

# STUDENT ORGANIZATION TRAVEL FUND – FALL 2021

## PURPOSE:

The Student Organization Travel Fund (SOTF) is for registered student organizations that have a need to travel off-campus to regional, state, or national organizational events, competitions, training, etc. to represent the University of Tennessee. The organization's travel should be within the scope of the organization's mission and purpose. Travel should also compliment the mission of the university and increase the effectiveness of the organization. The SOTF is funded by the [Student Program and Services Fees](#).



<https://tiny.utk.edu/studentorgtravelinfo>

## STUDENT ORGANIZATION TRAVEL FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

The Student Organization Travel Fund Advisory Committee (SOTFAC) is made up of appointed undergraduate/ graduate student(s), Center for Student Engagement staff member(s), a representative of the Organization Resource Group (ORG), and a representative from the Student Government Association (SGA).

## TRAVEL UPDATES:

Currently are no current travel restrictions within and outside of the state of TN; however, please be aware that due to the uncertainty of COVID-19 (Coronavirus), funding may be withdrawn and/or travel restrictions may be reinstated at any time. If travel restrictions are reinstated by the CDC or the University, the SOTF criteria and timeline will be revised, and affected organizations will be contacted as soon as possible. To stay up to date, check [US Department of State travel warnings](#), [CDC COVID-19 travel health notices](#), and [CDC non-COVID-19 travel health notices](#).

## REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY:

Organizations must submit a Student Organization Travel Fund Request on <a href="#">VOLink</a> .	Organizations must be Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) in good standing, and all information up to date on VOLink
Attendees must be active members of the organization and listed as members on the VOLink roster	Those eligible for reimbursement from the Student Organization Travel Fund must be students (undergraduate, graduate, and/or professional) enrolled at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville with fees that include the <a href="#">Student Program and Services Fee (SPSE)</a> .
Application should be <i>submitted no later than 20 days</i> in advance of travel/ day of departure. Organizations are encouraged to submit their applications as early in advance of travel as possible	Applications should be submitted for events within this fiscal year. Event should occur BEFORE June 30, 2022
Application should be submitted, in full, including a list of students traveling, detailed budget, and general travel/ event information	Applications should be submitted by a student, NOT staff, faculty member and/or the student organization advisor.
2 or more students must be traveling on behalf of the organization	If organization received past SOTF allocation, policies and procedures were followed, and the post trip report was completed.
Organization must understand that most travel expenses will be reimbursed <i>after</i> the event. Exceptions include: 1.) fleet management vehicles which will be direct billed and 2.) registration fees, if prior to payment travel request is approved and all requested documentation is submitted.	<i>PLEASE NOTE: Submission of request does not guarantee funding allocation approval/ disbursement. Do not assume funding will be granted until notified by the Student Organization Travel Fund Advisory Committee</i>

## TIMELINE:

FALL 2021 APPLICATIONS DUE:	APPLICATION STATUS NOTIFICATION BY:
Tuesday, August 10 <sup>th</sup>	Friday, August 20 <sup>th</sup>
Tuesday, August 24 <sup>th</sup>	Friday, September 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Tuesday, September 7 <sup>th</sup>	Friday, September 17 <sup>th</sup>
Tuesday, September 21 <sup>st</sup>	Friday, October 1 <sup>st</sup>
Tuesday, October 5 <sup>th</sup>	Friday, October 15 <sup>th</sup>
Tuesday, October 19 <sup>th</sup>	Friday, October 29 <sup>th</sup>
Tuesday, November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Friday, November 12 <sup>th</sup>
Tuesday, November 16 <sup>th</sup>	Monday, November 29 <sup>th</sup>
Tuesday, November 30 <sup>th</sup>	Friday, December 9 <sup>th</sup>

## WHEN EVALUATING SOTF REQUESTS, THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA WILL BE USED:

- Whether, and to what degree, the travel will advance the University's educational mission by promoting student satisfaction, and retention and/or by promoting the intellectual, physical, emotional, social, cultural, or leadership development of students.
- The clarity of the funding request
- The amount of the funding request
- Whether, and to what degree, the funding request demonstrates that the registered student organization has been diligent in determining the anticipated costs of the program.
- Whether, and to what degree, the funding request is fiscally responsible.
- If applicable, how effectively and efficiently the student organization used funds in the past.
- If applicable if student organization followed all policies and procedures in prior use of funds.
- Whether and to what degree, the travel is relevant to the organization's constitution on file with the University.
- Whether or not the organization has attended such events, competitions, and if so, what funding sources were utilized.
- Whether, and to what degree, the student organization has access to other sources of funding. Organizations that do not have access to funding from other campus departments or programs will receive priority.
- The viewpoint of the Registered Student Organization (RSO) or the travel request shall not be considered by the Student Organization Travel Fund Allocation Committee (SOTFAC) when making a funding decision.

