

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA
1960 LANDINGS BOULEVARD, SARASOTA, FL 34231
PHONE (941) 927-9000

FIELD TRIP AUTHORIZATION

Instructions: In-county field trips/school bus requisitions require principal approval only. All other field trips/school bus requisitions require principal and executive director approval. In addition, any trip involving students' out-of-state/country travel also requires School Board approval and should include release forms, insurance coverage, and other data supplied by the company assisting with the arrangements. Provide the information requested below and submit this completed form with appropriate attachments for approval adhering to the advance notification time prior to departure date noted after field trip below. Refer to School Board Policy 4.43.

Check One In-county Out-of-county (4 wks) Out-of-state (8 wks) Out-of-country (12 wks)

School Venice Middle School Destination San Jose, Sarapiquí Arenal, Monteverde, Costa Rica

Purpose Eco-System restorations and maintenance project(s)

Departing from Venice Middle School Date June 10, 2024 Time 1300 AM/PM

Returning from San Jose, Costa Rica Date June 16, 2024 Time 1300 AM/PM

Grade/Class/Sport Venice Middle Young Marines

Person-in-charge Kurt Schaefer and Fred Thompson Phone 941-539-1007 (Kurt)

Method of transportation School bus (Attach School Bus Trip Requisition [011-85-TRN]) Charter bus
 Airline Other (Explain) _____

NOTE If other than a Sarasota County school bus is being used, attach certificate of insurance from carrier or Statement of Insurance on Private Vehicles form (065-96-FIN). See School Board Policy 8.36.

Meal arrangements included in itinerary: Breakfast and Dinner daily

Lodging arrangements included itinerary: 6 nights hotel accommodations

Number of female students 30 Number of male students 70 Total 100 Estimated

Number of female chaperones 4 Number of male chaperones 4 Total 15

Names of chaperones Kurt Schaefer, Fred Thompson, Jennifer Mergos, Lindsey Quigley, Elizabeth Walter, Level 2 Approved Parent Chaperones

Cost per student \$ 2266.00 Contact person if financial assistance is needed Kurt Schaefer Erin Rice - M

It is understood that permission slips and Emergency Medical/Treatment Consent For Field Trips And/Or Other After School Activities (063-96-DIS) forms will be obtained from parents prior to the field trip.

Funding Source Individual Fundraiser PTO/PTA Internal funds
 Other (Explain) _____

Verification of student medical insurance was completed for out-of-county/overnight travel? Yes No

Principal Name (Print) TOMAS DIMARCO Approved Denied

Principal Signature [Signature] Date 7/10/23

Executive Director Name (Print) STEPHEN J. CARTER Approved Denied

Executive Director Signature [Signature] Date 6/27/23

Out-of-state/country field trip was School Board approved on (Board meeting date) _____

FIELD TRIP AUTHORIZATION

Instructions: Provide the following information for all field trips.

1. Explain the direct instructional connection with instructional program. Include any potential risks or hazards (e.g. water activity).

VMYM will participate in restoration and maintenance of various hiking trails and ecosystems. Students will also be educated in the classifications of rain forest plants and animals. Some hazards include the interaction with plant/animal life, water borne activities, and zip-lining.

2. Describe how students are being selected to participate with assurances of equal access for all students, regardless of economic level.

6th & 7th and possibly some 8th graders enrolled in the Venice Middle Young Marines for the 2022-2023 school year are eligible to participate in the Mission Costa Rica 2024 trip. Young Marines will provide financial support to families requesting assistance, with funds collected through various fundraising activities.

Tour company provides financial assistance on a sliding scale and fundraising platforms for families to access and solicit donations.

3. Describe how students will be supervised once they arrive.

Students will be organized by chaperone groups with a 4:1 ratio. Groups will travel by bus groups (40-50 ppl) with the tour director providing various historical and cultural guided tours. Staff and chaperones will provide close supervision to ensure the safety of all students.

4. Should an emergency arise, how will communication and transportation be handled?

Staff will utilize the assistance and support provided by the tour company. Families will be notified using cellphones.

Schaefer Kurt

From: Emily Pritchett <emilyp@WorldStrides.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 12:52 PM
To: Schaefer Kurt
Subject: 2024 Trip Proposals (2) - WorldStrides
Attachments: Venice Middle School - 2024 Washington, D.C. Proposal - WorldStrides.pdf; Venice Middle School - 2024 Costa Rica Proposal - WorldStrides.pdf

External Email - Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links, and Requests for Login Information

Hi Kurt,

Thank you for taking the time to speak with us about WorldStrides. As promised, we have attached all kind of goodies for you to review as you consider a trip with us (see below). We'd like to follow back up with you as soon as possible on this. If we don't hear back from you this week, my assistant Taryn will reach out next week to schedule a follow up Zoom call.

