

SLU POLICY MANUAL

INTRODUCTION

It is the intent of this manual to communicate and clarify Academy policies that concern the SLU (Student Leadership University) trips. The SLU trips are one of the most important aspects of the overall program at the Academy in working toward our students becoming passionate followers of Christ and well-trained servant leaders. The SLU program is a series of three trips that begin in the summer after 9th grade with SLU 101 in Orlando FL, 10th grade with SLU 201 in Washington DC, and 11th grade with SLU 301 in France and England. These trips are subsidized by the Academy with money raised through various fund-raising activities, to include spirit-wear passes. SLU 401 is a 4th trip, currently to Israel, that can be taken any time after 11th grade through college on an individual basis.

Students receive intensive leadership training in Orlando that is typical of training received by mid-level management executives in corporate America. Most of the sessions are held in a conference hall of a major hotel in the Orlando area. Students hear speakers from leading corporations, organizations, and institutions from across the country. Two sessions are held at Sea World, and students are given some free time there, as well as a few hours of free time at Universal Studios the next day.

In Washington DC, the leadership training is continued and intensified. Training is provided by leading figures from government, military, and business. The focus is on how our government works, the work of the founding fathers, and how America came to be. The experience is broadened to a more active format, to include visits to museums, important historical sites, monuments, and other sites. Highlights include a tour of the Holocaust Museum and Arlington National Cemetery.

The trip to Europe is often a life changing experience for students. The focus is on the historical background of America, particularly how we came from a western European background. Highlights are too numerous to list but include a visit to the cemeteries and beaches of Normandy France, museums and cathedrals in Paris. In England, highlights include the British Library, cathedrals, Windsor Castle, Oxford and finally a graduation ceremony from the SLU program.

It is important for parents and students to recognize that SLU is a leadership training program and not a family vacation or typical field trip. Activity is constant and expectations of students are high. It is an amazing series of trips to experience, but most amazing is to watch our students literally “grow up” from this level of training.

Jerry Reeder

Headmaster

Whitesburg Christian Academy

SCHEDULE OF IMPORTANT DATES (subject to change)

- Early August - Release of summer trip dates by SLU
- Mid September - Information email sent to all parents with dates and costs
- Mid September - Information meeting, mandatory for parents, students optional
- September 23, 2026 - SLU Testimonies in Chapel
- Friday, October 2, 2026 - Registration Deadline
- October - Deposit and travel costs charged to FACTS Family Account (non-refundable)
- April - Student preparation meetings
- April - Registration balance charged to FACTS Family Account
- Summer trips – June and July

1) STUDENT POLICIES

a) Qualifications for attendance

- (1) Students must be enrolled and in good standing at the Academy. Minimum requirements of good behavior and maturity are expected of all participants.
- (2) Students must be returning to the Academy the year following the summer trip.
- (3) Students must attend the trips in sequential order. The trips are typically scheduled in such a way that it is possible to attend more than one trip in the same summer, if the student is behind their classmates for any reason.
- (4) All Academy students meeting the above criteria are qualified to go to SLU 101 in Orlando.
- (5) Students will submit applications in late August to attend SLU 201 and 301 trips. The applications will be reviewed by administration and accepted or declined. Student attendance at 201 and 301 is not automatic.
- (6) Students may be prohibited from any trip if there have been any behavior issues from a previous trip, or significant behavior issues during the school year. This includes but is not limited to serious or multiple detentions and/or suspensions. The final decision is made by the administration.

b) Behavior during the trip

- (1) All behavior policies from the student handbook apply to SLU trips.
- (2) In addition, expectations and behavior policies of the SLU organization will apply. These are made known by the SLU staff and vary somewhat for each trip.
- (3) Academy staff chaperones accompany each trip. Students are expected to follow any specific policies those chaperones may add to above requirements.
- (4) Students are evaluated by staff chaperones on each trip. It is essential that students demonstrate their ability to follow instructions, be prompt, and to be trustworthy. These are all leadership traits we are trying to instill in our students. This becomes more important on each successive trip as there are increased safety issues on each trip.
- (5) Failure in behavior or engagement with the program may result in the student being sent home at parent expense or being denied participation on a subsequent trip.

2) PARENT POLICIES

- a) Parents are allowed to participate in SLU trips at full price (not subsidized by the Academy). Any additional cost incurred must be paid by the parent (single room accommodations, etc.).
- b) Parents are NOT required to participate in SLU 101 before they can go on either the 201 or 301 trips. However, it is essential that parents understand, along with their students, the purpose, nature, and scope of the SLU leadership training program.
- c) Parents are expected to follow directions of all SLU staff and Academy chaperones. It is important that parents understand the trip is a leadership training program for students and not a family vacation or field trip. All activities are carefully planned by SLU and time is scheduled from early morning to late evening. **There is no time available for parents to plan independent activities during the trip.** Promptness is essential.
- d) Parents must understand that for the leadership training to be effective, students must be allowed to follow directions, instructions, and be accountable for themselves independently of their parent.
- e) Parents are expected to adhere to an appropriate dress code in line with that required of students by the Academy and SLU.
- f) Parents who fail to adhere to these policies may be disqualified from subsequent trips.

3) CHAPERONE POLICIES

- a) SLU provides interns and/or employees to serve as SLU chaperones during all activities.
- b) The Academy provides staff to serve as official chaperones for our students on all trips.
- c) Chaperones will be provided in a number appropriate to the number of students.
- d) All chaperones will be trained by Administrative staff who are experienced in all SLU trips.
- e) Chaperones will be responsible for safety and care of all students.
- f) Students and parents will be accountable to Academy and SLU staff at all times.
- g) Parents accompanying the trips may be asked to assist Academy staff in managing students during certain activities.

CONCLUSION

The Academy desires that our students become passionate followers of Christ and well-trained servant leaders. It is our belief that SLU is a life changing cornerstone of that process. We encourage parents to have conversations with their students about the scope and purpose of SLU.