



Dear Parent:

I am excited to introduce you and your child to an amazing educational travel opportunity being offered to Kinard students. We invite your student to embark on an educational journey to the diverse ecosystems of Costa Rica in June, 2011! Mrs. Angel Herrick and Ms. Kathy Ryan, both Kinard teachers, are spearheading this program and will accompany the group of students throughout their experience.

After a wonderful travel experience to Costa Rica with Kinard students in 2010, Mrs. Herrick and Ms. Ryan have once again elected to work with Global Explorers to provide this life-changing opportunity. Global Explorers is a Fort Collins based nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring responsible global citizenship through comprehensive educational travel programs. We work with schools, zoos, museums and other educational institutions across the U.S.A.

This travel experience will be integrated into Kinard's Global Leadership Class, culminating with a 9-day journey to Costa Rica and a follow-up community service project in Fort Collins. Before traveling, students will explore the world of service learning and leadership skills while they learn about conservation and cultural awareness. The experience will inspire curiosity, open new doors to self awareness and challenge students to think critically about travel as more than just a fun trip. Students will also be expected to commit to service learning projects outside of school at least once per quarter throughout the 2010-2011 school year.

Why Travel?

Travel inspires us. Travel teaches us. Travel empowers us to know that we can accomplish whatever we want. Travel with Global Explorers is a unique and challenging leadership and service experience. Much more than just a trip, the Global Explorers program includes preparatory curriculum and a follow-up service leadership initiative in your home community.

Global Explorers helps students understand their role in the world and discover a path that's right for them. Colleges and employers understand the impact that travel can have and recognize the value it has in a young person's life. Independent studies from Duke University and Texas A&M University show that Global Explorers program alumni exhibit increased:

- cultural awareness, acceptance and tolerance
- leadership skills, self-awareness and interpersonal abilities
- awareness of global interdependence
- understanding of the importance of community service
- sense that they can make a positive difference in the world

Please join us for an info session with a Global Explorers representative to learn more about this opportunity

When: Monday, May 3 from 6:30 – 7:30 PM

Where: Kinard Middle School Media Center

I encourage you to consider this once-in-a-lifetime experience for your child. For details, contact Mrs. Herrick (angelh@psdschools.org or 488-5476) or Ms. Ryan (kryan@psdschools.org or 488-5474). I hope that you are excited about this opportunity and I invite you to visit www.GlobalExplorers.org to learn more about our nationally-recognized programs, which have been featured on ABC World News Tonight, CBS Sunday Morning and the Travel Channel. Come Discover Classroom Earth!

Sincerely,

Jordy Oleson
Outreach Coordinator – Global Explorers



Global Explorers

WHERE // Sustainable Tropics: Costa Rica

Program Highlights

- ◀ Stroll along Caribbean beaches, visit an active volcano and cruise through the cloud forest on zip-lines as you experience the myriad ecosystems and incredible biodiversity this tiny country has to offer.
- ◀ Immerse yourself in the animated “Pura Vida” lifestyle that makes Costa Rica known for its vibrant culture worldwide.
- ◀ Search for howler monkeys, poison dart frogs, resplendent quetzals, three-toed sloths, nesting sea turtles and more with expert local guides.

“I felt this swelling inside, like my consciousness, my confidence, my inner-self was literally just growing.”
- Melinda, Student Explorer



Program Description

Full of adventure, beauty, captivating culture and rich biodiversity, Costa Rica has everything you could ask for in an educational travel destination. It's small in size and well-traveled, making it one of the best countries on Earth for student groups. The Sustainable Tropics program brings us to several lesser-known learning spots in some of Costa Rica's most enticing destinations and immerses us in three different ecosystems. We search for all kinds of wildlife and learn about the successful sustainable development strategies that have made Costa Rica famous for conservation and ecotourism. We also interact with rural community members and have the chance to give back through service projects. Traveling by foot, kayak, boat, canopy walkway and zip-line, we truly experience this wonderful country up close and personal.

Pre-Travel Curriculum

- ◀ Tropical ecosystems, sustainable development and rainforest conservation.
- ◀ Costa Rican history and culture and Spanish language.
- ◀ Leadership skills, service learning and responsible travel knowledge. Students will be expected to commit to service projects outside of school at least once per quarter throughout the 2010-2011 school year.



Program Itinerary

Day 1

After arriving in San Jose, Costa Rica in the morning, we hop aboard our shuttle and drive to the Pacific coast town of Ostional. Here, we settle into our hotel and spend the late evening on the beach in search of nesting sea turtles!

Day 2

Today we take our time in the morning and get some sleep after our late night with the sea turtles. After breakfast, we return to the beach to help clean it up and make it a healthier place for the entire ecosystem. Of course, we also take some time to cool off in the ocean and enjoy the gentle surf. Tonight, we return the beach once again to search for more nesting sea turtles by moonlight.

