

Sewa Phoenix Chapter LEAD Program

Frequently asked Questions

What is the LEAD program and purpose of it ?

- LEAD (Leadership) Program is a Sewa International Volunteer Development Program for High School students.
- It is designed for the holistic development of the teenagers. It provides a platform to the participants to serve the greater community and experience the joy of giving.
- It introduces socially conscious leadership in youngsters.

How to Register & Pay the Fees?

Simply Click this link and fill up the details, at the end it will take to secure payment link <https://sewausa.org/event-4158834>

Kindly note the last date for registration is 28-Feb-2021.

There are limited seats on first come first serve basis

What are the benefits to the participant?

- Overall personality development.
- Meet socially aware community leaders
- Develop leadership skills (Most of the programs will be led by the youth volunteers with guidance from Sewa co-ordinators)
- Teamwork and organizational skills.
- Develop new skills.
- Improve self-esteem.
- Bonding and learning from peers.
- Joy of selfless service with lots of fun along the way
- Serving Community and Sewa Projects.
- Gain volunteer hours.
- Achieve Sewa recognition certificate.
- Achieve US Presidential Volunteer Service Award.

Who can participate in the LEAD program?

- High School Students (in or incoming), i.e, current 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th graders.

- Students and Parents need to be sincerely committed to the program.
- Parental involvement is required, where needed.
- Sewa is a Hindu faith based organization but provides equal opportunity to all racial, ethnic, religious and gender backgrounds to participate.

Duration of Program & Important dates / time

- March 12th, 2021 to December 31st, 2021
- Pre-Event Information Session: **Sunday, March 7th, 2021** / TIME: TBD
- Launch of Event - **Friday March 12th, 2021** / TIME: TBD
- Need commitment of 50 Hours of volunteering (~approx 2-3 hrs/week)
- Though its an eight month program, most of the activities will be done in Summer so allowing to balance the school work and volunteering.

What are some of the key activities planned for the program?

While our calendar of events is still being finalized, below are some of the key activities planned for this year

- Hike for a cause
- Organize Webinars on different disciplines
- Organize Art & Creative writing workshop
- Build a Website
- Food, Cloth & School Supplies drive
- Sewa Youth Talent Contest
- Sewa 5K Walk/Run for a cause
- Adopt a park
- Yoga for youth

Can I suggest a volunteer activity on my own?

Yes, and we strongly encourage that you bring ideas that can be included in the program

Why is Sewa charging fees for this program?

Registration fee is \$100 per participant and it will be used to pay the costs of the program and any remaining balance will be utilized for other Sewa causes

- Sewa T-shirts to each participant.
- ID card with lanyard.
- Presidential award kit.
- Refreshments, food, water, etc.

- Facility booking.
- Transportation.
- Meeting software expenses

Mode of activities - Virtual Or Physical & how will physical events be managed in current situation?

Most of the activities will be Virtual but there are few events where we can maintain safe distance like Park cleaning, Hiking etc. We will make sure to allow only healthy participants without any symptoms. If the situation improves in a few months we will make appropriate decisions.

PLEASE NOTE: LEAD Team coordinators reserve the rights to change the time, place for any activity depending upon the situation like weather/covid etc

LEAD Coordinators Details.

Following are the LEAD Coordinators or Contact person.

Geeta Bandi (408) 522 5133
Sita Burada (480) 381 5835
Pankaj Mittal (510) 717 5617
Savitha Kumar (480) 371 9856

Email ID: phoenix@sewausea.org

PLEASE NOTE: All our LEAD Coordinators have gone through a Background Check

Can I participate in summer holidays only (June-July) ?

Though we want to plan maximum activities in Summer, it will very unlikely cover our goal of 100 Hrs volunteering. Therefore, it is recommended to be active for the entire duration of the program. The activities are planned for more than 100 Hours so you will have a choice to select activities and our activities are planned considering the school schedule of high schoolers.

How many hours minimum I have to spend on any project that I choose?

There is no choice of projects but activities supporting multiple projects, so overall plan to spend 50 Hours of Volunteering for other details, Please check previous Q/A.

How do I log volunteer hours?

Once you have registered for the program, Please create an account on the Sewa USA website - <https://sewausa.org>. Using this account, you can start logging hours for this program and get it approved by one of the Sewa coordinators.

Can my Friends / Relatives participate in LEAD activities without registering for the LEAD program?

Your friends & parents can participate in activities which are open to the public like Hiking, Attending awareness workshops etc. We also encourage your Parents, Relatives & friends to get connected to Sewa International - Phoenix Chapter as a volunteer and contribute to serve the society.

Details of Certificates and President's Volunteer Service Awards?

- We are glad to present Sewa's recognition certificate by the President of Sewa International USA to all the participants who fulfill the set criteria irrespective of residence status of USA
- President's Volunteer Service Award (We will try to nominate the participants depending on eligibility and total volunteer hours but this should not be a criteria for participation)
 - Only US citizens and green card holders are eligible for the US Presidential Award.
 - Award type is as per the rules of the government. Refer this link for the details <https://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov/eligibility>
 - For both Sewa's recognition letter and US Presidential award, eligible volunteer hours are within the current calendar year only .
 - Hours cannot be rolled over to next year.
 - Services performed within Sewa LEAD program only have to be counted.
 - Number of hours for activities including attending meetings will be decided by LEAD Coordinators.