

Costa Rica 2012

Mercer Island High School & Global Citizenship Travel

March 30 through April 9th 2012*

Overview

MIHS is pleased to announce the 4th Mercer Island High School trip to Costa Rica for junior students interested in a study of culture, tourism, ecology, and economics. The trip will take 18 juniors and three adult chaperones, including two Mercer Island High School teachers, to 3 countries, including Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama, with the majority of the trip spent in several major destinations in beautiful Costa Rica.

Put eco in front of just about anything (eco-friendly, eco-tourism, eco-systems, eco-fragility, eco-terror, eco-conservation, eco-sustainability etc.), and you have the focus of our trip. The importance of figuring out ways of dealing with the eco-dangers that are consuming this planet is undeniable. Past highlights of our eco-studies have included a coffee bean plantation, active volcano, natural and man-made canals, exotic animals in the wild and in zoos and preserves, to the zip-line industry in forests, visits to pineapple plantations, a butterfly preserve and an iguana park, among many other activities. This year, students will visit the Panama Canal as well. Students will see firsthand the possibilities of study and work in ecological fields as a result of being exposed to a geographical flash point between economic eco-exploitation and eco-sustainability.

Registration

To travel with the group, we will use this process: students will submit their application and a first deposit of \$1190; as long as the student is in good standing academically, they will be put on the list to travel with the group in the order in which their deposit is received, beginning Thursday December 1st. The total cost is \$3,870, with all expenses included. As long as all deadlines for payment and paperwork are met, the students will travel. If not, that student will be bumped to the bottom of the list and the student at the top of the wait list will be added. All checks must be made out to: Mercer Island High School, and all payments must be submitted to Curtis Johnston, trip co-leader, in Room 200. The first payment checks will result in a receipt and a packet of paperwork that welcomes the traveler to the trip and provides specific trip details, along with trip forms from MIHS.

Included in the trip cost is a \$300 donation, which we will be given to the San Jose Children's Palliative Care Center (hospice for dying children) and to the Save the Turtles foundation (or to adopt and GPS track a turtle).

Dates and Costs

Thursday December 1st: Student informational meeting. First day to submit application and deposits.

Monday December 5th: Parent Informational Meeting

Thursday December 8th: Application Packet and Initial \$1190

Thursday January 12th: Second deposit of \$1290 due by 3:30pm to Mr. Johnston, room 200 at Mercer Island High School. This deposit is used to secure in-country travel and lodging reservations—missing this deposit is likely to result in the student having to be bumped from the trip with no refund. \$300 of this deposit includes the fund raising commitment deposit. Parents will receive a tax deduction letter from Global Citizenship Travel (501c3) after this deposit is submitted, applicable to the 2011 tax year if desired.

Thursday February 16th: Final deposit of \$1390 due by 3:30pm to Mr. Johnston, room 200 at Mercer Island High School. This deposit is used to secure in-country services that must be paid up-front—missing this deposit is likely to result in the student having to be bumped from the trip with no refund.

Sunday March 25th: Parent Departure Meeting at 7pm in room 206.

Contact Information:

For Further Information about the trip, including pictures and testimonials from previous year's trips to Vietnam, Cambodia, and Costa Rica visit www.globacitizenshiptravel.weebly.com

If you have additional questions please email David Willecke at david_willecke@mysd.wednet.edu

*Travel dates may shift by up to 1 day until airfare is secured in mid-December.