# Summer by Rail - Essay Portion

*Restrictions & Deadlines: The deadline for application is January 31st, 2017. Applicants must be an active college student of at least 18 years of age at time of submission. NARP will establish a shortlist of candidates by February 14th. After additional interviews, NARP will select our Summer by Rail intern by March 14th. Candidates should be able to spend 3-4 weeks traveling as part of this program, with another 6-8 weeks of part-time outreach and planning in advance. NARP can accommodate flexible schedules, however all travel will need to take place between the months of June 2017 through August 2017. To read the full requirements, apply here.*

*Remember to complete all sections of this application and send it with your transcript, resume, and letter of recommendation.* ***Make sure to complete the APPLICATION portion of our Summer by Rail application****. Thank you for your interest! All questions and completed submissions [.doc/.pdf] should be emailed to Sean Jeans-Gail [*[sjeansgail@narprail.org](mailto:sjeansgail@narprail.org)*].*

**Describe your ultimate summer train journey.** Tells us about parts of America you want to travel to and explore. Explain how this itinerary will help you in your area of study. How will this bolster NARP’s mission to educate the public and elected officials on the economic, environmental, and social benefits of investing in mass transit and intercity rail. What kinds of groups would you like NARP to help you connect with? This is a bike-train trip—so think multimodally!

Examples from the first year of Summer by Rail include:

* Visiting Montana & Glacier National Park with [NPS](https://www.nps.gov/glac/index.htm) and [Whitefish Visitors Bureau](http://www.explorewhitefish.com/) to see firsthand how Amtrak is connecting cyclists to America's national parks.
* Cycling around New Orleans with [Friends of Lafitte Greenway](http://www.lafittegreenway.org/) and [Transdev](http://www.transdev.com/en/), to see how planners are using greenways and streetcars to rebuild in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.
* Taking part in a bike-to-work day with the Mayor of Salt Lake City to see how people-focused transportation is shaping western cities
* Cycling with [BikeTexas](http://www.biketexas.org/) in cities throughout Texas; stopping in Austin to explore how [moovel](https://moovel-group.com/en) is using smartphone apps to change how people use transit.
* Meeting with the Chamber of Commerce in Meridian, MS to see how redeveloping the town’s historic train station has helped drive tourism and economic activity.

**Multimedia.** You’ll be posting photographs and videos to our Instagram and Twitter accounts, as well as writing blog entries about the people and officials you meet. We encourage applicants to include examples of multimedia work (photos, videos, illustrations, graphic design); multimedia submissions will be given priority consideration.

**Considerations and parameters.**

* *Destinations must be part of Amtrak’s rail network, with geographically contiguous trip segments. Bus connections are allowable, but we will not accept mid-trip air travel.*
* *This trip will be taken on Amtrak’s [USA Rail Pass](https://www.amtrak.com/take-the-trains-across-america-with-usa-rail-pass); your trip proposal should not exceed 18 trip segments (Amtrak considers a travel segment any time you get on and then get off a vehicle [train, bus, ferry or other allowable leg] regardless of length), nor 35 days.*
* *NARP will cover the cost of travel, room, and board. However, any resources an applicant brings to the Summer by Rail project will be given due weight. This includes, but is not limited to: family and friends along the route that would be able to lodge an applicant; access to university grants for summer travel programs; specialized traveling equipment; and preexisting relationships with likeminded organizations, or media groups, that would dedicate institutional time and resources to making Summer by Rail a success.*
* *Bicycling is a big part of the Summer by Rail program. Candidates in possession of, or with access to, bicycles will be given priority consideration.*