- **Proposal:** You will find the price and inclusions on the attached document.
 - Costa Rica: \$2416- \$150 early registration discount - \$100 parent meeting discount = \$2166
 - Washington, D.C.: \$1899- \$100 early registration discount - \$100 parent meeting discount = \$1699
 - **Other Incentives:**
 - \$1000 Parent Meeting Scholarship
 - \$600 Recipe for Success Rewards for following our 3 step trip promotion method
- **Full Refund Program:** Optional Additional- provides a full refund for cancelation for any reason up until the day before departure. Can be included for the entire group for 15% discount.
- **Sample Itinerary:** This gives you an idea of what students will do and see on the trip. Your group's itinerary will be written by a **WorldStrides Account Manager**. Click on this link to see this short video highlighting the trip--you'll love it!

[Click here to view the Washington D.C. video](#)

[Click here to view the Costa Rica video](#)

One of the wonderful things about WorldStrides is the fact that we don't just make a couple of travel arrangements for teachers and students. While the motor coach, hotels and meals are a critical and high quality part of what we provide, we have realized over the last 55 years that it is essential to provide the highest quality of service and support for every student in our care on our programs. The safety, security and experience of each student are our priorities. Therefore, in addition to all of the basic inclusions in this proposal, we have invested heavily in the following:

- **\$55 Million Liability Insurance** – Organizations cannot just go out and purchase this kind of liability insurance...only an organization like WorldStrides that has an unparalleled safety record over the last 55 years can provide this coverage. All the teachers, students and chaperones are covered by the policy. We feel this investment is critical to teachers and parents' peace of mind.
- **Accident/Illness and Dental insurance** (included in the trip price) - If a student gets a bloody nose or twists an ankle and needs a trip to the emergency room, we provide the support and extensive coverage (\$7000 for accident, \$1500 for illness and \$750 for accident-related dental).
- **WorldAssist** (24 hours/7 days a week) – This office is available to travelers and parents at home to call night or day. They work tirelessly around the clock to trouble-shoot and make sure your child's program is the safest and smoothest.

- o If a student is too sick to join the group to return home, we will fly the parent to their location and put them up at company expense until they are able to return home
 - o If the group is delayed for any reason and needs to stay an extra night or day, WorldStrides pays for lodging, meals, transportation and entertainment or admissions fees
- **Night Chaperones** – They are WorldStrides employees who have gone through criminal background checks and comprehensive training. We provide as many night chaperones per floor as needed for all sight-lines. Your students are never without a trained professional keeping them safe through the night.
 - **On-Site Coordinator** – Checks every room before your group arrives...blocks boys and girls separately with no adjoining rooms...turns off pay per view and makes the check in smooth and effortless.
 - **Doctor On Call (DC only)** – We have George Washington University doctors on-call for every group, and, in some instances, they will visit hotel rooms in DC. They can administer everything including IV if necessary without a hospital visit, and doctors affiliated with the DC hospitals should a hospital visit become necessary to avoid lengthy emergency room waits and to facilitate admittance if needed.
 - **Professional Development Points/Graduate Credit:** Every teacher who goes on our trip will receive a transcript for Professional Development Points (no additional cost). Every teacher who goes on the trip may register for and do coursework for graduate credit (additional charge).
 - **Accredited Programs:** Every student can earn High School credit (one semester) by taking an on-line course at no additional cost. Some programs also include free college credit
 - **Course Leaders:** Our guides are much more than "tour guides" who point at buildings and take students from picture stop to picture stop. They will make history come to life for your students. As an example: At the Washington Monument, students will not just climb to the top and take a picture. They will stand and read excerpts from Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech...they'll imagine what it felt like to stand on the mall and listen to Dr. King. They will discuss political protest and demonstrations...it will be an incredibly meaningful experience for them.
 - **Accounting Services:** We take care of all financial work for you. We provide monthly payment plans and statements. Parents can pay on-line, by mail or phone via credit card, check or EZ-Pay (direct billing to bank account).
 - **My Trip:** We provide a website for teachers, students and parents with all the resources and information you need.

