

I recommend approving the Student Extended Trip for the Spanish Department, June of 2014, as presented.

The proposal was developed in accordance with Policy 566 Student Extended Trip Policy. The proposal complies with the requirements of the policy with the exception of the precise travel dates, which will not be announced by ISE until mid-2013. Approval is requested 18 months in advance because there is no fundraising and students/families need ample time to plan for the trip. Students who attend the trip will not miss any instructional days.

See Below

Extended Trip Proposal

Costa Rica Trip June, 2014

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The Spanish department would like to offer a 14-day trip to Costa Rica to Spanish III and IV students in June of 2014. We would be traveling with the following company:

International Student Experiences (ISE)
11000 W. 78th St., #303
Minneapolis, MN 55344
(952) 241-2200
(800) 892-0022
www.isemn.org

Intercultural Student Experiences (ISE) is a nonprofit international educational organization, located in Minnesota. ISE was created by foreign language teachers to provide unique foreign language immersion experiences for high school students outside their classrooms. These educational experiences are structured to develop and reinforce what is learned in the classroom. ISE is a highly reputable and reliable company.

Trip Purpose

There are numerous benefits of traveling abroad, among them are:

- Opportunities to use language skills developed in the classroom in real-life situations with native speakers
- Developing self-reliance and travel survival skills: map-reading, asking directions, understanding itineraries, using foreign currency
- Hands-on lessons in geography, history, math (currency, budgeting), and cultural competence
- Experiencing first-hand daily life in another culture
- Reflecting on the experience of being outside one's comfort zone

Chaperones

Lisa Vogt and Anicca Lundeen – High School Spanish Teachers
I, Lisa Vogt, have chaperoned two previous trips with ISE to Spain with Becker high school students. While teaching in the Mounds View School District I chaperoned two trips to Washington D.C., consisting of approximately 90 students each. I also have extensive travel experience in the United States and internationally. Anicca Lundeen, my colleague, also has extensive travel experience.

Probable number of students

For this trip to be feasible we would need a minimum of 6 - 10 students.

The following criteria must also be met by each student applying for this trip:

- the student must be a junior or senior during the 2013 – 2014 school year
- the student must be presently enrolled in a Spanish III or IV class during the 2013 – 2014 school year
- the student must have a grade of “C” or better in their Spanish III or IV class
- the student is required to submit a letter of recommendation from an adult along with their application
- the student must interview with Ms. Vogt and/or Mrs. Lundeen and receive approval
- Ms. Vogt and Mrs. Lundeen reserve the right to accept or deny a student’s application

-ISE also reserves the right to cancel a participant for lack of payment, for failure to abide by the standards set by the teacher and/or school, or if the student/parent does not disclose a significant medical condition that may affect the student’s travel experience.

Cost

The approximate 2013 cost is \$2875.00. The 2014 pricing will be finalized around the first of February of 2013.

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- » Round-trip airfare from cities listed
- » Airline fuel surcharges
- » In-country transportation (air, motorcoach, van, as applicable)
- » All overnight accommodations
- » Meals as indicated on the itinerary: B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner
- » ISE Family Stay
- » Meals at home during the family stay
- » Entrance fee allowance: \$40 per student
- » Insurance (trip cancellation & medical)

PROGRAM EXCLUSIONS

- » Airline baggage fees
- » Increase in air cost due to requests for specific travel dates or airline
- » Small-group supplement
- » Passport, visa or other document costs
- » Transportation to/from U.S. departure city
- » Any meals not indicated on itineraries
- » Activities listed as optional
- » Tips for guide and/or driver
- » Spending money and gifts

Fundraising

There will be no fundraising for this trip.

Itinerary and Transportation

The following is the 2013 itinerary. There may be changes to this itinerary for June of 2014.

Costa Rica

14-day staff-guided itinerary

Day 1 San José: Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel.

