

iEcuador!

May 10, 2023

Dear School Board Members,

I, Jessica Dietz, am planning a student trip to Ecuador for June, 2025. The trip will be for any students in grades 10-12. It will be an educational and cultural experience. This will be the eighth student trip I have led and I am very excited to be offering an even more culturally focused trip. The trip is through an educational tour company called Explorica. Information about the tour company can be found at the following link: [School Board Information](#)

Explorica is an accredited tour company that has been providing travel opportunities for students since 2000. The following is a quote from Explorica:

We want to assure you that the safety of the tour participants is Explorica's number one priority and that we have policies and procedures in place to protect the school, school district, teachers and participants involved with this tour. Explorica's liability insurance is one of the largest in the industry at \$50 million. This insurance coverage extends to cover certain individuals acting on behalf of Explorica as tour directors, program leaders, chaperones, and volunteer speakers... We of course share your concern for the students' safety and peace of mind. Our optional Cancel for Any Reason travel protection plan provides medical, baggage and cancellation insurance coverage for our travelers. We also have a network of support staff in the United States as well as a 24-hour emergency service for groups and their families. We offer additional peace of mind for parents and friends of our travelers by providing an online Tour Diary that is updated with pictures and journal entries by the Tour Director throughout the trip.

The trip costs \$3,902 and includes 3 meals a day, airfare, park entrance fees, tour guide, transportation within the country, and hotel accommodations. When students apply they must provide \$50 as a membership fee which will be applied toward the program fee. Students then follow the payment plan through two options: monthly payments or two second and final payments. Students will have the opportunity to do at least two fundraisers in order to help cover costs; one in 2024 and one in 2025. The opportunities will be to sell candles and snacks from a local company. I will offer more opportunities at the students' request.

I look forward to providing students of Crosby-Ironton with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to engage in another culture and expand their understanding of the world through experiential learning. Thank you for your time and consideration!

Jessica Dietz