



ST. MARY'S ACADEMY TRIPS

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about SMA's Co-Curricular (Spring Break) and Senior Service Learning Trips

If I participate in one trip, will it affect my ability to participate in others?

Students who have not participated in previous co-curricular trips may be given preference over those who have had the experience in previous years. However, if space allows, students can apply for multiple co-curricular trips. Participation in a co-curricular trip does not affect a student's eligibility for a Senior Service Learning trip, as service is a foundational part of who we are at St. Mary's Academy.

How are students selected for co-curricular trips?

To be considered for a co-curricular trip, students must be in good academic and behavioral standing, with an up-to-date tuition account. Selection criteria may vary by trip theme; for example, a French trip may prioritize students enrolled in French courses.

How are students selected for Senior Service Learning trips?

Eligibility for Senior Service Learning trips requires students to be in good academic and behavioral standing, with an up-to-date tuition account. Additionally, candidates should demonstrate a commitment to service in their daily lives and possess the ability to work collaboratively with others.

Will my eligibility to receive a bursary award be affected by my involvement in one of these trips?

As the cost to attend one of these trips is deemed to be a discretionary extra-curricular expense, it may impact your ability to receive a bursary award for the upcoming school year.

Are there fundraising opportunities available?

While the school does not organize fundraisers, families can utilize FlipGive, a platform that provides cash rebates for shopping through various online merchants. A FlipGive membership is offered through our tour operator EF Tours. The advance notice of trips allows families time to raise necessary funds.

What happens from a financial perspective if I change my mind after being accepted?

Financial matters for trips are managed solely by our tour operator, EF Tours, which has its own financial policies around payments, refunds and withdrawals. St. Mary's Academy Inc. is not responsible for any financial issues that may arise. EF Tours will be able to address your specific financial questions.

Do grade 12 students have a better chance of being selected for co-curricular trips?

There is no preferential treatment for grade 12 students. Selection criteria include the student's maturity level along with other relevant factors.

What if I experience anxiety or have other conditions?

These trips feature busy itineraries with limited downtime and shared accommodations. Families should assess how this environment may impact their child's ability to participate fully and manage any stress or anxiety, especially for first-time travelers.

How is safety addressed on the trips?

EF Tours conducts regular safety checks on hotels, restaurants, and venues. While accidents can occur, contingency plans are in place for most situations. The Travel Director, employed by EF Tours, will accompany the group throughout the trip, and EF Tours provides 24/7 emergency support.