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Ouachita's Tiger Serve Day volunteers top 70,000 service hours since 1997



By: OBU News Bureau

April 13, 2015

For more information, contact OBU's news bureau at newsbureau@obu.edu or (870) 245-5208.

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. -- A total of 585 Ouachita Baptist University students, faculty and staff gathered April 11 for the university's 37th consecutive Tiger Serve Day, a semi-annual community service emphasis that stretches back 18 years to 1997.

The volunteers were organized into 80 teams, completing 109 projects throughout the Arkadelphia community. Tiger Serve Day assignments range from raking leaves and washing windows to small repair and painting projects.

Tiger Serve Day consistently is one of the largest community service events in the state. Saturday's event marked the 16th semester in a row that the number of volunteers topped 500, including a record 1,003 participants in the fall of 2011. Since its inception, Tiger Serve Day volunteers have completed a total of more than 70,000 community service hours.



“I think it's pretty cool to see our campus come together to serve the community,” said Taylor Graves, a sophomore psychology major from Hot Springs, Ark. “Not many people have the opportunity to say that they have done something like this, and I love how it is such a special time for Ouachita and the Arkadelphia community.”

“One thing I look forward to each semester about Tiger Serve Day is the relationships built with the people we serve,” noted Montana McAdams, a sophomore biology major from El Dorado, Ark. “It's fun to just be able to get a group of friends together and serve the people in our community by taking care of simple yard work or cleaning some things around the house.”

The student-led community service effort is sponsored by Ouachita's Ben M. Elrod Center for Family and Community with Sodexo providing breakfast and lunch for the volunteers.

The Spring 2015 Tiger Serve Day leadership team included 25 Ouachita students who took responsibility for publicity, teams, projects and logistics. This semester's team chairs included Treslyn Shipley, a senior art major from Arlington, Texas; publicity; Anna Sikes, a Christian studies major from Greenbrier, Ark., teams; Rachel Wicker, a Christian studies and mass communications major from Benton, Ark.; projects; and David Willhite, a Christian studies and history major from Rowlett, Texas, logistics.

“When we serve, it reminds us of who we are as Ouachitians,” said Judy Duvall, assistant director of the Elrod Center. “We want to invest in our community and are always proud to have such a large group do so.”

For more information about Tiger Serve Day, visit www.obu.edu/serve or call the Elrod Center at (870) 245-5320.