



SANDY SPRING FRIENDS SCHOOL  
*Upper School Intersession Trip Descriptions*  
*2017-2018*

The Intersession Selection Process: [The Intersession Selection Process document](#) will be used by the Intersession Selection Committee when placing students on Intersession trips.

\*Denotes service intersession.

*Art Outside\**

*Lyn Ostrov, Fred Sisk and Joe Heathcock*

12-16 students | 5 days (Monday, March 19 – Friday, March 23) | \$150

Twenty hours of Service making bird houses and land art at Sandy Spring Friends. The focus is the joy of working with your hands, making connections with materials, nature, each other and strangers. Learn to respect the creative processes (brainstorming, designing site specific work, getting community okay). Bond during quality lunches. Anyone who is interested in working with their hands and creating beautiful things is welcome.

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*Biking the Silver Comet*

*Cathy Harrison, David Hickson*

12 Students | 7 Days (Sunday, March 18 – Saturday, March 24) | \$1500

The Silver Comet linked with the Chief Ladiga comprise the longest rail trail in the Eastern U.S. running 100 miles from just outside of Atlanta, Georgia to Anniston Alabama. During this trip, students will average 40 miles a day on their rented bikes enjoying all the beauty and the richness of the Southern landscape and culture. Each night we will eat a relaxing meal together and enjoy a variety of activities including perhaps bowling or a movie. The group will spend Wednesday in

Anniston at a soup kitchen that provides meals for the community as it financially recovers from the recent storm damage. A great trip for those who like to bike, want to be active and enjoy being engaged with people.

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### *Canada: Ottawa, Montreal & Quebec*

*Kwame Darko, Tony McCudden*

18 students | 6 days (Sunday, March 18-Saturday, March 24) | \$2100

Explore three great cities in Canada on this 6 day trip. Depart early Sunday morning to Ottawa where we will visit the Byward Outdoor Market, Parliament House, Canadian War Museum, and the Supreme Court. We will then explore the European Flair and history of Montreal. There we will dine on poutine (Quebecois dish of fries smothered in gravy and cheese curd) before entering deep under the city where we will follow the original foundations of a city dating back to the 1650s. Following a day of service at Moisson Montreal, we will travel to the majestic architecture of Quebec City, and visit La Citadelle and Saint Anne Basilica. After visiting Old Quebec, we will spend our last afternoon at Montmorency Falls, taking a cable ride to the top.

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### *Food for Thought\**

*Frances Markowitz, Nancy O'Leary*

Service Intersession | 14- 20 students | 5 days (Monday, March 19-Friday, March 23) | \$250

This service- based Intersession will focus on combatting food insecurity locally. Food insecurity refers to USADA's measure of lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. We will visit various food banks and soup kitchens in the greater D.C. area and Annapolis to help stock, prepare, organize, and distribute food to the greater community in need. Students will be provided with lunch each day, and other various snacks and meals when extended hours are called for. Four out of five days we will be back on campus in time for the afternoon bus. Some of the sites we are working at include the Capital Area Food Bank, Paul's Place, and Light House in Annapolis. Join us to help combat food insecurity in our greater community!

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## *Great Britain Quaker Pilgrimage*

*Ben McClellan, Gwen Handler, Shinae Byhouwer*

18 Students | 9 days (Friday, March 16– Sunday, March 25) | \$2400

This 9 day International Intersession will take students to England, Wales and Scotland in the pursuit of Quaker roots and Anglican culture and history. Our tour throughout the United Kingdom will be conducted primarily by train. We will stay overnight in the cities of Bristol, Cardiff, Kendall, York and London. Students will fly into London on Friday, March 16, and depart from Heathrow to Bristol. Bristol will be our first home base as we visit ancient Roman ruins in Bath, Stonehenge, the Salisbury Cathedral and the Salisbury Friends Meeting. In Wales we will tour Caerphilly Castle and the National Museum. On Tuesday, we will travel north to Kendall and rediscover the birthplace of Quakerism visiting Swarthmoor Hall, Briggs Flatts Meeting House and Firbank Fell. We will follow with a one night stay in the medieval city of York. The final two days will be spent visiting the iconic palaces, monuments and institutions of London. You must be prepared to travel lightly using public transportation, and to cooperate with fellow students and chaperones to make meals, reach our destinations and support the well-being of the group.

