

Student Travel Program Proposal



Your partner in travel-based learning

Our mission

We're educators, just like you. And we're dedicated to helping students become more future ready.

EF stands for Education First. For almost 60 years, we've worked in service of our mission, *Opening the World Through Education*, to help learners of all ages overcome barriers of culture, language, and geography to increase global understanding. We partner with educators to provide innovative, immersive programs that prepare students to succeed in college, in their careers, and throughout their adult lives. Here's how we'll collaborate with your school to create meaningful learning experiences.

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Learning outcomes

It's our goal to put “education first” in every single tour. That's why we carefully design our itineraries to complement your teaching, offering students hands-on experiences that deepen their understanding, build essential skills, and inspire them to apply their learning in meaningful ways.

Our method

We enhance what you teach with relevant experiences outside the classroom.

Our proven travel-based learning method safely takes students out of their comfort zones and helps them understand more about themselves and the world around them. It sparks a true journey of self-discovery, empowering them to take action and make a positive impact in their communities and beyond.

Our programs

We design every EF program with a curriculum of immersive, hands-on learning that builds essential skills.

EF learning journeys offer incredible growth opportunities. Through professionally guided travel, authentic cultural exchange, experiential learning, and independent discovery, students develop critical skills they'll carry with them through the rest of their lives.



Learning outcomes

Continued

EF students build essential skills in these key growth areas:

Cultural awareness

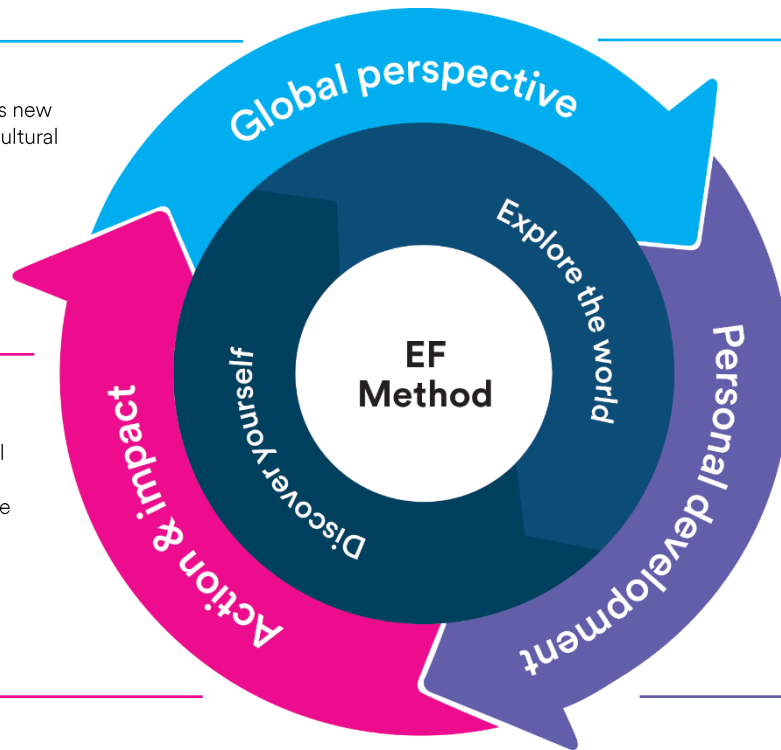
Changing your context creates new experiences that build cross-cultural knowledge and skills

Collaboration

You develop the interpersonal skills to flourish in multicultural teams: to find new and better solutions, take action, and have real impact

Communication

You connect with others more deeply by listening, empathizing, and appreciating—then sharing your own point of view



Growth mindset

Broadening your worldview helps you become more curious, open, and adaptable; you embrace becoming a lifelong learner

Self-awareness

Connecting with others in meaningful ways reflects your own biases and beliefs back to you, leading to a change of mindset

Agency

Knowing yourself helps you decide who you want to be and the mark you want to make—and enables you to become a better advocate for your dreams

Academic credit & professional learning

We provide opportunities for students to earn academic credit and for educators to pursue professional development, supplementing their travel experiences with real-world educational achievements.

EF is an accredited institution

We echo your commitment to education. Our travel-based learning approach is designed to blend classroom and experiential learning. This allows us to meet the same rigorous standards as schools like yours, ensuring students gain valuable experiences that transform the way they look at the world.



Academic credit for students

EF makes it easy for students to turn their tour experience into high school credit, college credit, or to get a head start on their college essays, further enriching their travel experiences.

- Students in grades 6–12 can earn half an elective high school credit by successfully completing the final project that's part of EF's Personalized Learning Guide. Tuition is free.
- Students in grades 9–12 can earn 3.0 undergraduate credits, along with the confidence that comes with taking a college course, by completing a series of assignments and a final research project with our partner, Southern New Hampshire University—all for just \$360.

Professional learning for educators

We're equally invested in giving educators professional development opportunities that will change their lives. Experiencing an EF tour allows your teaching staff to grow in countless ways and equips them with fresh perspectives to bring back to their classrooms.

