

# SHIRTS ACROSS AMERICA

## **New Orleans, LA (NOLA) – Service Immersion Trips** General Information for O'Dea High School

This information is provided as a guide and is based on previous Shirts Across America immersion trips. Please note this is subject to change for each trip.

### **Dates:**

#### **Summer Break Trip #1**

Saturday, June 13 - Saturday, June 20, 2020

#### **Summer Break Trip #2**

Saturday, June 20 - Saturday, June 27, 2020

(SAA-sponsored; no school staff members will be on Summer Break #2 trip)

### **Building in NOLA:**

**Shirts Across America (SAA)** has two volunteer trips to New Orleans available for O'Dea students: Summer Break #1 and Summer Break #2. SAA is focused on building homes and building leaders as we work with SBP, Youth Rebuilding New Orleans and Habitat for Humanity to build homes in the New Orleans area. Since 2008, SAA has sent over 3,000 volunteers to work on 195 homes/projects in the Gulf Coast.

SAA partners with three rebuilding organizations to ensure that our resources are being deployed in a way that will directly impact families trying to move home. SBP (formerly St. Bernard Project), YRNO (Youth Rebuilding New Orleans) and NOAHH (New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity) are dedicated to educating volunteers and transforming homeowners' lives.

SAA volunteers will work in several unique neighborhoods in the greater New Orleans region. Each team (see below) will work for approximately 6-8 hours per day. Building tasks will vary based upon location. Teams attend orientation with SBP, YRNO or NOAHH on the morning of the first workday, where they receive job assignments for the week as well as an in-depth safety training.

### **Trip Teams:**

After being invited to attend one of the 2020 service immersion trips, each student will be placed on a team. These teams of 5 to 7 people travel together throughout the entire trip. Each team has at least one Adult Team Lead who mentors their team and drives the team's 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.

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 attend school with. The SAA-sponsored summer trip operates a little differently and provides an opportunity to work with students from all of our partner schools.

*Building Homes. Building Leaders.*

In order to help volunteers learn about New Orleans and its unique and diverse culture, SAA provides different events and entertainment for times when teams are not on their job sites.

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

SAA has longstanding partnerships 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 of Canal Street within walking distance of the French Quarter. Each day, St. Jude's provides meals for people experiencing homelessness and distributes food to area food banks. Camp Restore, located in New Orleans East, directly provides assistance to 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 the trip. On occasion, SAA partners with local restaurants that provide meals to our student and parent volunteers. Some of the meals are paid for by SAA, while a few meals are part of each volunteer's out-of-pocket expenses.

**Cost:** The cost for the 2020 Shirts Across America immersion trip is **\$1,525** per volunteer. This covers airfare, ground transportation, building partner fees, housing, most meals, museum visits, a musical experience, and other cultural activities.

**Important Dates:** Student Volunteer Applications Due – **Monday, October 28, 2019**  
Student Scholarship Applications Due – **Monday, October 28, 2019**  
Adult Volunteer Applications Due – **Monday, October 28, 2019**  
Students Confirm Participation – **Thursday, November 7, 2019**  
First Payment (**\$775**) and Forms Due – **Friday, November 15, 2019**  
First Mandatory Volunteer & Parent Meeting - **TBD**  
Final Payment (**\$750**) Due – **Friday, February 14, 2020**  
2020 Super Build Fundraiser (Details to follow) – **Saturday, February 1, 2020**

**Time Commitment:** SAA creates dynamic service immersion trips that work to educate and inspire all volunteers to be leaders. In order to prepare all student volunteers for the trips and to ensure each parent/guardian is informed about SAA's program, there will be two mandatory student and parent/guardian meetings. The first meeting, held in November, is an educational meeting to give students and parents additional context for serving in New Orleans. The second meeting, held closer to the date of the trip, gives students and parents logistical information. A full calendar of each school's meetings will be emailed out separately.

**Applications:** Student and Adult Volunteer Applications are available online at [www.ShirtsAcrossAmerica.org](http://www.ShirtsAcrossAmerica.org). All applications must be submitted by **11:59 PM (PST) on Monday, October 28, 2019**.

**Questions:** If you have any questions, please contact the Shirts Across America Staff:  
Randy Novak | (206) 250-8477 | [RNovak@shirtsacrossamerica.org](mailto:RNovak@shirtsacrossamerica.org)  
Tia Young | (206) 212-1055 | [TiaY@shirtsacrossamerica.org](mailto:TiaY@shirtsacrossamerica.org)