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## *Habitat for Humanity - Service in Atlanta\**

*Brian Brubaker, Leah Niepold*

16 students | 7 days (Sunday, March 18, – Saturday, March 24) | \$650

For over 40 years, Habitat for Humanity has served the poor by fulfilling a fundamental need: housing. Habitat for Humanity works with low-income partners and volunteers to build or renovate decent, affordable houses. Volunteer work is critical to meeting this demand, and to that end, Habitat for Humanity sponsors group service trips via the Collegiate Challenge. We will participate in this challenge by traveling to DeKalb County, Georgia, staying in a volunteer lodge or a partner church, and working on site for five days. Students will learn vital skills in construction and home maintenance; they'll also gain first-hand perspective of the housing crisis and the critical need for decent housing among working-class Americans. In addition, we plan to visit the World of Coca-Cola in Atlanta, Stone Mountain Park, and participate in a group visit to Emory University. Our Habitat affiliate will plan one evening sporting or music event.

No construction experience is required (though may be helpful). Participants should be prepared to make a difference in the local community with positive attitudes and a willingness to work hard.

## CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Students must be 16 years old by March 18, 2018 to work with Habitat for Humanity and thus be eligible for this trip. Priority will be given to students who need a service trip.

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### *Havana, Cuba: A Visit with Caribbean Friends*

*Bryan Seith, Hannah Kerr*

12 Students | 7 Days (Friday, March 16-Friday, March 23) | \$1800

This weeklong Cuban adventure will offer the culturally curious student of Sandy Spring the opportunity to sample some of the rich artistic heritage and traditions found in one of the most exciting cultural jewels of Caribbean: Havana, Cuba. Each day will devote time to exploring the visual and performing arts both old and new found in and around the historic and fascinating capital of Cuba. Making contact with Havana Friends, we will attend Meeting for Worship and spend perhaps a full day doing community service with them. Otherwise, our experiences will involve participating and experiencing the visual and performing arts. We hope to take at least two classes at the renowned Salsabor a Cuba dance school. We will attend performances of the National Opera and Ballet, as well as several famed jazz clubs including the La Zorro Y El Cuervo and the Fabrica de Arte Cubano. There are many museums and local arts communities to visit, including the National Museum of Fine Arts, Museo de Bellas Artes Cubano, Fusterlandia, and Muraleando. So much culture to see, not to mention the historic sites, unbelievable food and at least one day at a beach in paradise before returning home.

This Intersession of 12 students will fly to Havana on Friday, March 16. We will be staying in a hotel in a historic downtown neighborhood where we will remain for the week, venturing out of the city proper for several day trips. On Friday, March 23 we will return home in the early evening.

## CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

High proficiency in conversational Spanish is a plus, but not required. Interest or background in *Arts and Ideas* also a plus. An even gender distribution (6 male and 6 female students) will be selected. If needed, a lottery process will be used by the selection committee to select participants.

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## *Head Start Intersession\**

*Tom Harrison, Heather Engle*

20 students | 5 days (Monday, March 19– Friday, March 23) | \$175.00

This community service Intersession will provide aid to HEAD START and elementary programs at several local schools and child-care centers in Montgomery County. Students will gain more empathy for young children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Students will develop a greater understanding of adolescent development and the ways in which we learn. Students will complete meaningful community service. Daily classroom activities include direct work with students and general teacher support. This trip runs Monday through Friday beginning at 8 am and returning to school by 3:20 pm. On Wednesday, the group takes the “day off” and participates in a fun, local excursion.

Criteria for selection: Seniors who need a Service Intersession have priority. Preference will also be given to those who have a strong desire to work with small children. If needed, selections will be made through a lottery process.

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## *Historical Maryland\**

*Ghislaine De Cock and TBD*

13 students | 5 days (Monday, March 19– Friday, March 23) | \$225.00

One of the great SSFS Intersession traditions returned last year and is here to stay! If you are interested in historic preservation and need a service Intersession, this is the trip for you. We will be traveling to various locations in Maryland and working with service coordinators to get parks and museums ready for the spring season. We will be working with the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge, preparing the Robinson Nature Center in Howard County and the Calvert Maritime Museum for spring (hopefully they'll let us play with their otters!), helping the Franciscan Brothers at the Shrine of St. Anthony's and finally volunteering at the Woodlawn Museum.

Monday, Mar 19<sup>th</sup> through Friday, Mar 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018: regular school hours (8:00 through 3:30) except on Wednesday (8:00 through 5:00)

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## *Italy: Milan, Florence, Rome, & Venice cultural exchange*

*Elizabeth Anderson, Kathy Laughlin, Scott Carneal*

18-21 Students | 12 Days (Thursday, March 16 - Monday, March 27) | \$2050

We will first fly into to Milan (Milano), the fashion capital of the world. We will stay with host families from [Setti Carraro](#) for five days and sightsee, and engage in a few classes and sporting events at the school. We then take a high speed train to Florence (Firenze), the capital of Tuscany and home to Michelangelo's David. We then train to [Rome](#) (Roma) and visit Vatican City, the Colosseum, the Pantheon, Trevi Fountain, and much more. Our final stop is Venice (Venezia), the city of lagoons, which is known for its canals and varied architecture, elegant shops and cafes, and the famous Carnevale. Our return flight is from Venice.

