



**Mercy High School, San Francisco
Laredo Immersion Program**

May 28-June 2, 2017 (specific travel dates to be determined in the spring**)**

Laredo, Texas

This experience fulfills the Intersession 2018 course requirement!

APPLICATION DUE DATE: Friday, February 10, 2017

I. Personal Information

Name: _____ Homeroom: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Home Address: _____

Parent or guardian name: _____

Parent or guardian signature: _____

Student cell phone: _____

Home phone: _____ Parent cell phone: _____

II. Faculty/Staff Signatures: Obtain the signatures of two faculty or staff members (ex. teachers, counselors, admissions, main office, etc.) who **highly recommend** your participation in this program.

1. _____
Signature Title/Position

2. _____
Signature Title/Position

III. Questions: Please type your responses to these questions on a *separate piece of paper*. **Write about ONE PARAGRAPH per question.** Staple that paper to this application form. *Questions continue on the next page.*

1. Why are you interested in participating in this immersion program? What do you hope to learn or gain from this experience?
2. How do you plan to share what you have learned with the Mercy-SF community upon our return to school?

3. What is the greatest strength you bring to a group when working together on something?
 4. Describe a challenging or difficult experience you have had and how you overcame whatever obstacles it presented.
- IV. Interview:** please use this blank space to indicate **second semester** free periods or lunch periods when you are available for an interview:

See Dr. Adams or Dr. Schroeder in the Campus Ministry/Community Service Office with any questions!

****Return this completed application (application and typed responses)
to Dr. Adams or Dr. Schroeder by **Friday, February 10, 2017**.****

Please note: *Although we are not crossing the border into Mexico, a **valid passport** from the student's home country (either United States or other) is REQUIRED for this experience, due to the presence of Border Patrol at secondary checkpoints throughout the Rio Grande Valley.*

Students and their families are responsible for the cost of obtaining or renewing a passport.

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Laredo 2016 participants with Sr. Rosemary and Sr. Maria Luisa

What is an immersion experience?

- An opportunity to “immerse” yourself in a place and culture different from your own.
- A chance to engage in hands-on learning about immigration and border issues, affordable primary health care, the environment, human trafficking, and the needs and concerns of women and children.
- A way to earn up to **35 community service hours** (+a significant part of your culminating service project for current juniors!)

What will we do in Laredo?

- Meet and learn from recent immigrants
- Engage in direct service to assist people in need
- Gain new perspectives on immigration, human trafficking, domestic violence, and health care
- Partner with the Sisters of Mercy in their efforts to stand in solidarity with the poor and suffering
- **NOTE:** We will NOT cross the border into Mexico. This program takes place entirely on the U.S. side of the border. However, a valid passport from the student’s home country is required for travel.

How much does it cost?

- Total cost per student: approximately **\$600-\$775**
 - *(final cost to be determined no later than March 3)*
- Includes:
 - Round-trip airfare from the Bay area to Laredo, Texas
 - 5 nights accommodation (3-4 students per room) at the La Quinta Inn in Laredo, Texas
 - All meals except for those *en route* at the airport
 - All supplies
 - Ground transportation (van)
 - Supervision of Mercy High School faculty/staff and Sisters of Mercy on-site in Laredo



Sisters of Mercy health clinic in Laredo



Fences and lights along the US-Mexico Border

TIMELINE

November, 2016: Applications available

January 26, 2017 during collaboration time (8:15-8:45):

Informational meeting, snacks, and social for interested students. Meet current Mercy students, faculty/staff, and alumnae who have been to Laredo as past participants in this program.

February 10, 2017: Application Due

February 17, 2017: Students notified of acceptance

February 20, 2017: \$350 deposit due

March, April, May (specific dates to be announced):

Informational Meeting with Parents/Guardians; additional student meetings to prepare for this experience.

April 10, 2017: Full payment due

May 28, 29, or 30: Departure!