Days 3-4

We depart Ostional this morning and head to the Monteverde region, filled with cloud forests and wildlife. We arrive at the UGA San Luis Research Station, where we stay for the next two nights. This afternoon we visit Finca la Bella, a small, local, sustainable farm where coffee, sugarcane and other crops are grown. We discuss sustainability and participate in an ongoing conservation project that will contribute to offsetting some of the carbon our trip has produced. The next morning, we experience the forest as the birds do, zipping through the canopy and exploring a series of walkways. Afterward, we visit a local handicraft cooperative, we can support local artists and find gifts for our families and friends. Tonight, we learn how to cook the Tico way and enjoy a cooking class with a local family.

After a tasty dinner, we venture into the cloud forest on a night hike in search of wildlife.

Day 5

Today depart for Arenal, where we have lunch at a sustainable farm and spend time kayaking in Lake Arenal next to one of the most active volcanoes in the world. Tonight, we stay in Arenal hope to catch a view of red hot lava flowing down the side of Arenal Volcano!

Days 6 – 8

Our next stop is the Sarapiquí region. Our day starts with a visit to a pineapple plantation and concludes with an exciting bat observation activity before we fall asleep to the sounds of the forest at the Tirimbina Lodge Field Station. Our second day in Sarapiquí is spent working on a service project with the Sarapiquí Conservation Learning Center and a local community. We enjoy lunch in the community and spend the afternoon floating down the Sarapiquí River in rafts and kayaks as we search for howler monkeys. Day 8 includes a visit to La Selva, one of the most important sites in the world for scientific research on tropical forests. Next, we return to San Jose and enjoy a closing ceremony before our last night in Costa Rica.

Day 9

We depart early this morning for San Jose to catch our flight back home.

*This represents a sample itinerary that is subject to change based on weather or other circumstances outside the control of Global Explorers.

Program Details

Essentials:

Program Fee: \$1,945

Expedition Length: 9 days

Location: Costa Rica – San Jose, Ostional, Monteverde, Sarapiquí

Dates: February 19 - 27, 2011

What's Included:

All lodging in Costa Rica; all meals and drinking water in Costa Rica; all transportation in Costa Rica; all daily activities and related fees; Global Explorers Expedition Leader; local guides and drivers; all gratuities; basic travel insurance; airport departure fees; preparatory materials and support; t-shirts and journals; carbon offsets for international air travel.

What's Not Included:

International airfare between your home city and San Jose, Costa Rica; passport fees; immunization fees; spending money (for souvenirs and extra snacks); expenses as a result of travel delays or cancellations that fall outside of Global Explorers' control.

Accommodations:

Students stay in clean and rustic dormitory-style lodges with bunk beds, indoor bathrooms and electricity in the day time. Food is delicious and healthy local cuisine. Fresh drinking water is always available.

How to Sign-Up:

Submit applications to Mrs. Herrick or Ms. Ryan by May 10. Students will be notified of acceptance by May 14. Once you are notified of acceptance, submit a \$200 nonrefundable deposit to Mrs. Herrick or Ms. Ryan by May 19, which is the date of our first group meeting. Make deposit checks payable to Kinard.

WHAT WE TEACH

EXPLORE YOUR WORLD

Scientific Curiosity & Competence:

Students develop a curiosity towards the natural world and understand the complexity of interrelationships between human and environmental systems.

Cultural Curiosity & Competence:

Students build curiosity, respect and tolerance for different ways of life and experience our connectedness with people around the world.

Career Exposure & Leaders that

Inspire: Students learn about the motivating factors behind career choices made by a diverse group of professionals and develop ideas about fulfilling careers for themselves.

Service Knowledge: Students explore the meaning of service-learning and civic responsibility and navigate the challenges of working with communities to identify and evaluate needs.

DISCOVER THE LEADER WITHIN

Self-Awareness: Students explore the ways they see themselves, others, the world and their place in it.

Communication: Students learn to listen, to appreciate diverse perspectives and to improve their peer-to-peer communication skills.

Collaboration: Students learn about creating a shared vision and utilizing the skills of all team members.

Critical Thinking Skills: Students practice problem solving, analysis, logic and reflecting on the big picture using systems thinking.

Self-Direction: Students explore their personal passions, adaptability, sense of responsibility and personal vision.

Information Literacy: Students investigate various forms of knowledge acquisition, source discernment and management of complex information to deepen the quality of their analyses.

INSPIRE CHANGE

Our Mission is to inspire responsible global citizenship by providing life-changing travel experiences for students and educators of all abilities and backgrounds.

Our unique educational model equips students to explore science and culture for a deeper understanding of the world, to discover their personal interests and to tackle community issues with passion and wisdom.

Appreciation for Life: Students deepen their appreciation for the opportunities they have in life and recognize that there are many ways to make a difference in the world.

Take Action: Students take action and engage in service before, during and after their Global Explorers expedition.

Service Attitude: Students develop confidence in their ability to inspire change and demonstrate an ongoing willingness to spend time bettering communities at home and abroad.

"I not only gained academic knowledge, but also learned about the importance of an open mind and an open heart, the power of smiling at a stranger and so much more. Global Explorers is a family that gives young adults incredible opportunities and teaches life skills that make us all better people."

- Laura, Student Explorer