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### *Oregon: Mt. Hood to Coast*

*Takisha Reece and Angela Colegrove*

16-18 Students | 8 Days (Saturday, March 17 – Saturday, March 24) | \$1200

This is a science immersion Intersession. Students will explore Oregon, from the snow capped Mt. Hood to the rugged Oregon Coast. Along the way, we will traverse through different ecosystems such as the Cascade Mountain Forests, Columbia River Basin, and the temperate rainforest of the Coastal Range Mountains. Students will snowshoe through the Cascades to observe the rain shadow effect and the remnants of the Mt. Hood wildfires on the local ecosystems, climb over and in tide pools along the Oregon Coast to conduct ecological surveys with local Aquarium Science students, visit and volunteer behind the scenes at the famous Oregon Coast Aquarium, meet marine scientists from NOAA and Oregon State University, participate in a beach clean-up, visit America's largest sea cave to see local sea lions, and shake arms with the local giant octopus! We will be staying in various hostels in the mountains and camping in yurts while on the coast. We will also explore famous sets from the movies "The Shining" and "The Goonies" as well as parts of Portland and eat at the cultural icon, Voodoo Donuts.

#### **CRITERIA FOR SELECTION:**

Participants must be physically able to hike/snowshoe a couple of miles. Priority will be given to students that have shown active interest in the SSFS Oceanography and Environmental Science programs. If needed, a lottery process will be used to select participants by the Selection Committee.

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### *Service That Benefits the Local Latino Community\**

*Eduardo Polón, Kexin Zhang*

Service Intersession | 16 students | 5 days (Monday, March 19-Friday, March 23) | \$200

Join Eduardo and Kexin in this popular and long-standing community service Intersession helping aid the SED Center (Spanish Education Development Center) daycare staff in their predominantly Hispanic bilingual preschool in Washington, D.C. Participation will directly serve the educational, social, cultural and self-improvement needs of Latin Americans, particularly recent immigrants. Opportunities to eat lunch in diverse cultural restaurants will occur daily, prior to returning to campus. This convenient and affordable Monday through Friday Intersession will depart daily from SSFS at 8:00 a.m. and return to campus by 3:20 p.m. in time to catch the school bus.

#### **CRITERIA FOR SELECTION**

While speaking Spanish is not a requirement for participation, priority will be given to Spanish students (in order of most experienced to least), including students in need of a service Intersession (in order of 12<sup>th</sup> down to 10<sup>th</sup> grade), as well as students in need of a first choice Intersession, and ideally 7-8 boys & 7-8 girls. If needed, random selection will be made through a lottery process.

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### *The National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS)*

*Selas Douglas, Jordan Taylor*

12-13 Students | 7 Days (Saturday, March 17-Sunday, March 25) | \$2,600

The National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) has been the “Harvard” of leadership training for many decades. Their primary tool to teach you about yourself? The wilderness expedition.

Join two NOLS Instructors as well as Selas Douglas, Director of Residential Life and Jordan Taylor, Art Department (and current NOLS faculty) on a river in the desert canyons of New Mexico and Arizona. We will learn and apply skills in communication, cultural competency, and tolerance for uncertainty while exploring a variety of leadership roles. This same NOLS curriculum has been sought out to train executives at Google, teams of astronauts at NASA, and future officers at the US Naval Academy, among others.

Our route will involve 7 days of self-supported river travel (everything we need will be hauled in our canoes). The route will begin on a flat section where you will learn to power and steer loaded expedition canoes. We will progress to Class 2-3 rapids.

Excellent for college applications, summer camp or other trip leading job applications.

Letters of recommendation, and an in depth, written leadership assessment included.

