

SAMPLE FUNDRAISING LETTER

(Suggested language only. Make the letter your own, but proofread carefully).

<Recipient Name>

<Address Line>

<Address Line 2>

<Date>

Dear _____,

I am very excited to tell you that I have the opportunity to participate in *Sojourn to the Past*, a unique educational program. Sojourn was honored at the White House by First Lady Michelle Obama with the nation's highest honor given to an after school program in the arts and humanities. In order to participate, however, I need your help. I would not ask if it was not important to me.

The Sojourn program takes students to the southern United States, where we retrace the steps of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s. This journey is not a vacation. It is a powerful academic seven-day, six-night experience where we will be traveling to the sites of historical occurrences in Georgia, Alabama, Arkansas, and Tennessee. We will be studying on moving classroom buses and at museums, historical sites and other venues, as well as getting the exciting opportunity to hear from and speak with several veterans of the Civil Rights Movement about their experiences.

These leaders are true American heroes and I expect to learn both from them, and from the lessons of the Civil Rights Movement, many important qualities that will improve my life now and in the future. Some of these qualities are acceptance, nonviolence, courage, compassion, forgiveness, and civic responsibility. I believe this journey will help me become a better student and advance myself as a member of society. Some of the speakers I will be learning from are Congressman John Lewis of Georgia, who has dedicated his life to fighting for justice and equality, and Minnijean Brown-Trickey, one of the Little Rock Nine, who will actually travel with us and participate daily in the journey. She will share stories of her experiences and of what education and perseverance means to her. She usually also helps students on the journeys to develop direct action plans to bring back to their schools to help with issues such as racism, bullying and using hurtful language.

The main reason I want to go on this journey is because [**write your own reason speaking from your heart.**]

The tuition for this educational journey is \$3,200. This covers the airfare, the moving classroom buses, meals and lodging, entrance to museums, books and curriculum, as well as a registered nurse and security. The problem is that I cannot afford to pay the tuition myself. This is why I am asking for your help. **Your donation helps students like me go on the trip.** No donation is too small and because *Sojourn to the Past* is a nonprofit organization, your donation is tax deductible. You can learn more about Sojourn by visiting the website at: www.sojournproject.com

If you can help me participate by making a donation, please:

- Make your check payable to *Sojourn to the Past*. (Do NOT put my name on the check)
- Please write "Donation" and the Sojourn Federal Tax ID number "94-3336985" on the "memo section" of the check to receive a tax deduction.
- Send your donation to me. I will submit it to *Sojourn to the Past* with the rest of my payment.

I cannot thank you enough for any assistance you can give me and if you cannot help, thank you for your time in considering my request.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME TYPED with SIGNATURE ABOVE]

***Please Note: You can also include a brochure with each letter you send. Contact the office for additional information on how to receive them. When you send your checks into Sojourn, please include a note with your name and school so that we can easily identify you!**