

Minidoka County School Board
310 10th Street
Rupert, Idaho 83350

February 13, 2017

Dear Esteemed Board Member;

Several students at Minico High School are taking advantage of an amazing opportunity. They are accepting a challenge to travel to the Costa Rican rainforest, learn about this diverse biome, and help repair damage done by human activities. They will be able to work side by side with the people of Costa Rica to harvest plant seeds and replant areas of the rainforest. During this time they will learn about the flora and fauna of the region, as well as learning about a different culture. They are all very excited about this opportunity, and are working hard to earn the money to pay for this trip over the next year.

We have tried very hard to schedule this trip at a time that is most productive for replanting and is the best time to visit this region. We also looked at the amount of time students would miss school. Ideally this trip would take place during summer vacation, however, that coincides with Costa Rica's rainy season and is not an ideal time to visit and replant. Therefore, we choose Spring Break of 2018. This time is great for replanting and limits the time missed by our students. This schedule does have some drawbacks. One of which is that students will miss some school.

We will be traveling with other student groups to ensure that we get the best prices. Therefore, we have to be flexible in our scheduling to accommodate all students involved. This trip is slated to take nine days. We are scheduled to leave on March 22nd, however, since we will be traveling with other schools we may have to move that up or down by two days. This will increase the amount of time our students will miss school days. They will miss at least two days and could miss up to 5 days depending upon how our schedule changes. This has caused a great deal of stress for the students involved. They are very conscientious students and worry a great deal about attendance and grades.

We are writing this letter to ask for your assistance in allaying this stress. Ideally we would like to tell these students that since this is an educational tour and involves service the Costa Rican community they will not be penalized for taking this opportunity. If possible we would like to tell them that these days will be excused. However, if this is not possible could we at least give them the assurances that if they were required to appeal for credit that these days would be considered acceptable absences and credit would be granted. We appreciate your consideration of this matter and look forward to hearing your decisions. If there is anything else we can do to show the validity and importance of this tour, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Lorinda Garner
Science Dept/Key Club Advisor
And
The students of the 2018 Costa Rica Tour