

## **Curriculum Subcommittee**

Thursday, June 21, 2012 6:00 PM

Board of Education Conf. Room E, 1 School Street, PO Box 253, Bethel, CT  
06801

### **1. Field Trip Request**

1.A. Spring 2013 Field Trip to Costa Rica

### **2. Audience Participation**

# Bethel Abroad!!

## *Spring 2013 Trip to Costa Rica*

### **To be presented to the Bethel Board of Education in June 2012:**

**TEACHER LEADERS:** Andreia Dovale and Eugene Hellmann

Both Mrs. Dovale and Mr. Hellmann have extensive overseas travel experience.

**OVERVIEW:** The World Language Department hopes to sponsor a trip next spring to Costa Rica. This trip will be offered to any Bethel High School student who studies Spanish and is interested in learning about Costa Rica. We hope to take 36 students and 6 teacher chaperones on this educational journey.

**TOUR COMPANY:** We will use the reputable educational travel organization, *Education First Tours* [www.eftours.com](http://www.eftours.com) as our travel company. This is a well-known and respected company that has been organizing tours for the last 45 years.

**DATES:** April 12 – April 20, 2013

**PRICE:** \$2033 per student (subject to change)

**THE TRIP:** We will travel throughout the country to see and experience different regions:

- . Day 1: Fly to Costa Rica
- . Day 2: San José • Arenal region
  - Visit INBioparque
  - Travel to the Arenal region
  - Visit Poás Volcano
  - Visit hot springs
- . Day 3: Arenal region
  - Take a kayaking trip on Lake Arenal
  - Visit La Fortuna Waterfall
- . Day 4: Monteverde
  - Travel to Monteverde Reserve
  - Visit a local school
- . Day 5: Monteverde
  - Visit the Santa Elena Cloud Forest
  - Plant a tree in the EF reserve in Monteverde with your group
  - Participate in a canopy adventure
- . Day 6: Carara • Central Pacific Coast
  - Visit Carara Biological Reserve

- Travel to the Central Pacific Coast
- . Day 7: Central Pacific Coast
  - Visit Manuel Antonio National Park
  - Return to Central Pacific Coast
- . Day 8: Sarchi • San Jose
  - Travel via Sarchi to San José
- . Day 9: Depart for home

**EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE OF THIS TRIP:** Travelling to a foreign country is an educational opportunity like no other. It is the quintessential hands-on experience. Sometimes we need to take students beyond the four walls of the classroom, beyond the town limits of Bethel, CT and beyond the border of the United States. In doing so, we can broaden students' awareness of other cultures and communities. This trip will allow students to experience what we discuss in Spanish 2 and 3 throughout the year. This trip also crosses disciplines and teaches students about nature, the environment, and biology. We will be visiting many diverse locations in Costa Rica. Students will visit a cloud forest, go kayaking, visit hot springs that come from an active volcano. Students will see many exotic animals in their natural habitat. Students will also use Spanish to communicate with locals and expand their speaking skills.

## **CURRICULAR STANDARDS:**

### **STANDARDS FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNING**

#### **COMMUNICATION - Communicate in Languages Other Than English**

- **Standard 1.1:** Students engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions
- **Standard 1.2:** Students understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics

#### **CULTURES - Gain Knowledge and Understanding of Other Cultures**

- **Standard 2.1:** Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the practices and perspectives of the culture studied
- **Standard 2.2:** Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the products and perspectives of the culture studied

#### **CONNECTIONS - Connect with Other Disciplines and Acquire Information**

- **Standard 3.1:** Students reinforce and further their knowledge of other disciplines through the foreign language
- **Standard 3.2:** Students acquire information and recognize the distinctive

viewpoints that are only available through the foreign language and its cultures

### **COMPARISONS - Develop Insight into the Nature of Language and Culture**

- **Standard 4.1:** Students demonstrate understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the language studied and their own
- **Standard 4.2:** Students demonstrate understanding of the concept of culture through comparisons of the cultures studied and their own.

### **COMMUNITIES - Participate in Multilingual Communities at Home & Around the World**

- **Standard 5.1:** Students use the language both within and beyond the school setting
- **Standard 5.2:** Students show evidence of becoming life-long learners by using the language for personal enjoyment and enrichment.

### **STANDARDS OF CONDUCT:**

Students will be held to the same behavioral expectations as outlined in the Bethel High School Student Agenda Book. More specifically, students are expected to:

- Behave appropriately throughout the entire trip.
- Represent their high school, their hometown, and their country with dignity.
- Be quiet and respectful on the plane, on guided tours, in the hotel, and in restaurants.
- Stay with the group at all times. During free time, students must stay in groups of at least three people.
- Be punctual for all wake-up calls, meet-back times, etc.
- Honor hotel curfews.
- Completely refrain from the use of drugs/alcohol.

