



Zone 2a

Poas Volcano, Costa Rica

ZONE 2A HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRIES	CENTRES/ GROUPS	SSIO MEMBERS	SSE STUDENTS	ISSE	SATHYA SAI SCHOOLS
Costa Rica	1	12			
Cuba	7	152			
Dominican Republic	6	188	3	1	1
El Salvador	11	121	8	1	
Guadeloupe	1	12			
Guatemala	5	93	7		1
Haiti	2	88			
Honduras	1	10			
Mexico	39	557	61	1	2
Nicaragua	1	4			
Panama	3	140	79		
Puerto Rico	2	36	5	1	
TOTAL	79	1,413	163	4	4



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Costa Rica

The SSIO of Costa Rica welcomed 25 new members at a public meeting on 23rd August 2017. The newcomers, aided by current members, received an introduction to Sathya Sai Baba's teachings in an intimate setting, with many learning of His work for the first time.



El Salvador

Over the past 28 years, SSIO volunteers in El Salvador have joined in a weekly service programme that began originally with visits to a group of disabled boys living in a dilapidated house. Eventually, with the help of the national Sathya Sai Foundation, the volunteers purchased and renovated a larger home capable of housing 22 people with more amenities. The facility now includes a Sathya Sai Centre and a venue to conduct SSE classes. On 23rd November 2017, the group celebrated this home's 20th anniversary by screening two short videos. In March 2018, SSIO volunteers delivered a new water filter for the residents. Over the years the programme has provided numerous disabled young people with opportunities to study, work and find new meaning to life. Elsewhere, in El Amatal, La Libertad, volunteers continued a five-year stream of service to residents of a senior care facility, offering a monthly breakfast and distributing clothing and hygiene products.



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For the past three years, SSEHV classes for children have been held in El Salvador, and have brought about remarkable changes in the behaviour of the young students. On Valentine's Day, 14th February 2018, the children and their SSEHV teachers celebrated Friendship Day.

More than 100 participants from seven countries attended a Central American Retreat during Holy Week, which was held at a farmhouse in San Salvador, 29th-31st March 2018. The programme included meditation, devotional singing, and service activities.



Guatemala

Sathya Sai Young Adults from Guatemala recognised that service to the planet entails more than service to the environment alone. Noting that animals too need their love and care, they organised an ongoing service project, "You Understand My Silence," at a shelter that rescues sick and injured stray dogs. The volunteers donated food and cleaning supplies and lovingly helped walk, bathe and care for dozens of dogs at the shelter.

SSIO members in the city of Antigua also continued a longstanding partnership with the House of Mother Mary, a nursing home sheltering 85 elders who either have been abandoned or have no family to speak of. Each month, volunteers serve food and provide loving company to the orphaned elders.



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Haiti

The SSIO continues to provide humanitarian relief on the island of Haiti since the devastating 2010 earthquake. Regular relief efforts, including distributing food and supplies throughout the island continue as regions needing assistance are identified. This year brought a new emphasis on education and the fostering of human values, with the inception of the country's first ever human values committee. The committee aims specifically to promote education in human values, both in planning events and training educators.

In August 2017, 45 teachers and students were trained in a five-day SSEHV programme in the capital, Port-au-Prince. A further 27 teachers and students participated in another introductory course in the town of Saint-Marc. The sessions include hands-on activities, presentations, written assignments, and evaluations, laying a foundation for continued education and development in coming years.



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Mexico

The SSIO of Mexico hosted an international gathering of 130 SSIO members from El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Peru, Brazil, Panama, and Venezuela for a three-day forum on Leadership in Latin America, starting on 25th August 2017. The meeting recognised the SSIO as an ideal platform for Self-realisation and helped develop key leadership skills among delegates toward serving their communities and the SSIO.

In keeping with these lessons, Sathya Sai Centres in Guadalajara, Torreón, Monterrey, and Piloto reinvigorated their service and outreach initiatives, hosting numerous lectures and community works. On 23rd April 2017, the Monterrey Centre held a Walk for Values in the city's central Alameda park.

Going beyond their local communities, volunteers from Chihuahua, in partnership with a regional University, held a medical camp in the city of El Paso del Norte on 22nd April 2017. The marginalised community received supplies and haircuts and were educated about preventive health strategies. Simultaneously, children of the community were given a crash-course in human values. SSIO members in Veracruz similarly volunteered their time at the city's general hospital, serving food to patients on 30th April 2017.



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Puerto Rico

Hurricane Maria ravaged the island of Puerto Rico on 20th September 2017, leaving huge sectors of the island without access to water or electricity. The SSIO, both locally and in the USA, set to work almost immediately. Volunteers in Miami dispatched a charter flight carrying supplies of food, personal hygiene items, and torchlights for 100 people. With support from the Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation, more than 1,400 portable water filtration units were sent and distributed throughout the island. Volunteers on the ground in Puerto Rico trained recipients on how to use and maintain the equipment to ensure its safe operation. The work was inspired by Sathya Sai Baba's water projects in India and Africa, which continue to serve millions daily.

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To secure the grace of the Divine, it is not necessary to seek knowledge, wealth, power or position. Purity of mind alone is enough.

–Sathya Sai Baba, 31 December 1983

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El Salvador



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Mexico