Cost \$2600 tuition and travel + \$200 Equipment Deposit (to cover rental of clothing and gear, some of this may be returned if not used)

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## *Urban Intersections: Gentrification, Immigration and Art*

*Miriam Rock, Claire Donahue, and Jenai Bell*

18 Students | 5 days (Monday, March 19-Friday, March 23) | \$400

Cities are an incredibly dynamic and integral part of America. They're a battleground where issues surrounding race, gentrification and immigration are played out. During this intersession, we will explore these entangled threads, trying to put the past in conversation with the present to more fully understand what's at stake. We will consciously be learning about a variety of communities in Baltimore, DC, and Philly including but not limited to: Black, Latino, Immigrant, LGBTQ, and Jewish. We will be looking through several central lenses:

- Engaging with the streets around us through walking tours
- Meeting with a variety of different organizations that actively target urban and youth populations, providing service to them and/or learning from them
- Exploring the public and activist art of these cities at different time periods to discover how that art shapes and is shaped by larger cultural conversations
- Reflecting on how and why universal issues impacted each city in unique ways

The first three days of our trip will be spent exploring DC and Baltimore. We will drive up to Philadelphia on Wednesday afternoon and spend Wednesday and Thursday nights there before returning to SSFS on Friday.

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## *Utah Canyoneering*

*Sharon Wall, Adam J. Keller, David Denaburg*

12-14 students | 8 days (Saturday, March 17– Saturday, March 24) | \$1300

Canyoneering is defined as hiking, scrambling, and climbing along rivers inside the base of canyons. Slot canyons are a unique geological feature that can only be explored in the southern Utah plateau. These sculpturesque sandstone labyrinths can be narrower than a doorway or as wide as the Sandy Spring campus, and can reach depths of over three stories. Canyoneering students will explore the canyons of Zion National Park and Escalante-Grand Staircase National Monument by car and by foot on day hikes, and will reflect on the experience through journaling, sketching, and

outdoor meeting for worship. This region of the high altitude American Desert is known for its breathtaking exposures of sandstone canyons, arches and bridges. After flying into Las Vegas, we will drive northeast through Zion and Escalante, exploring and sleeping in the slick rock canyons and beside the cottonwood creeks of this remote region of our country. On this trip, students will develop their hiking, camping, outdoor living, and group living skills. Students will engage with the natural history of the region, examining and visually analyzing Mesozoic rock formations which may include ancient sand dunes, arches, and dinosaur fossils. The trip will also uncover the human history of the area including that of the Fremont Tribes, the Pioneers, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, and the disappearance of adventurer Everett Ruess. This is an adventure intersession.

**CRITERIA FOR SELECTION:**

Students who are involved in or have expressed interested in the Outdoor Education program will be given priority. Oversubscription of qualified candidates will be dealt with by a lottery process conducted by the Selection Committee.

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*West Virginia Trip\**

*Bim Schauffler, Dave Burgevin, Julie Borsetti*

Service Intersession | 25 Students | 7 Days (Sunday, March 18-Saturday, March 24) | \$550

The 2018 West Virginia trip will be working with *American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)*, *Grow Appalachia*, and *Logan PRIDE*, in continuing a 8-year community garden project, promoting home gardening, helping senior citizens with minor home renovations and repairs in the town of Logan in the heart of the coal fields of West Virginia. Our work will include spring clean-up of the community garden and making repairs to the homes of primarily elderly, single, African American women in Logan and environs as needed. Work will include tilling and planting existing raised beds, building new bed frames as well as scraping and painting houses, cleanup of property, and home repairs as skill and weather allow. Students who are interested will learn some basic gardening, carpentry and home improvement skills. They will also work with a local teen mentoring group called the BAPs (Believing All is Possible) in the evenings. Participants on this trip will share in cooking and cleaning responsibilities at the old Logan Jr. High School, where we stay in dormitory accommodations during the six days we are in Logan. There will be one day for primarily recreational/educational activities, which may include bowling, ice-skating, go-cart racing, or hiking as well as a mountain top removal site visit and meetings with local community activists.

Students should approach this trip with a serious intention to discover the deeper meaning of sustainability and how it is realized, or not realized, in an impoverished community. Students who participate in this intersession will get 40 hours of community service, twenty of which meet the community service intersession requirement with the balance counting toward the community service requirement for graduation. Students are guaranteed to put in some hard, wholesome, and fun work. The trip cost is \$550.00, which covers transportation, lodging, entertainment, and materials for the various projects.

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### *Ninth Grade Trip to Florida*

*Ninth Grade Faculty*

All ninth grade students | 5 days (Sunday, March 18– Thursday, March 22) | \$725.00

The ninth grade trip to Florida will be an introduction to the Upper School Intersession. This trip will include some service, outdoor education, such as snorkeling and exploring the Everglades and many other fun and exciting things. This required ninth grade trip has been in place for almost a decade, and to this day, it is quite memorable to most. This is a different experience from the five day camping trip; there is more time to bond with both teachers and peers.

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