- Group Leaders can earn **25 professional learning hours** by participating in the seminars and scheduled activities on an EF training tour.
- Group Leaders can earn **45 professional learning hours** by completing EF's in-house course, "Cultures, Comparisons & Connections." This includes pre-tour research and coursework.
- Group Leaders can earn **3 or 6 graduate-level credits** (\$360/\$720) upon the completion of a 16-week, online course, "Leading Global Discussions," with Southern New Hampshire University the year after their tour.

To learn more about EF's educational philosophy, visit eftours.com/education

Managing cost & payments

We believe in the life-changing power of educational travel and want as many students as possible to be able to experience it. With flexible payment options, fundraising tools, and scholarships, we aim to make these transformative experiences more widely accessible.

Automatic Payment Plan

Our recommended payment plan allows travelers to break their tour fee into manageable installments. Travelers can enroll for only \$95 and then spread the tour cost over an extended period, with the final payment due 30 days before departure. Families make payments directly to EF, with no payments going through the school.

Fundraising pages

Each student receives their own unique and customizable fundraising page. This easy-to-share page makes it simple for friends and family to contribute directly to the tour cost, with no fees whatsoever.

Explorer Scholarship Fund

Every year, EF Explore America awards \$50,000 in scholarships to students across the country. Any student can apply for the Explorer Scholarship, which is granted on both a merit and needs basis.

Risk-Free Enrollment Period

New travelers who enroll by their Enrollment Deadline can cancel for any reason up to 14 days after enrollment for a full refund of 100% of the money paid to EF. Travelers must pay in full or enroll in our Automatic Payment Plan at the time of program enrollment and must remain either paid in full or enrolled in our Automatic Payment Plan and in good financial standing at the time of cancellation to remain eligible. To be eligible, the traveler must enroll on a tour at least 110 days prior to the scheduled departure date.



Safety

Our travelers' safety is our top priority. With an extensive presence domestically and globally, industry-leading experience, and close relationships with U.S. and international authorities, that's a statement we can back up with confidence. We ensure that every situation is managed with the utmost care.

Worldwide presence

EF's global presence is truly unmatched. We have staff on the ground 365 days a year in over 114 countries around the world. And we don't just work in those countries—we call them home. Better yet, EF has team members in nearly every one of our tour destinations, providing local knowledge and ensuring the safety of our groups. This presence allows us to support travelers wherever and whenever they need us.

24/7 emergency support

In the event that anything on tour goes wrong, EF staff are always available to help. Your Tour Director serves as your group's constant companion and first point of contact in an emergency. Our fully trained support teams are also on call 24/7, ready to assist teachers with any issues and provide the necessary resources to get things back on track. Finally our Safety and Incident Response Team—comprised of industry experts, healthcare experts, and even former FBI personnel—is ready to spring into action 365 days a year.



Safety

Continued

Your school's team

These EF staff are fully committed to your school's travel program and the safety of every student.

OPERATIONS SAFETY & INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM

This team is strategically based in our Boston, Panama, and Zurich offices to accommodate all time zones. Available 24 hours a day, every day of the year, they are trained to react quickly if travelers need help. The team uses a combination of extensive training, simulations, incident response planning, and experience to manage emergencies. They also facilitate additional support for groups on tour, solve operational issues, arrange assistance from outside specialists, and liaise with local and international authorities as needed.

EMERGENCY SERVICES & SUPPORT TEAM

Our support team is also available 24/7 to help resolve any issue, from a missed flight to more serious on-tour incidents. They're also the ones facilitating communication between travelers and families in the event of an emergency at home. The team is made up of highly trained and dedicated EF staff in our Boston and Denver offices who are equipped to solve problems and answer questions that may come up, even outside of regular business hours.

TOUR DIRECTOR

Tour Directors are assigned exclusively to each tour for the duration of the trip. They meet your group at the airport and stay with them until their departure home. All Tour Directors undergo a background check as permissible by local law every two years and are required to participate in ongoing EF safety trainings.

They're the first point of contact in an emergency and provide safety information to the travelers in their group. Tour Directors assist Group Leaders with hotel check-ins, coordinate meals, facilitate excursions with local guides, and much more. They're culturally connected and expertly trained to support impactful learning experiences.

TOUR CONSULTANT

This itinerary expert is devoted to the growth of your students. They are your school's partner, working with you on everything from finding the perfect tour and enrolling students to offering fundraising advice and creating long-term travel programs for your school community. They work directly alongside the Group Leader (a.k.a. local teacher), right up until the moment of departure to make sure everything goes smoothly.

TRAVELER SUPPORT

Our team of Travel Support Specialists are readily available to walk families through insurance inquiries, payment plans, food allergy issues, and any other topics that arise.

CHAPERONES

For every ten travelers who enroll on a school's tour, the group is eligible to bring along a chaperone for free (with the first spot reserved for the Group Leader). This creates a 10:1 student-to-chaperone ratio, and allows chaperones to assist Group Leaders in supervising students.

Protection for travelers, schools & districts

We understand that unpredictable situations can happen, whether on tour or before departure. That's why we offer a range of protections to make sure travelers, schools, and districts are covered no matter what. We do everything we can to make planning for the future as flexible as possible.

