

**REGISTRATION FAQS**

**What is the UHS Travel Club?**

UHS Travel Club was created in 2012 to provide safe and educational international and domestic travel opportunities to UHS students. The UHS Travel Club organizes one international trip each year for students with EF Educational Tours. Each trip is covered by insurance, approved by the district, and chaperoned by UHS faculty. In 2017 we added a New York City trip over Spring Break with an Art History focus specifically for Art History students. Starting in 2020 UHS Travel Club will alternate the international trip between European and non-European destinations.

Destinations of the UHS Travel Club have included:

* London, Paris, Florence Rome (2013)
* Italy and Greece (2014)
* Spain, France, and Italy (2015)
* Venice, the Alps, and Paris (2016)
* England, Ireland, Wales and Paris (2017)
* NYC Art History (Spring Break 2017)
* Italy and Greece (2018)
* NYC/DC Art History (Spring Break 2018)
* France, Germany, and the Alps (2019)
* NYC/DC Art History (Spring Break 2018)
* Japan (2020)

**What is EF Tours/EF Explore America?**

EF Tours and EF Explore America are part of an international professional travel company EF Cultural Exchange. EF has been in business for over 50 years and has offices and representatives on six different continents. Their company is committed to opening the world through education and provides opportunities for experiential learning, cultural immersion, and authentic connections for travelers of all ages. UHS Travel Club partners with EF for all student tours. This arrangement allows EF to arrange all of the travel logistics so that our Travel Club teachers can focus on recruitment, education, and trip preparation.

**How do I join UHS Travel Club?**

All UHS students are eligible for a UHS Travel Club trip. However only students who are currently enrolled or who have taken AP Art History are eligible for the NYC Spring Break trip, as its focus is entirely on art history. No parents are permitted to enroll in order to allow for maximum student participation on all tours. All tours are chaperoned by UHS faculty.

Recruitment for upcoming tours takes place periodically throughout the school year at regular Recruitment Meetings. Early registration is encouraged, and students may register for tours as early as 18-20 months out. The registration schedule for the 2020/2021 tours will be as follows:

* August 20th, 2019 – Recruitment Meeting for NYC/DC 2020 and Portugal/Spain 2021
* April 2020 – Recruitment starts for 2022!

Throughout the 2019-2020 school year regular Travel Club meetings will take place for the 2020 tour to Japan. Club meetings for 2021 will not begin until September of the 2020-2021 school year. Meetings will be held about 1-2 times per month and will include seminars on topics related to the upcoming tour taught by UHS faculty, as well as the occasional business meeting. Students who are not registered for the tour but who are generally interested in travel may attend the student meetings. However, these meetings are geared specifically for the upcoming tour and the students who are participating on that trip.

**How do I register for a Travel Club tour?**

1. Students must first complete and submit the Registration Packet (found on our website, available at all recruitment meetings, or available for pick up from Ms. Tully or Ms. Sheets).
2. Turn in completed Registration Packet directly to Ms. Tully (LL-7) or Ms. Sheets (LL-4) or scan and email to uhstravelclub@gmail.com.
3. Once the Registration Packet is received, you will be provided with an Enrollment Confirmation with a link to complete the registration process. You will need to create an account with EF Tours (International) or EF Explore America (Domestic) and make the deposit to secure your spot on the trip**. Enrollment is not confirmed or guaranteed until the final deposit is made!**

Please do not share this link with other students or families – we ask that you respect our registration process. Registration for International trips requires a $95 deposit that cannot be covered by tax credits or donations. Registration for the NYC trips requires a $99 deposit. Again, these forms and additional information can be found on the Travel Club website: [www.uhstravelclub.com](http://www.uhstravelclub.com)

Student meetings for the next summer/spring tour begin in September of that school year. All registered students are expected to attend these meetings. Parent meetings will also take place in the 2-3 times per year to keep families up to date, however the majority of information is communicated in monthly or bi-monthly updates via email. *Email communication is also essential for timely communication between the Sponsor/Group Leader and families.*

**How do I pay for my trip?**

Each family is responsible for paying for or raising funds to cover the cost of the trip – the school does not pay for the trip. However, we have worked hard to make this activity accessible to as many families as possible. This is a tax credit eligible activity, which means that families can use their Arizona Education Tax Credit to help pay for the cost of the trip. We encourage all families to take advantage of this opportunity. In addition, there have been many Travel Club students who have paid for their entire tour by reaching out to friends and family in Arizona who may also contribute their tax credits. Early registration allows students more time to collect tax credits – some students are even able to collect tax credits for three separate tax years! Beyond tax credits, families may also make a donation *directly* to the UHS Travel Club that qualifies as a tax deduction. For example, a student may raise $1500 in tax credits towards a trip that costs $3500. The family may then make a donation of $2000 directly to the UHS Travel Club that can be written off on their taxes, however please keep in mind that every tax situation is unique and families are responsible for knowing whether this approach is most advantageous for them. Friends and family from out of state may also make tax deductible donations towards a student’s tour. Ms. Tully then orchestrates the transfer of funds from the UHS Travel Club account to the individual EF Tours accounts periodically throughout the school year.

For more information, please see the *Fundraising* page available on the Travel Club website:

[www.uhstravelclub.com](http://www.uhstravelclub.com)

UHS Travel Club does not often organize group fundraisers such as carwashes, percentage nights, or similar activities as they do not provide significant funds for individual student trips.

**Can parents come too?**

No, this activity is reserved for UHS students. As the program becomes more popular, we want to ensure that every available seat goes to a student. In addition, it is TUSD policy that only district employees may participate as chaperones for this type of activity. For more information on travel opportunities for adults please visit <https://www.uhstravelclub.com/80-day-club.html>

**What about safety?**

Safety is our first priority. We maintain a close chaperone to student ratio ( approximately 6:1 International, 10:1 NYC), and while on tour students are assigned a teacher team. This teacher becomes their point person for the duration of the tour. Chaperones perform nightly room checks and wake-ups knocks in addition to monitoring students throughout the day. There are small pockets of “free time” in which students are allowed to explore an established area in small groups, but these are usually only limited to two hours and all students are expected to behave appropriately.

Students are also expected to abide by the TUSD Student Code of Conduct at all times. Upon registration, students must submit the *Behavior Contract* to Ms. Tully or Ms. Sheets. This contract stipulates that if a student violates the TUSD Code for any serious infraction (i.e. drugs, drinking, assault, sexual activity) at any point while they are registered for the tour then they will be removed. In addition, if a student violates this code while on tour they will be sent home IMMEDIATELY at the expense of their family. Further disciplinary action may also be required upon return to school depending on the severity of the infraction.

**Where can I find more information?**

Please reach out to our club sponsors Meg Tully and Whitney Sheets at uhstravelclub@gmail.com or visit the following websites:

* [www.uhstravelclub.com](http://www.uhstravelclub.com)
* [www.eftours.com](http://www.eftours.com)
* [www.efexploreamerica.com](http://www.efexploreamerica.com)

[**www.uhstravelclub.com**](http://www.uhstravelclub.com)