

SOTA/SAMI/IDEA SERVICE and STUDY TOURS Mini-Term 2018

Program Philosophy

The SOTA/SAMI/IDEA service-learning program seeks to develop the well-rounded citizen, by integrating academic study with substantive volunteer service. The opportunities for expanded learning in new and unfamiliar environments create a powerful dynamic between direct cultural exposure and traditional academic scholarship. Through the combination of classroom theory and practical experience serving in a social agency, SOTA/SAMI/IDEA students will develop a broad knowledge of the forces that shape culture; an intimate understanding of people, customs, and traditions; and first-hand insight into the complex social issues and realities of the society – whether in America or abroad.

As a SOTA/SAMI/IDEA student, you are not just an academic tourist. You are immersed in several levels of the society, and contribute to the host culture through your service and commitment to learning. Interaction with the community teaches you how the culture functions. Time in the classroom teaches you why it functions as it does. By testing theory with practice, the SOTA/SAMI/IDEA student will find their learning takes on greater depth and personal meaning.

Application Process*

*Students must have parent/guardian permission to apply.

TO APPLY FOR THIS UNIQUE SOTA/SAMI/IDEA OPPORTUNITY PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Write a **letter of interest** by **March 21, 2017**.
2. Include a written and **signed parent permission to apply** by **March 21, 2017**.
3. Rank, in order, your choices for travel destinations. (1 = most desired, 3 = least desired)
4. Participate in a **student interview** with the Travel Team in late February/early March.
5. Include a **resume, transcript, and attendance record** in your complete packet by **March 21, 2017**.
6. Return all application forms to Melissa Moffett at IDEA, Betsy Gordon in the Post Office at SOTA, or Lauren Anderson in Portable A at SAMI or send via mail to:

SOTA/SAMI/IDEA Service and Study Team
6701 S. Park Ave.
Tacoma, WA 98408

SOTA/SAMI/IDEA Service and Study Tour Goals:

- To provide students with a personal encounter with social and cultural mechanisms and traditions through applied service and study.
- To provide contextual understanding of the significant contributions of a different culture through scheduled meetings before or after school for several months prior to departure.
- To foster a more informed understanding of foreign or domestic experiences through the study of history, literature, art, language, culture, economics, news and current events. (Students will be required to read and study selected books during the summer and in the months prior to departure and to prepare lessons to present to one another during the trip.)
- To strengthen SOTA, SAMI, and IDEA's Service and Study curriculum by providing an experiential opportunity for students to engage in learning as it applies to a larger context.

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Preliminary Pre-Tour Itinerary:

- **Information sessions for parents and students on Monday March 6th at 6pm in the Pagoda at Pt. Defiance and Tuesday March 7th in the SOTA Theatre – 1118 Commerce. (You only need to attend one of these.)**
- Interviews for students after Spring Break.
- Orientation for parents and students in Spring 2017.
- Pre-tour mandatory meetings for students from time of acceptance until we leave on the tour.
- Travel tips and preparation for students prior to tour.
- Pre-tour student research from time of acceptance until we leave on the tour.

Estimated Tour Costs:

Domestic:

National Parks – Mini-Term 2018 (approx. 3 weeks)
\$2,850.00 all-inclusive

International:

Indonesia – Mini-Term 2018 (approx. 3.5 weeks)
\$5250.00 (approx.) inclusive of: airfare, ground transportation, food and lodging, travel insurance, visas. Additional costs: immunizations, insurance, passport fees.

Cambodia and Lao – Mini-Term 2018 (approx. 3.5 weeks)
\$5,000.00 inclusive of: airfare, ground transportation, food and lodging, travel insurance, visas. Additional costs: immunizations, insurance, passport fees.

Southern Africa – Mini-Term 2018 (approx. 3.5 weeks)
\$5,000.00 inclusive of: airfare, ground transportation, food and lodging, travel insurance, visas. Additional costs: immunizations, insurance, passport fees.

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Parent Permission to Apply form

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your student has expressed interest in applying to the SOTA/SAMI/IDEA SERVICE and STUDY TOUR Program. If you are interested in having your student participate, please complete the following information and submit it to the Service and Study Tour program with your student's application.

Applications should be returned to:

Melissa Moffett at IDEA – 6701 S. Park Ave, Tacoma, WA 98408

Lauren Anderson in Portable A at SAMI

Betsy Gordon in the Post Office at SOTA

Parent/Guardian Permission to Apply form

Student: _____ Grad Year _____ Current Passport? Y/N
Home Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____
- Parent Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____
- Parent Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____

I am interested in (circle one): Domestic trips International trips Both

What is the student's preferred trip, ranked in descending order? (1 = most desired, 4 = least desired)

National Parks _____ Cambodia and Lao _____
Indonesia _____ Southern Africa _____

Is this applicant in good health? Please identify everything that the student takes medications for, has allergies to, mental health, physical conditions, and any medical conditions past or present. (i.e. Do you have asthma? Do you have allergies to foods, dust, pollen, wood smoke?) Be very specific.
Explain:

Does this applicant have dietary restrictions? (i.e. allergies, vegan, vegetarian, lactose or gluten issues, etc.) Explain:

I give permission for _____ (student name) to apply for the SERVICE and STUDY TOUR to _____ (destination) for Mini-Term 2018. I understand the costs and the commitments.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

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Please write a letter of interest for your trip based upon the following:

- Why are you interested in participating in the trip you selected?
- What strengths do you have to offer the group? (Think about personal as well as interpersonal strengths.)
- What personal goal do you have for self-development by participating in this experience?
- Which two of your teachers would be most likely to recommend you for our trip? (Aside from the trip leaders.)
- Include anything else that you think is important for us to know in a situation where we will be together traveling as a group.

All parts of the application (parent permission to apply, letter of interest, resume, transcript, and attendance record) are due by **March 21, 2017.**

Please deliver or mail your completed application to:

Melissa Moffett @ IDEA
6701 S. Park Ave.
Tacoma, WA 98408

OR

Betsy Gordon @ SOTA (the Post Office)
1102 A St., Room 224
Tacoma, WA 98402

OR

Lauren Anderson in Portable A @ SAMI
5502 Five Mile Drive
Tacoma, WA 98407

If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Moffett @ sotaarts@gmail.com. Email is the BEST way to communicate with Melissa.