

SHIRTS ACROSS AMERICA

New Orleans, LA (NOLA) – Service Immersion Trips General Information for the National League of Young Men

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, June 23 - Saturday, June 30, 2018 – Summer Trip. The National League of Young Men will be joined in New Orleans by volunteers from four SAA partner schools and organizations.

Building in NOLA: **Shirts Across America (SAA)** has created this unique volunteer trip to New Orleans for our partner schools and organizations over Summer Break. SAA is focused on *Building Homes to Build Leaders* as we work with SBPUSA 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 150 homes/projects.

SAA partners with two nationally recognized entities to ensure that our resources are being deployed in a way that will directly impact families trying to move home. SBPUSA (formerly St. Bernard Project) and NOAHH (New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity) are dedicated to empowering volunteers and transforming homeowners lives.

Since its inception in 1983, NOAHH has been working in partnership with hard working, low-income families in New Orleans to build and finance new, safe, affordable homes.

With the tremendous support of donors, volunteers and corporate partners, SBPUSA has grown from a three-person volunteer team into a national organization headquartered in New Orleans, and recognized as a leader in disaster resilience and recovery, with a mission to shrink time between disaster and recovery.

SAA volunteers may work 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 work for approximately 6 or 7 hours per day. Building tasks will vary based upon location. Teams attend orientation with SBPUSA or NOAHH on the morning of the first workday, where they receive job assignments for the week as well as an in depth safety briefing.

Trip Teams: After being invited to attend the 2018 service immersion trips, each student will be placed on a NOLA “team”. These teams of 6 to 7 people travel together throughout the entire trip. Each team has an Adult Team Lead (ATL), typically a parent, teacher or staff member, and a student Core Team Leader*. Among other responsibilities, the ATLs perform the role of “coach” and driver of the

Building Homes to Build Leaders

team's assigned mini-van while in New Orleans. The Core Team Leader is the team "captain" and peer leader of his/her peers. The two work together to ensure the team is safe and engaged in all activities, conversations and reflections.

When creating teams, SAA makes every attempt to place students from the same school together. While several high schools may be part of the larger traveling group, students will be working side by side with peers who attend their school.

The teams will stay busy when not working on their job sites! SAA will provide several immersion activities related to New Orleans' unique and diverse culture.

*SAA Core Team Leaders are chosen through a separate application process and participate in a year-long leadership curriculum that prepares them to lead a team of their peers on the immersion trip. The program also provides them with skills they can use outside of the program as well.

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

SAA has a longstanding partnership with St. Jude Community Center and Camp Restore. Both facilities are dedicated to serving the local communities in which they are located; St. Jude's is located just off Canal Street within walking distance of the French Quarter. Each day, they provide meals for the homeless and distribute food to area Food Banks. Camp Restore, located in New Orleans East provides assistance citywide, and also directly assists those recovering from the tornado that hit the neighborhood in February of 2017.

Food: Most meals are provided by our housing partners and are included in the cost of each trip. On occasion we will travel as a group to local establishments who have partnered with SAA to provide meals to our student and parent volunteers. Some of the meals are paid for by SAA, others are offered at a reduced cost and are part of each participant's out-of-pocket expenses.

Cost: This year, the Shirts Across America trip will cost \$1,360 per participant. This covers airfare, ground transportation, housing, most meals, museum visits, a musical experience and other cultural activities.

Important Dates: Student Volunteer Applications Due – **Mon., December 11, 2017**
Students Confirm Participation – **Fri., December 15, 2017**
1st Payment (\$685 non-refundable) & Forms Due – **Wed., December 20, 2017**
SuperBuild (Green Lake Park) – **Sat., January 27, 2018**
Final Payment (\$675 non-refundable) Due – **Mon., March 5, 2018**
Mandatory Trip Meeting – **Spring 2018 (Date TBD)**

Time Commitment: SAA has created dynamic service immersion trips that work to both educate and empower all participants to be leaders. In order to prepare all student participants for this experience, SAA will hold an educational meeting on each partner school's campus that may occur before, during, or after school. To ensure each parent/guardian is 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: **Summer Trip** applications are available online at www.ShirtsAcrossAmerica.org. All applications must be submitted by 11:59 PM (PST) on **Monday, December 11, 2017**.

Questions: If you have any questions, please contact the Shirts Across America program managers, Kenya Chauche and Michelle Strait at (206) 212-1055 or NewOrleans@ShirtsAcrossAmerica.org