

SHIRTS ACROSS AMERICA

New Orleans, LA (NOLA) – Service Immersion Trips

General Information for
Los Gatos High School

This information is provided as a guide and is based upon dozens of trips Shirts Across America has produced over the last several years. Please note this is subject to change for each trip.

Dates: Saturday, February 17 - Saturday, February 24, 2018 – Mid-Winter Break Trip

Building in NOLA: **Shirts Across America (SAA)** has created a volunteer trip to New Orleans for Los Gatos High School. SAA is focused on *Building Homes to Build Leaders* as we work with SBP and Habitat for Humanity to build homes in the New Orleans area. Since 2007, SAA has sent approximately 2,700 volunteers to the Gulf Coast and worked on 155 homes/projects.

SAA has partnered with the **St. Bernard Project (SBP)** since January of 2009. SBP has been recognized by the federal government for their expertise in rebuilding communities. Their model for disaster relief has been used around the country to help move families home. SBP and their founders have won dozens of awards including the White House Champion of Change and CNN's Hero of the Year.

SAA is building a new relationship with **Habitat for Humanity** and we are very excited about the potential! Habitat is a global leader in providing opportunities for suitable, affordable housing. They now work in nearly 1,400 communities across the US and in approximately 70 countries.

Trip Teams: After being invited to attend one of the 2017 service immersion trips, each student will be placed on a NOLA "team". These teams of 5 to 7 people travel together throughout the entire trip. Each team has at least one Adult Team Lead that acts as the driver of the team's mini-van while in New Orleans. All Adult Team Leads meet the students selected to be on their team prior to traveling with the group. The students understand that their Adult Team Leads are "Coaches" and they are to treat them as such.

SAA may work with SBP or Habitat for Humanity in Gentilly, New Orleans East, the Lower & Upper 9th Wards, St. Bernard Parish, or other parts of the greater New Orleans region. Each team will be working for approximately 6 or 7 hours per day. Building tasks will vary based upon location. Teams attend orientation with each entity where they also receive job assignments for the week.

Teams are created with students from the same high school. While several high schools may be a part of the larger traveling group, students will be working side by side with peers they go to school with. The SAA sponsored summer trip

Building Homes to Build Leaders

operates a little differently and provides an opportunity to work with students from all our partner schools.

The teams will stay busy when not working on the job site as SAA provides different events/entertainment to learn about New Orleans and its unique and diverse culture.

Accommodations: St. Jude Community Center, Camp Restore, or a similar facility.

SAA typically stays at St. Jude Community Center or Camp Restore for our trips to New Orleans. These facilities are rustic and similar to a dormitory setting.

Food: Most meals are provided by our housing partner unless we decide to leave campus to eat a meal elsewhere in support of the local economy.

Cost: This year, the Shirts Across America trips will cost \$1,575 per participant. This covers: airfare, ground transportation, housing, most meals, museum visits, a musical experience and some entertainment.

Important Dates: Student Volunteer Applications Due – **Fri., September 15th, 2017**
Adult Volunteer Applications Due – **Fri., October 6th, 2017**
Students Confirm Participation – **Fri., October 6th, 2017**
1st Payment (\$800 non-refundable) & Forms Due – **Mon., October 23rd, 2017**
Final Payment (\$775 non-refundable) Due – **Wed., December 6th, 2017**

**Time
Commitment:**

SAA has created dynamic service immersion trips that work to both educate and empower each participant to be action oriented leaders. In order to prepare and teach all student participants, SAA will hold two educational meetings on each partner school's campus that may occur before, during, or after school. To ensure each parent/guardian is also well informed about trip logistics, there will also be two mandatory student & parent/guardian meetings. A full calendar of each school's meetings will be emailed out separately.

Applications: **Student Volunteer applications are available online at www.ShirtsAcrossAmerica.org. All applications must be submitted by 11:59 PM (PST) on Friday, September 15th, 2017.**

Interested in being an Adult Team Lead for one of the 2018 SAA trips to NOLA? The Adult Volunteer Application is also available online at www.ShirtsAcrossAmerica.org and due by 11:59 PM (PST) on **Friday, October 6th, 2017.**

Questions: If you have any questions, please contact the Shirts Across America program managers

Kenya Chauche and Michelle Strait
NewOrleans@ShirtsAcrossAmerica.org
(206) 212-1055