General liability insurance

All Group Leaders, schools, and districts who travel with EF are automatically added as additional insureds under our **\$50 million General Liability Policy**, regardless of whether or not the tour is affiliated with the school. EF's liability coverage is primary and non-contributory for covered third-party claims. The policy helps safeguard Group Leaders and their schools for covered third-party claims related to bodily injury or property damage, which includes providing a legal defense and covering legal costs for such claims. In addition, all travelers are required to sign EF's Release and Agreement which includes a release of liability of their Group Leader, school, and school board.

Peace of Mind Program Provided to all groups

When your school decides to travel with EF, we want you to feel secure in that decision. This benefit, built into every EF program, gives groups the flexibility to change their tour dates or destination. It can be enacted up to 45 days prior to departure for any reason, including terrorism or other world events.



Protection for travelers, schools & districts

Continued

Protection for individual travelers

While on tour, travelers can help protect their investment and themselves from certain unexpected events and expenses with our Travel Protection and Travel Protection Plus plans.

Travel Protection

Available to all travelers

Designed specifically with EF travelers in mind, this plan provides both pre-departure and post-departure benefits, including medical expense coverage that may apply on tour and tour cancellation coverage for specified reasons.

Travel Protection Plus

Available to all travelers

This plan provides all of the benefits included in the Global Travel Protection Plan as well as expanded cancellation protection.

Background checks for adult travelers

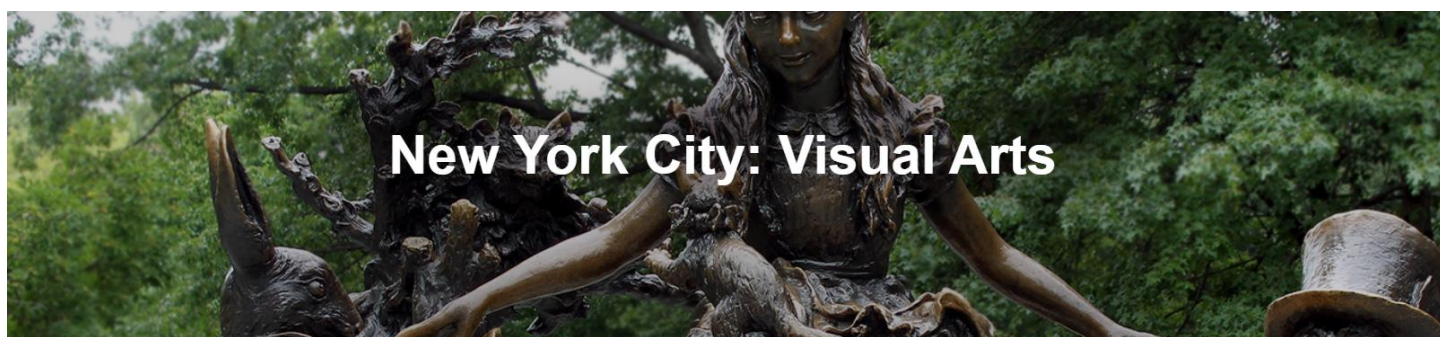
EF requires all adults (20 years and older) to pass a criminal background check before travelling on our student tours. This provides a safer tour experience for all and aligns with the process many school districts have for adults who volunteer or chaperone school activities. Conducted by a leading professional provider, the secure background check only flags individuals who could present a risk to student travelers while on tour.



Travel logistics

Price of this tour

The tour program price covers a wide range of services that ensure students have an incredible travel experience. It includes all the planning and preparation that leads up to departure, travel and accommodations, and logistical support once the group reaches their destination.



Questions? I'm available. Just let me know.



Garrett Lessard



GET IN TOUCH

Price valid until 1/31/2026

STUDENT

\$2,420

or \$179/ 13 mos

ADULT

\$2,840

or \$212/ 13 mos

Travel logistics

Continued

Hotels

Every hotel we work with must meet our high standards for safety, quality and cleanliness. Hotels are vetted by our team to make sure they meet our requirements and subsequently inspected regularly to ensure they continue to satisfy those parameters. Additionally, we provide one overnight security guard per bus at each hotel. Below are examples of hotels students might stay on tour:

Crowne Plaza Elizabeth
Elizabeth, NJ

Holiday Inn Clark
Clark, NJ

Meals

Meals are selected to provide a balance of local, cultural experiences and more familiar cuisines that students know and love. Below are some examples of what travelers can expect at the destination, but please note that meals can vary from tour to tour. Here are some examples of meals students may enjoy on tour:

John's Pizzeria
New York, New York

Mangia
New York, New York

Next steps

Our next step in the planning of the New York City student trip is to pick out a informational meeting date to get the students and their families involved with the trip!

My name is Garrett Lessard and I'm the dedicated Tour Consultant for Southwest Middle School. I'll be working closely with your Group Leader, Alissa Sauer every step of the way to make sure your student tour is perfectly planned. If you have any questions or need additional information, don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Garrett Lessard
Senior Tour Consultant: EF Explore America
garrett.lessard@ef.com

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The tour broadened the horizons of my students and has inspired them to be lifelong learners and travelers. They see the world in a different light.

Daniel C., Principal

