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:

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

Students will earn 0.5 credit upon completion of the course.
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 in 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 an 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