

SHIRTS ACROSS AMERICA

Immersion Trip & Building New Orleans

General Information for Mid-Winter Break

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

Trip Update: SAA remains committed to providing a safe environment for all. This limits the number of volunteers we can take on each of our 2025 trips. Certain SAA building partners may require volunteers to take certain health precautions prior to their visit to New Orleans.

Dates: Mid-Winter Break Trip
Saturday, February 15 – Saturday, February 22, 2025
(All 2025 trips are sponsored by and overseen by Shirts Across America)

Immersion Trip to the South: **Your trip includes this fully integrated immersion experience which takes us through Atlanta (GA), Montgomery (AL) and New Orleans (LA)!**

Shirt Across America (SAA) leads a volunteer trip to New Orleans during Mid-Winter Break. Not only will you help a community rebuild, you will be introduced to the history that helped shape America. We will visit unique historical locations during our tour of the South.

SAA is focused on building homes and building leaders as we work with our partners Habitat for Humanity, Youth Rebuilding New Orleans, and SBP to build homes in the New Orleans area. SAA has sent over 4,900 volunteers to work on 240 homes/projects in the Gulf Coast since 2008.

Trip Teams: SAA volunteers will work in several unique neighborhoods in the greater New Orleans region. Therefore, building tasks will vary based upon location. Teams attend orientation with our building partners on the first workday, where they receive job assignments for the week and in-depth safety training.

SAA will provide each student 40 hours of community service for volunteering during the SAA trip. Students engage with community leaders from different backgrounds and build homes in and around New Orleans.

Each student will be placed on a team after being invited to attend one of the 2025 immersion trips. These teams will travel together throughout the entire trip. Each unit has at least one Adult Team Lead “Coach” who mentors their team and drives the van while in New Orleans. All students may meet their Adult Team Lead at the last meeting before the trip.

SAA provides educational events and activities during their trip to help volunteers learn about the South and its unique and diverse cultures.

- Accommodations:** New Orleans: Dormitory accommodations.
Montgomery: Hotel accommodations.
- Food:** Most meals are provided by our housing partners and are included in the cost of the trip. As part of experiencing the local culture, teams may go out for a couple meals during the trip.
- Cost:** The cost for the 2025 Shirts Across America Immersion Trip is **\$2,195** per volunteer. It covers airfare, ground transportation, building partner fees, housing, most meals, museum visits, and other cultural activities. Payments made towards the volunteer's trip are *non-refundable*.
- Need based partial scholarships are available on a limited basis. When applying please indicate your need on your application.
- Applications:** **Student and Adult volunteer applications are available online at: www.ShirtsAcrossAmerica.org.**
- Applications for Trip Information meeting September 25th must be submitted by **11:59 PM on Sunday, September 29, 2024**.
- Applications for Trip Information meeting October 1st must be submitted by **11:59 PM on Sunday, October 6, 2024**.
- Adult Volunteer Applications Due – Sunday, October 6, 2024**
- Important Dates:** Volunteer trip invitations will be sent on – Thursday, October 10, 2024
Students Confirm Participation – Sunday, October 13, 2024
First Payment of \$1,100 Due – Friday, October 18, 2024
**1st Mandatory Volunteer & Parent Meeting – UW's Kane Hall
Wednesday, October 30, 2024**
Final Payment of \$1,095 Due – Friday, January 3, 2025
Super Build Fundraiser (Details to follow) – Saturday, January 18, 2025
Final Trip Meeting – Tuesday, January 28, 2025
- Time Commitment:** SAA creates dynamic immersion trips that work to educate and inspire all volunteers to be leaders. **There will be two mandatory meetings prior to each trip.** The first meeting, held on Wednesday, October 30th at **Kane Hall** on the University of Washington campus, is an educational meeting to give students and parents additional context for SAA and our immersion trips. The second meeting, held closer to the date of the trip, provides students and parents logistical information. A full calendar for each trip will be emailed out separately.
- Questions:** If you have any questions, please contact any Shirts Across America Staff:
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