

Conservation in Costa Rica

International Trip Proposal

April Break 2018 (9 days)



Introduction and Background

¡Hola! We are the CHS Spanish Department: Carrie Robinson, Keren Turner, Emma Pedrin



Carrie Robinson: lived and studied in Costa Rica (1 summer), Spain (1 year), traveled to Mexico, Cuba, Perú, Puerto Rico



Keren Turner: led five student trips to rural Nicaragua, lived in Bolivia (1 year), traveled to Mexico, Perú, Cuba, Spain



Emma Pedrin: lived and studied in Nicaragua (6 months) traveled to El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico

Why an educational trip to Costa Rica?

★ Why a trip abroad?

To offer students an experiential learning experience unlike anything they might have access to in Vermont

★ Why Costa Rica?

- Unique environment (flora, fauna, and ecosystem)
- Rich culture
- Safe and friendly to international travelers



Course Learning Outcomes:

**Students will earn
0.5 credit upon
completion of the course**

Students will:

1. develop their Spanish language skills in an authentic setting
2. gain an understanding and respect for a culture other than their own
3. deepen their understanding of, and appreciation for, environmental conservation in a unique setting
4. engage in inquiry and research on an individual topic of their choosing related to Costa Rican culture and conservation

Who is eligible for the trip?

- Application Process
- Open to all 10th, 11th and 12th grade CHS students
- Participants do not need to speak Spanish
- Students enrolled in a World Language course at CHS will be identified in the application process (but it is not a necessity to be in a WL class)



Where is Costa Rica?

Costa Rica: San José, Arenal Region and Central Pacific Coast



Details:

- ✓ The Conservation in Costa Rica trip will be through EF (Education First), the largest educational travel organization the United States)
- ✓ We will travel with a maximum of 18 CHS students, maintaining a 6:1 student:teacher ratio

Process:

- Students and families will be invited to an introductory informational evening meeting
- Students must apply and be selected to participate
- Students will participate in monthly/bi-monthly meetings to prepare for the trip
- Prior to departure families will attend a pre-trip meeting with the students
- After the trip travelers will present their work (CHS, School Board, Colchester community)

Why EF (Education First)?

- Well established organization with 50+ years experience
112 Countries, 500 Offices, 43,500 Employees
- Focus on the educational experience for students
Full itinerary with limited down time
- Trained, licensed and insured local guides
- 24-hour emergency on-call service
- Fully accredited and insured



EF's Global Travel Protection Plan (trip insurance) includes:

- Trip Cancellation - unexpected illness or change in financial status
- Travel Delay - coverage for expenses
- Baggage and Personal Effects - theft or delay
- Accident and Sickness - hospital bills, transportation



Cost Details

Per student ~\$3200 - 9 days

Price includes:

- ✓ Round-trip flights from Burlington
- ✓ Local transportation
- ✓ Hotels with private bathrooms
- ✓ 3 meals daily
- ✓ Full-time, bilingual tour director
- ✓ Sightseeing led by licensed guide
- ✓ Entrance fees to selected attractions

Extra money required for:

- Spending money
- Checked baggage fees (\$25/\$40)
- Passport Fees



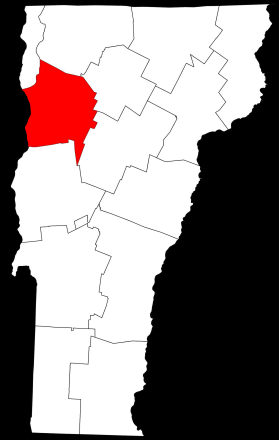
We are committed to making this an experience that is financially accessible to all CHS students (regardless of their families economic status).

Fundraising

- CHS students may use a EF based website to solicit funds
- Students can fundraise with parent and teacher support
- Group leaders will use fundraising strategies which have been successful in the past



Making it possible for CHS students



- Small monthly payments can be made
- Final payments aren't due until 25 days before departure
- 24-hour account access and payment information through EF secure website
- Full or partial refunds are available in the event of unexpected economic hardship

Costa Rica Conservation Itinerary (the basics):

Day 1: Fly to Costa Rica

Meet the tour director at San José airport

Day 2 & 3: Playa Palo Seco - Central Pacific Coast

Travel to Playa Palo Seco

Visit Crocodile Farm

Conservation project activities

Day 4: Central Pacific Coast

Visit Manuel Antonio National Park Conservation project activities

Day 5: Central Pacific Coast - Arenal Region

Travel to the Arenal Region

Visit hot springs



Day 6: Arenal region

Canopy tour

Participate in a local exchange



Day 7: Arenal region

Kayaking trip on Lake Arenal

Visit La Fortuna Waterfall



Day 8: Arenal Region - San José

Return to San José

Tour of a coffee plantation

Folklore evening



Day 9: Depart for home

Next Steps If Approved:

April/May 2017: Publicize trip, recruit students, hold informational family meeting

June 2017: Applications due, group selected before school year ends

July-August 2017: Check-in meeting with travelers, students begin thinking about projects, determine passport status. Summer reading and planning for personalized learning

October- December 2017: Monthly informational and planning meetings

January-March 2018: Bi-monthly informational and planning meetings

April 2018: Family meeting ¡El Viaje!

May 2018: Post-trip reflection and debrief, student presentations

June 2018: Complete coursework

¿Preguntas? Questions?

Learning outcomes:

Students will:

- Experience world languages and cultures first hand
- Gain awareness of global perspectives and connections
- promote international understanding, respect for different cultures, language learning and global citizenship
- sharpen key 21st century skills—critical thinking, problem solving, communication, collaboration and global competence in a global setting
- develop interpersonal and leadership skills necessary to navigate new experiences with confidence and adaptability



Students will earn **0.5 credit** upon completing this course