Bound take place?

Saturday, September 12 through Saturday, September 19. Chicago Bound participants will be able to move into their assigned academic year housing on Saturday, September 19. Sunday, September 20 is the first day of the University’s Orientation Week (O-Week).

Q: Does it cost anything to participate?

No. The program is at no cost to you! All housing, food, and transportation expenses are covered by the University Community Service Center (UCSC) and Institute of Politics (IOP).
APPLICATION PROCESS

Q: How do I apply?

Complete a short online application form at

http://ucsc.sites.uchicago.edu/page/chicago-bound

Q: When is the application due?

Monday, July 13

Q: Who can apply to Chicago Bound?

Any incoming first-year student in the College is eligible to apply.

Q: I don’t have any previous community service experience. Can I still apply?

Absolutely! The program is designed to expose you to social change, social justice, and volunteerism.

Q: When will I find out if I am selected?

Monday, July 27

PROGRAM MODEL AND STRUCTURE

Q: Who runs Chicago Bound?

Program is led by selected returning student leaders and professional staff members of UCSC and IOP. They meet for program planning and training in the spring 2015 quarter and a week before official Saturday, September 12 program start date.

Q: How is the program organized?

Chicago Bound is purposely structured to be an intensive and immersive program experience to meet key student learning and community engagement goals. It includes discussion, reflection, meetings with community guests, activities, and service projects. Program staff will be facilitating and guiding participants throughout the 8-day experience.

Q: What will some of the service projects be?

Past service projects have included: canvassing neighborhoods to inform resident of free summer and after-school arts programming; participating in a focus group session to provide feedback to staff at a community organization on their programming and services;
assisting with administrative support such as updating database with new contacts, redoing bulletin boards, assembling office furniture, cleaning spaces; and helping at community gardens.

HOUSING, FOOD & TRANSPORTATION

Q: Where will I live during the program?

You will live in on-campus housing at International House with the other participants and student Group Leaders. Gender neutral housing and bathrooms are an option.

Q: Will I have a roommate?

No. You will have a single room.

Q: When do I have to arrive on campus?

All program participants are expected to arrive on campus by 2pm on Saturday, September 12. Group Leaders, as well as UCSC and IOP staff, will be there to help you get settled in.

Q: Do I have to buy my own food?

No. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be provided each day. Participants will experience the amazing diversity of cuisine from various Chicago restaurants. Yum!

Q: Where can I store my stuff for the school year?

We will arrange for students to temporarily store their belongings before they are allowed to move into their assigned academic year housing.

Q: How will I get from the airport or train station to campus?

You are responsible to arrange for your own transportation to campus. For more information on transportation to campus go to: 
http://collegeadmissions.uchicago.edu/visiting/directions/

Q: Will I have any free time to explore on my own?

You probably won’t have much free time, because the Chicago Bound daily schedule (generally 7:45 am to 10:30 pm) is very full, and all participants are expected to participate in all scheduled activities.

Q: Will anyone help me move into my permanent first-year housing?

O-Week staff will be on site to help you get settled in.