### **CONSEQUENCES FOR MISBEHAVIOR:**

If a student misbehaves on this trip, he/she will be subject to certain consequences. These consequences will be determined on a case by case basis. They include reduced free time, limited curfew, loss of preferential seating, bus clean-up duty, letters of apology, community service, or in an extreme situation, immediate dismissal from the tour at the parents' expense. If the student is involved in any illegal activities and the local authorities are involved, the student will be subject to the laws of the country he or she is visiting.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS, STUDENTS, TEACHERS**

*Parents* are responsible for attending all informational meetings involving this trip. Parents are responsible for honoring the payment plan as set up by EF Tours. Parents must ensure that the student receives his/her passport at least 4 months prior to travel. Parents will also need to provide the student with spending money.

*Students* are expected to attend all informational meetings involving this trip. On the trip, students are expected to behave like responsible and respectful young adults.

*Teacher* chaperones will monitor student behavior throughout the entire tour, create room charts, perform room checks, collect passports/photocopies, provide packing lists, disperse medication, provide educational background on the places of interest within the tour, and conduct informational meetings.

**COST OF TRIP:** The cost of this trip is approximately \$2033. This price includes the round trip airfare, the transfers from airport to hotel, transportation to the different attractions, the overnight hotel stays, 3 meals a day, the guided tours, the full-time service of an EF Tour Director. The price does not include tipping, the bus from Bethel to NY and NY to Bethel, passport fees, and personal insurance.

**SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS:** Students are encouraged to set up a monthly payment plan starting in October 2012 and continuing into April 2013. The seven monthly payments would be approximately \$276.14 each. This does not include the enrollment fee, tipping, and incidentals.

**FUND-RAISING:** In the fall, we will assemble a parent committee to assist with and brainstorm fund-raising ideas. These ideas may include: bake sales, car washes, raffles, silent auctions, candy bar sales, dinners, other events, etc.

**TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS:** We will take a coach bus to/from the NY airport at the beginning and end of our trip. Once we arrive in Costa Rica, all bus transfers will be set up through EF Tours. The overnight stays are in first-class, superior tourist class hotels (all with private bathrooms). The exact names of hotels will be provided to us 2 months prior to our departure.

**DAILY ITINERARY:** The broad daily itinerary is provided at the end of this document. A more specific daily itinerary will be provided 2 months prior to departure.

**PROCEDURES FOR MEDICATIONS, ACCIDENTS, TRAVEL EMERGENCIES:**

The teacher chaperones will be in charge of holding and dispensing all prescription medications to students. If a student is ill and needs to stay behind at the hotel or if a student needs medical attention, a teacher chaperone will always be present with that student. No student will be left unattended in cases of emergency or sickness.

**HEALTH AND INSURANCE COVERAGE:** EF Tours offers an all-inclusive insurance plan for just \$145.00 per student. This plan includes:

- **Tour Cancellation and Interruption Insurance**

A refund of the Program Fee if your child needs to cancel from or interrupt the tour due to reasons of serious injury or illness requiring hospitalization, financial hardship due to unexpected job loss, jury duty, military call to active duty or severe damage to home.

- **Medical and Accident Insurance**  
Coverage of up to \$35,000 for hospital bills, doctors' fees and medical transportation for illnesses or injury while on tour, as well as travel and accommodation expenses for a family member to be with your child while hospitalized in the event of a life-threatening illness.
- **Baggage and Property Insurance**  
Coverage for baggage, cash, airline tickets, travel documents and valuable property in cases of theft or delay, including emergency on-tour cash reimbursement of up to \$300 within 24 hours of a theft.
- **Flight Delay Insurance**  
Coverage up to \$200 per day (\$400 maximum) for expenses due to flight delays (lodging, food, and other reasonable expenses) as well as a refund for every full land day missed of your tour (2 days maximum) due to flight delays or cancellations.
- **24-hour Emergency Assistance**  
Round-the-clock handling of claims and assistance from English-speaking insurance representatives during your child's tour.



*Educational Tours*

## **Tour Name Costa Rica**

### **TOUR INFORMATION**

Group Leader Name Andreia Dovale and Eugene Hellmann

Tour Number 1252554

Requested Departure Date Friday, April 12, 2012

Requested Return Date Sunday, April 20, 2012

Number of Days 9 Days, 8 Overnights

Departure Gateway New York, NY\*

Free Place Ratio 6:1

\*For all NYC departures, EF uses JFK, EWR, and LGA airports interchangeably.