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## WHAT THE SOTF CAN COVER/ REIMBURSE:

Registration fees for in person or virtual events	Lodging at Hotel, Retreat Center, or another contracted overnight site. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ For travel within TN, approved/ reimbursable lodging rates: <a href="https://finance.tennessee.edu/travel/preferred-hotels/hotel-rate-information/">https://finance.tennessee.edu/travel/preferred-hotels/hotel-rate-information/</a></li> <li>▪ Approved/ reimbursable hotel rates out of state, within the continental United States (CONUS), as determined by U.S. General Services Administration: <a href="https://www.gsa.gov/travel/plan-book/per-diem-rates">https://www.gsa.gov/travel/plan-book/per-diem-rates</a></li> <li>▪ Organizations should attempt to receive a government rate for lodging (CONUS link above). Higher rates for lodging at the location of a competition, conference, etc. will be allowed up to the amount shown in the event brochure or conference hotel reservation form, if the brochure is submitted with reimbursement receipts.</li> </ul>
Personal vehicle travel, reimbursed by the state rate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard Mileage Rate is \$ 0.47 per mile</li> <li>• Mileage will be calculated from the Student Union (1502 West Cumberland Avenue) to the Event Destination, round trip.</li> </ul>	
Fleet Management vehicle rental and mileage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">Fleet Management Rental Rates</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">UT Vehicle Use Policy F10725</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">To estimate gas cost, use the AAA gas cost calculator</a></li> </ul>	
Parking	
Charter, Rental car, or Bus travel	

## WHAT THE SOTF CAN NOT COVER/ REIMBURSE:

Registration costs that include membership fees	Airline tickets
Registration costs that are all-inclusive of transportation, lodging, and meals	International Travel
Travel with a <i>primary</i> focus on service and charitable causes	Meals- per diem or itemized
Travel that is primarily social in nature, rather than educational, and that is not within the scope of the organization's mission and purpose	Travel for individual students and/or those not affiliated with a student organization. Individual students should consider applying for the <a href="#">W. Timothy Rogers Student Leadership Fund</a>
Travel incorporated into and/or required for an academic course, for academic instructional activities, or to receive course credits from any educational institution.	Travel with a <i>primary</i> focus on personal job or internship searches
Travel for advisory services or consulting	Operating costs such as organization retreats, planning meetings or teambuilding events
Travel for less than 2 student organization members	Travel insurance, Travel agency and/or booking fees
Events that take place after a student's official graduation from the university	Phone or internet usage fees
Travel for producing revenue (ex. travel for the purpose of selling merchandise)	Toll road fees
Travel for campaigns of political candidates at local, state, and national levels	Traffic tickets
Travel for lobbying, advocacy, and/or partisan political activities	Cost of an organization's staff or faculty advisor's travel/ attendance
Travel for Sports Clubs registered with RecSports	Loss, damage, injury, or other consequences resulting to any participant or their property
Damage or injuries from use of personal vehicle	Unreported damage of Fleet Management vehicles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">Accident reporting process/ policy</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">State of Tennessee Imposes Fees for Accidents Not Reported</a></li> </ul>

**IMPORTANT:** Student organization travel does NOT constitute an excused absence from class; students are responsible for discussing travel with instructors and, if excused, planning for any work that may be missed.

## FOLLOWING THE SOTFAC MEETING AND APPLICATION REVIEW:

1. Notification of decision will be sent to the student organization within 5 business days of the committee meeting.
2. Once funds are granted, the primary student contact will receive notification and should schedule a meeting must meet with the Student Organization Travel Fund manager to discuss the [SOTF allocation procedures and requested travel documentation](#)

## FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF TRAVEL: \*\* Failure to complete requested post trip report will result in the organization's ineligibility for future SOTF allocations \*\*

1. No later than 15 business days after the date of return from the trip, the student organization trip leader should submit the Post Event Report and submit all requested receipts and documentation via VOLink - <http://tiny.utk.edu/SOTFPostEventReport>