



Sewa Phoenix- LEAD 2024 Program Frequently asked Questions

What is the LEAD program and what is its purpose?

- LEAD (Leadership, Education and Development) Program is a Sewa International Volunteer Development Program for incoming & current high school students (Grade 8-12).
- It is designed for the holistic development of teenagers. It provides a platform for participants to serve the greater community and experience the joy of giving.
- It introduces socially conscious leadership in youngsters.

How do I register & pay the fees?

- Simply click on this link <https://sewausa.org/event-5508194> and fill the details; it will take you to a secure payment link
- Registration is open from **Dec 1 2023 - Dec 31 2023**. There are limited seats available on a first-come first-serve basis.
- Fees are \$100 per student

What are the benefits to the participant?

- Develop overall personality
- Meet socially aware community leaders
- Develop leadership skills (Most of the programs will be led by the participants with guidance from Sewa coordinators)
- Develop teamwork and organizational skills
- Develop new skills
- Improve self esteem
- Enjoy bonding with and learning from peers
- Experience joy of selfless service with lots of fun along the way
- Serve community and Sewa Projects
- Gain volunteer hours
- Achieve Sewa recognition certificate
- Qualify for US President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA)

Who can participate in the LEAD program?

- High School Students (incoming or current) - current 8th through 12th graders.
- Students and Parents need to be fully committed to the values of Sewa and the LEAD program.

- Parental involvement is required. (At Least 20 hours)
- Sewa is a Hindu faith-based organization and provides equal opportunity to people of all racial, ethnic, religious and gender backgrounds to participate.

What is the duration of the program & what are the important dates / time?

- Duration: **Jan - Oct , 2024**
- Program Kickoff: **TBD**. Time: **TBD**
- Commitment: Perform at least 50 hours of volunteering (~2 hrs. / week)

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

While our calendar of events is still being finalized, below is a sample of the key activities planned:

- Service Initiatives:
 - Protect Environment & Improve Sustainability
 - Clean up highways
 - Work with food banks
 - Teach underserved communities
 - Clean up waterways and parks
 - Create DIY initiative to address community needs
 - Design To Lead (DTL) - Design thinking methodology to address community needs, developed by a Professor from Stanford University
- Sewa Education:
 - College application & financing
 - STEM
 - Interaction with community leaders
 - Yoga / Meditation
- Fundraising to support Sewa Projects:
 - Sewa International's Toilet and Hygiene Project for the Girl Child (<https://she.sewausa.org/>) • Sponsor A Child (SAC)

May I suggest a volunteer activity on my own?

Yes, and we do strongly encourage that you bring ideas to be included in the program.

Why is Sewa charging fees for this program?

Registration fees are used to pay for program costs; any balance will be used for other Sewa causes. Here is a sample list of expense items:

- Sewa T-shirt to each participant
- Refreshments

- Facility
- Transportation
- Software
- PVSA Application

Will the activities be Virtual or Physical?

Most of the development activities will be virtual, but service events will be a combination of in-person and virtual. All safety precautions will be followed with only healthy participants without any symptoms being allowed to participate.

PLEASE NOTE: LEAD coordinators reserve the right to change the time, place etc. for any activity depending on the situation like weather / health etc.

Who are the LEAD Coordinators?

Sita Burada 480 381 5835
Geeta Bandi 480 522 5133

PLEASE NOTE: All LEAD coordinators & volunteers have gone through background checks.

Can I participate over summer break only?

Although several activities will be over summer, it will be very unlikely to cover our goal of 100 hrs. of volunteering. Therefore, it is recommended to be active for the entire duration of the program. The activities planned are for more than 100 hrs. and so you will have a choice to select activities based on your availability. Our activities are planned considering the school schedule of high schoolers.

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

There is no choice of projects, but activities support multiple projects and so plan to spend a minimum of 50 hours of volunteering.

How do I manage volunteer hours?

This will be managed by the Sewa LEAD coordinators.

Can my friends / family participate in LEAD activities without registering for the LEAD program?

Your friends & family members can participate in activities which are open to the public. We highly encourage Parents, family & friends to get connected with Sewa International – Phoenix Chapter as a volunteer and contribute to serving the society.

What are the details of Certificates and President's Volunteer Service

Awards? • We are glad to present a recognition certificate by the President of Sewa International USA to all participants who fulfill the criteria irrespective of US immigration status.

- President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA). We will nominate participants depending on eligibility and total volunteer hours, but this should not be a criterion for participation.
 - Only US Citizens and Permanent Residents are eligible for PVSA.
 - Award type is as per the rules available in this link -> <https://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov/eligibility>
 - For both Sewa Certificate and PVSA, eligible volunteer hours are considered within the current calendar year only.
 - Hours cannot be rolled over to next year.
 - Services performed within Sewa LEAD program will only be counted.
 - Number of hours for activities including will be decided by LEAD Coordinators.