In addition to all of these amazing aspects of our programs, we are proud to offer financial assistance through the **FLAG foundation** (click). Parents can call WorldStrides directly to apply and all of their information will remain confidential. Parents can find out how much they would receive before they register with the deposit, but they can not receive the funds until after they have actually registered for the trip. We also offer a 5% military/first responder (and retired) discount. After registration there is a form to fill out to receive the discount. In addition to providing financial assistance, WorldStrides helps students raise money for their trip through the following tools:

- **Gift of Education E-Card** (click) - this is AWESOME! Students (and parents) can raise money for the trip on **facebook!**
- **Other Fundraising Ideas** (click)
- 5% Military and First Responder Discount (active and retired)

I look forward to helping your make this program a reality at your school. It is my job to make this super simple and fun so please let me know if you have any questions. I'm available morning, noon and night! Talk to you soon!

Emily Pritchett
Group Travel & Experiences

WorldStrides
218 West Water Street, Suite 400

Charlottesville, VA 22902
866-418-7810 (toll free)
434-951-5787 (office land line)
434-205-1846 (mobile/text)
434-982-8660 (fax)

www.worldstrides.com

Connect with us: [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and [our blog!](#)

COSTA RICA: ECO ADVENTURES

PRICE QUOTE

DEPART DATE: June 1 – 7, 2024

NUMBER OF DAYS TOURING: 7

TRIP PRICE: \$2416 quad occupancy. Prices are good through 6/1/23 and include a special reduced \$49 deposit and \$150 early registration discount bringing the price to \$2266 before the parent meeting discount below. Prices are based on at least 35 full paying participants.

INCENTIVES: \$1000 WorldStrides Scholarship, \$100 parent meeting reward for signing up within 48 hours of your meeting, \$600 Recipe for Success Rewards

DEPARTURE AIRPORT: TPA

CHAPERONE RATIO: 1:10

PROGRAM LEADER: Kurt Schaefer

SCHOOL: Venice Middle Young Marines

YOUR DAY-BY-DAY ADVENTURE

DAY 1

Arrive by plane to **San José**

Meet your WorldStrides representative before embarking on your once-in-a-lifetime experience!

Orientation Course Leaders provide an overview of the program's key concepts you'll learn, as well as the sites you'll visit throughout the program.

Hotel check-in and dinner

Overnight in **San José**

DAY 2

Breakfast and hotel check-out

Depart for **Sarapiquí Region**

Tirimbina Color Challenge Participate in a team challenge where you'll search for beautiful and exotic species of plants and animals of a specific color. You'll be amazed by the vibrant hues of the birds, flowers, and frogs that call Costa Rica home.

Lunch

Tirimbina Rainforest Center Get a glimpse of what it's like to be a field ecologist by going out into the field and constructing ecological hypotheses, collecting data, and analyzing the results both quantitatively and qualitatively using microscopes. Learn how bats are farmers of the tropics by viewing their interaction with rainforest habitats.

Hotel check-in and dinner

Tirimbina Rainforest: Night Bat Tour Learn what it takes to be a field researcher in the tropical rain forest, by working with researchers to set up mist nets and catch individual bats for identification and documentation. When possible, observe the process for bats being released from the nets.

Overnight in **Sarapiquí**

DAY 3

Costa Rican Bird Activity & Hike Under the direction of your course leader, start your day with a discussion about native bird species. Then, complete an activity and hike to learn to identify basic bird physical characteristics, behaviors and birdwatching skills. Student will learn about and use binoculars to observe birds in their natural habitat.

Seed Traps Check seed traps and evaluate the material collected from the previous night's bat tour activities.

Breakfast

Tirimbina Rainforest Center Macroinvertebrate Activity Enjoy extensive field time in the rainforest studying macroinvertebrates. Learn to measure, count and analyze biodiversity, and report their findings. Students will also perform water quality tests using chemical and digital analysis.

Lunch

Sarapiquí River: White-Water Rafting Adventure Paddle the rapids through the lower Sarapiquí and its tributaries from the Braulio Carrillo National Park. View the stunning scenery and wildlife at the river's edge!

Dinner. Overnight in **Sarapiquí**.

DAY 4

Breakfast and hotel check-out

Depart for **Arenal**

Experience Costa Rican Culture Gather for a cooking lesson and learn to make a traditional Costa Rican dish. Enjoy lunch! Then take a Cultural Excursion with a short walk through town to grab a snack or souvenir and get a taste of typical Costa Rican life.

