

## Summer Service Learning Program FAQ's



Q: Are the project dates flexible?

A: The SSLP requires eight consecutive weeks of service. The dates of the 8 weeks depends on the site, and in many cases students have some say in determining start and end dates. A few sites have formal programs with set dates, especially summer schools, day and overnight camps.

Q: Will the scholarship affect my financial aid package?

A: The SSLP scholarships do not affect a student's financial aid package, except in some cases portions of subsidized loans have become unsubsidized loans or if students receive full financial aid, they are not eligible for another scholarship. Varsity athletes on full scholarship are not eligible to receive an SSLP scholarship.

Q: Can I participate if I will be studying abroad in the spring semester?

A: Yes, you can apply, interview, and attend a placement meeting in the fall semester. Communication will continue with you by email through the spring semester. The orientation sessions will be taped for you to view online and the course readings will be sent to your home address.

Q: How do I participate in the follow-up discussions if I will be studying abroad in the fall semester?

A: You will need to participate in the follow-up sessions and receive credit for the course in the semester that you return to campus. In most cases, this will be the spring semester following your SSLP. For those going abroad for the year, you will take the follow-up in the fall of the following year.

Q: I am a Saint Mary's College student. Can I apply?

A: Since the program is sponsored by Notre Dame Alumni Clubs, the Clubs give preference to Notre Dame students. St. Mary's students will be considered for sites after March 1, if there are open sites. They should contact Andrea Smith Shappell, Shappell.1@nd.edu.

Q: Will I be provided with meals during the SSLP?

A: If you live with a host family, you will have your meals there. If your site does not provide lunch, you can bring a sack lunch with you from the host family. If you live on site, your meals will be provided by the site. In some cities where students live in community, you will be given a stipend from the Club or the site to prepare your own food.

Q: Who will provide my local transportation?

A: It varies – some Clubs require the student to bring a car, but in many cases you will live within walking distance to your site or be able to use public transportation. In a few instances, an alumni club provides a car for students to

use during the SSLP for transportation from where you live to where you work. In this situation, the student must take the driver's training workshop through the Transportation Department in the spring semester.

Q: How are safety concerns addressed?

A: The SSLP orientation covers general safety information, and site-specific information is given by the site upon the student's arrival to his or her placement. The sites have developed relationships in the communities where they are located and so will be able to advise students regarding appropriate safety precautions. If a student has concerns while at the site, he or she should discuss them with the site supervisor, and if further steps need to be taken, contact the SSLP office.

Q: How do I receive the \$2500 scholarship?

A: The funds will be transferred directly to your student account once you have completed the program requirements. The funds can be applied towards your fall tuition, room or board. If you have a full tuition scholarship and will live off-campus, talk to Andrea about how you will receive the scholarship.

Q: How do I pay for my travel to the city where I will be working?

A: Students are responsible to cover the cost of transportation to and from the city of the SSLP. If this is a barrier to your participation in the program, we have limited financial assistance available to help cover the cost of transportation.

Q: Will I be able to visit my family over the summer?

A: We encourage your family to visit you and meet the people with whom you work. Your first responsibility is to your site, the second is to the Alumni Club, and then all other relationships and interests that you have. Some sites require you to work weekend and evening hours, so your time off may vary. Students who fully immerse themselves in their new environment for the entire 8-weeks are able to get the most out of the experience.

Q: How do I spend my free time?

A: Alumni Clubs will invite you to some social activities, and you are free to explore your new community once your other obligations have been fulfilled for the day.

Q: Can I apply for a second SSLP?

A: Yes, but more is expected of second-time SSLP students in terms of initiative, accountability, leadership, and academic requirements. The academic requirements for students doing a second SSLP take the Directed Readings option or Prof. Pfeil's course on Discipleship.

Q: Can graduating seniors apply?

A: The SSLP is not open to seniors because participants are required to return to campus to complete the course. An exception would be if the graduating student is returning for the fall semester for a master's degree and can take the fall SSLP course.