Day 2 Arenal: Visit an artisan workshop to learn how traditional *mascaradas* (festival masks for local parades) are made. On your way to Arenal stop at a nearby waterfall where you'll hike down to the refreshing pool below. (B,D)

Day 3 Arenal: Visit the Malekus Indian Reserve to learn about traditional dances. Later you will have a blast splashing in the warm, thermal waters of the nearby hot springs. (B,D)

Day 4 Monteverde: Enjoy a morning walk around the lodge trails. Cross Laguna de Arenal by boat to Monteverde, famous for its cloud forest. Visit the town of Santa Elena if time allows. (B,D)

Day 5 Monteverde: Tour Monteverde Reserve. For an awesome and unforgettable adventure zip line through the clouds. (B,D)

Day 6 Manuel Antonio: Head for the gorgeous beaches of Manuel Antonio National Park. On your way, visit a local school. This is a great opportunity for you to meet and connect with students just like you! (B)

Day 7 Manuel Antonio: Tour Manuel Antonio National Park, and enjoy free time for fun at the beach. You'll love its unique mix of beaches, tropical rainforest and abundant wildlife. Here you will have up-close views of whitefaced capuchin and squirrel monkeys, sloths, and black iguanas. (B)

Days 8 - 13 Family Stay: All aboard as now the real adventure begins, make your way to the family stay community where you and your classmates will spend the next 6 nights with a Costa Rican family! *iPura vida!* (all meals at home)

Day 14 Return: Bid adios to your *Tico* host family as you depart for the U.S.

Housing

Students will spend the first eight days touring the country staying in hotels and then will have a six night family stay.

Accommodations during the touring portion of the trip are hotels. The hotels that ISE chooses are reputable, clean and safe. The exact names of the hotels are not known at this time.

Hotel conduct

1. No one will leave their room after curfew. After curfew, only open the door for the chaperone and hotel officials.
2. At no time is anyone outside the ISE chaperones allowed to enter your hotel room. Do not give out your hotel name and room number to anyone.
3. Obey all rules of the hotel.
4. Be respectful of the other guests.
5. Do not take towels or souvenirs from your room. You will be charged for these items and any damage to the room.
6. Keep your door locked at all times.
7. Students are not allowed to stay in a chaperone's room or a room other than their assigned room.

Homestay

In each community where there are family stays, ISE has a local placement coordinator. In the great majority of the cases the coordinators have been doing this work for a number of years.

The main criteria for hosting are that the family has the means to host (provision of room and lodging; the student will always have his/her own bed if not room) and a strong interest in hosting. They are expected to provide a safe and caring environment for the duration of the stay.

The foreign student is to be treated as a member of the family, subject to the normal rules of the household. Most of the time group activities are not conducted during the family stay. This allows for maximum opportunity to become integrated into the everyday life of the family in an immersion setting. Host families are expected to comply with the norms of the program.

The welfare of the student is always of paramount importance to ISE. Prior to the group's departure, ISE will communicate to the group leader the following information about the host families: name, address, telephone and/or cell phone number, occupations of the parents, and the number of boys and girls and their respective ages. In this way, the two students can start to communicate, usually by email.

General Rules

All Minnesota State High School League and Becker High School Handbook Rules and Expectations apply on this trip.

The students and their parents sign the ISE Code of Conduct and any student not complying with the ISE Code of Conduct set below should expect disciplinary action.

Group leaders determine the consequences for discipline issues while abroad. The decision to send a student home is made by the group leaders (teachers) and supported by ISE. A problem student is returned to the U.S. at the parents' expense. By signing the program application, parents/guardians agree to bear the cost of all expenses related to a student's return to the U.S. and acknowledge that they forfeit all monies paid.

ISE Code of Conduct

I realize that while on the ISE program I am representing my country, my community, my school and my family. I will therefore strive to conduct myself in a manner appropriate to being a "good ambassador." I accept and understand the ISE Code of Conduct as listed below and pledge myself to honor it.

As an ISE student:

- I will commit myself to improving my communication skills in the foreign language and will speak it as much as possible.
- I will cooperate with my leader(s) and honor rules that they set for me (e.g. curfews, punctuality, sign-out procedures, behavior in hotels).
- I will dress and act appropriately at all times and be sensitive to the impression I am conveying in a culture other than my own; I will refrain from acquiring any tattoo or body piercing.
- I will refrain from the use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs; I will not accept or transport any of these.
- I will refrain from romantic/sexual involvement of any kind and any behavior leading to it.
- For my own safety I agree not to operate any motorized vehicle or be a passenger on any motorcycle.
- I will not purchase or carry knives or any other article that may be considered a weapon.

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