



Date: October 13, 2025

Title: Bolivia 3/13/2026 - International Travel Request - Lindsey Smaka - Edina High School - Global Scholars

Type: Consent

Presenters: Jody De St. Hubert, Director of Teaching and Learning; Jenn Carter, Edina High School Assistant Principal; and Lindsey Smaka, EHS Science Teacher

Background: Since the 2025-2026 international experiences were approved in the fall of 2024, we have had a proposal for a change to the previously approved [Nepal](#) experience. The need for a change became clear when working with Real Himalaya to finalize the experience details. The original proposed dates occur during the monsoon season in Nepal and when collaborating to find another date, the only options that presented themselves were options during the school year. The school year options to Nepal would take the students and chaperones out of school longer than preferred. The proposed location change to Bolivia fits the same educational outcomes with less days out of school. There has also been intentional conversation with the Edina High School team to provide a variety of options for student experiences and not have the same group of students repeat a travel location.

In accordance with Policy 538, the following international student travel experience for up to 24 Edina High School students for fifteen days in July 2026 has received support from the school's administration. Participating students will miss two days of school for this travel experience. This experience is coordinated by Kagumu Adventures, a Latin America-based operator that creates custom trips focusing on sustainability and education.

Summary of Travel Experience: This travel experience will bring Edina Rotary Global Scholars students to Bolivia, focusing on service learning, cultural immersion, and international development. Students will expand their global competency by engaging with local Rotarians, Bolivian communities, and youth organizations while participating in service projects that preserve fragile ecosystems and cultural traditions, such as restoring water systems in Lake Uru Uru, supporting agroecology initiatives, and learning directly from climate-affected communities.

Students will also explore global issues using the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and complete their Capstone project while on site, connecting their work back to Minnesota. We will focus on six SDGs. The first is “**Clean Water and Sanitation**”, highlighted through reed raft

building projects to protect Lake Uru Uru. The second is **“Life on Land”**, where students will hike in the Amazon rainforest and explore the biodiversity of Uyuni’s salt flats and lagoons, witnessing pink flamingos and llamas. The third is **“Zero Hunger”**, emphasized through agroecology projects that promote sustainable food systems and women’s economic participation. The fourth is **“Quality Education”**, fostered through cross-cultural exchanges with local youth groups and community learning. The fifth is **“Sustainable Cities and Communities”**, as students experience innovative transport in La Paz and explore traditional practices that preserve cultural heritage. Finally, the sixth is **“Partnerships for the Goals”**, demonstrated by collaboration between Edina Rotary, local Rotarians, and Bolivian communities. Through these experiences, spanning from the heights of La Paz to the cultural villages of Cochabamba and the Amazon Basin, students will engage deeply with the intersections of environment, culture, and development while building meaningful global connections.

Cost: The anticipated inclusive cost of this experience is approximately \$4,400 per student. This price includes all transportation, accommodations, travel & medical insurance, and meals. Students will be responsible for all costs. There will be need-based scholarships and other scholarships offered. There will also be extensive fundraising opportunities as detailed in the attached [fundraising plan](#).

Transportation: All students and chaperones will travel as a group from Minneapolis to La Paz, Bolivia and return via a major U.S. international airline or partner.

Accommodations: Students and chaperones will be housed in hotels and hostels at the various locations.

Supervision: Staff members traveling with the group are Lindsey Smaka, EHS Global Scholars coordinator, and two additional licensed staff

Attachments:

1. Appendix III Board Policy 538 , [Extended Field Trip and Travel Application Preliminary Approval](#)
2. [Fundraising](#)
3. [Itinerary](#)
4. [Insurance](#)