### **PRICE QUOTE Program Fee\***

Program fee \$1605 (subject to change)

### **Additional Fees (Included in Total)**

Enrollment Fee \$95

Current Departure Fee\*\* \$263

Weekend Supplement \$70

### **TOTAL COST OF TOUR For Students**

Approximately \$2,033

### **Additional Tour Items Available (Not Included in Total)**

All Inclusive Insurance Plan \$145

### **Tour Highlights and Details**

#### **Overnight stays:**

8 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms.

#### **Comprehensive sightseeing tours led by an expert local guide of the following:**

San Jose

Arenal Region

Monteverde

Carara

Central Pacific Coast

Manuel Antonio National Park

Sarchi

#### **Entrances included to the following sites:**

INBioparque, Poas Volcano, Hot springs, Lake Arenal kayaking, La Fortuna Waterfall, Santa Elena Cloud Forest, Canopy adventure, Carara Biological Reserve, and Manuel Antonio National Park,

#### **Included in the Program Fee:**

- Round trip airfare
- Transfers to and from the airport and hotel and between destination cities (as per program itinerary)
- Overnight stays in first-class, superior tourist class or tourist class hotels (all with private bathrooms)
- 3 meals a day
- Full-time services of an EF Tour Director
- Comprehensive sightseeing of natural attractions

#### **Not included in the Program Fee:**

- Customary gratuities for your tour director, local guide and driver
- Personal Insurance

## **Costa Rica**

**Requested departure date: Friday, April 12, 2013**

(Dates below are subject to change. Required date flexibility of 4 days on either side of requested departure date)

**Day 1 Friday, April 12, 2013**

Fly to San Jose

**Day 2 Saturday, April 13, 2013****Visit INBioparque**

Discover a world of biological diversity on your visit to this natural park and research station, created by the National Institute of Biodiversity. Get an up-close look into the lives of tarantulas, frogs, and bees in the permanent exhibits. Then, stretch your legs and wander the park's three different ecosystem trails. Venture to the pond to check out the freshwater flora and fauna. Thousands of colorful paper-thin wings flutter around you in the butterfly garden – see if you can spot Costa Rica's native species. Stop by the Ecological Tourism Office before you leave INBioparque for further information on conservation practices and protected wildlife regions.

**Day 3 Sunday, April 14, 2013****Arenal Region**

Get ready for an adventure to remember in Costa Rica's Arenal region! Behold the perfect conical shape that emerges from the green hills of Alajuela: this is the fascinating Arenal Volcano. Overlooking the San Carlos plain and the Pacific lowlands, this mile-high volcano has been active for the past 7,000 years. You'll see the volcano from a different angle on your kayaking excursion. Not only does the volcano serve as a watershed for the lake, but it also provides thermal energy for the nearby hot springs. Relax in these naturally heated pools; then, walk to the bottom of the spectacular La Fortuna waterfall.

**Day 4 Monday, April 15, 2013****Travel to Monteverde****Visit a local school**

A local school will welcome your group with traditional dances.

**Day 5 Tuesday, April 16, 2013****Monteverde**

You'll tour the greenery of the Santa Elena Cloud Forest, where you can look for the rare orchids and elusive quetzal birds that thrive in the perpetual soft mist. At this altitude, you'll literally walk through clouds! Leave a positive mark on the earth when your group plants a tree together.

**Day 6 Wednesday, April 17, 2013****Carara – Central Pacific Coast**

This is the northernmost region of Pacific rainforest remaining in Costa Rica, and is the beginning of the transition zone into the tropical dry forests of the northwest. Carara is one of Costa Rica's most popular National Parks, in large part due to its proximity to San José. This is also where many cruise ship's passengers are bused

for a day trip when the liners dock just up the coast at Puerto Caldera.

**Day 7 Thursday, April 18, 2013**

**Manuel Antonio National Park**

With the establishment of Manuel Antonio National Park in 1972, the people of Costa Rica decided to preserve, for future generations, one of the most beautiful and bio-diverse areas in the world. Although it is the country's smallest national park, the stunning beauty and diversity of wildlife in its 683 hectares is unequalled.

Manuel Antonio contains a charming combination of rain forest, beaches and coral reefs. These beaches are the most beautiful in the country, lined with lush forest, and the snorkeling is excellent too. The forest is home for sloths, iguanas, the rare and adorable squirrel monkeys and millions of colorful little crabs.

**Day 8 Friday April 19, 2013**

**Sarchi - San Jose**

Neighboring Grecia, a few kilometers away is the quaint little town of Sarchi, known throughout Costa Rica for its beautiful and intricate arts and crafts and souvenirs.

Lying some 30 km northwest of Alajuela city, in Alajuela province, the town of Sarchi is perhaps most widely recognized for its colorful and decorative oxcarts that have been made here for over a century.

**Day 9 Saturday, April 20, 2013**

**Depart for home**

Itinerary is subject to change

**For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions at [www.eftours.com/bc](http://www.eftours.com/bc).**