Arenal Volcano National Park: Hike the Lava Flows Hike the lava fields of this 4,000-year-old volcano and learn how plants and animals have become reestablished after volcanic activity.

Natural Hot Springs Relax at the base of the volcano and enjoy the geothermal energy of Baldi Hot Springs.

Dinner and hotel check-in. Overnight in **Arenal**

DAY 5

Breakfast and hotel check-out

Scenic Tour Around Arenal Lake to Tilaran

Lunch

Introduction to Monteverde Cloud Forest Biological Reserve Community Service Project Lend a hand to the local Costa Rican community by volunteering in service learning activities.

Monteverde Cloud Forest Biological Reserve Explore the most well-known cloud forest in the world and learn how the variable climate and large altitude changes helped produce an extremely high degree of biodiversity.

Monteverde Frog Pond: Amphibian Adaptations Students view all of the famous species of frogs up close (including poison dart frogs, glass frogs and toads) and learn about the species that are unique to the tropics of Costa Rica.

Snake Garden View over 40 species of both venomous and nonvenomous snakes, reptiles, frogs, lizards, iguanas, other amphibians, and some turtles in this modern exhibition space.

Dinner

Overnight in **Monteverde**

DAY 6

Breakfast and hotel check-out

Monteverde Canopy Tour Hooked to a zip line, soar through the forest treetops and see jungle life in the Costa Rican rainforest from a bird's eye perspective!

Lunch and return to **San José**

Stop along the way and pick up a souvenir in one of **Costa Rica's** local shops.

Farewell Costa Rica Dinner

Costa Rican Culture Gather with community members to have a dance lesson and experience vibrant, tropical Latin dance.

Hotel check-in. Overnight in **San José**

DAY 7

Breakfast and hotel check-out

Depart **San José** for home

AN ALL-INCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

 ROUND TRIP TRANSPORTATION	 HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS
 THREE MEALS A DAY (UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED)	 GROUND TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM ALL ACTIVITIES
 ALL ADMISSIONS AND FEES FOR SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES	 EXPERTLY TRAINED COURSE LEADERS
 24-HOUR EMERGENCY SUPPORT	 ACADEMIC CREDIT

LEAP

LEARNING THROUGH EXPLORATION AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

This trademarked approach to learning is one of the many aspects of a tour that sets WorldStrides apart. LEAP is designed so students are engaged and active learners and challenged to think critically, all while growing personally and intellectually. It's not just about seeing amazing sites; it's about getting the students to interact with the people, the culture, and the actual places these locations have to offer.



**UNMATCHED
SAFETY
AND SECURITY**
AROUND THE
CLOCK COVERAGE

- > WorldStrides name badges with detailed emergency contact information for all travelers
- > \$1 million USTOA Travelers Assistance Program
- > Comprehensive liability coverage for you, your school, and all travelers
- > Accident, medical, and dental coverage for all travelers



MOTOR COACH DRIVERS
Only the best motor coach drivers to transport your group



TOUR CENTRAL
Our 24-hour local office, available to provide support



DOCTORS ON CALL
Exclusive partnership giving you access to doctors for consultations and treatment recommendations



COURSE LEADERS
Your destination expert to guide your group during your trip

**COMMITMENT
TO
EDUCATION**

- > Free professional development for traveling teachers
- > Hands-on educational experiences with an expertly trained course leader
- > Opportunity for students to earn free high school and even college preparatory credit
- > Educational materials including Student Discovery Journals and teacher support materials

ACCREDITED, JUST LIKE YOUR SCHOOL

WorldStrides undergoes the same rigorous accreditation process that your school is required to do. It's this process and these credentials that ensure your tour will be as educationally valuable as it is fun.



**TURNKEY
SERVICE FOR
TEACHERS
AND THEIR
FAMILIES**

- > \$2.5 million in financial assistance available for families with annual adjusted gross incomes of \$85,000 or below
- > Flexible and affordable payment plans available
- > All registration and financial services for families provided by WorldStrides
- > Multi-lingual customer support team for families
- > All trip promotional and registration materials provided by WorldStrides to the program leader
- > Discounted trip price for family of program leader and chaperones
- > Optional Full Refund Program (FRP) fee of \$309.

**GIFT OF
EDUCATION
FUNDRAISING**

The Gift of Education puts students in the driver's seat of their own fundraising. Students can send e-cards or a letter and share links on Facebook, and in one simple click friends and family members can make a direct donation. 100% of the money raised goes to offset the price of the trip.

Visit fundraising.worldstrides.com for complete details.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

YOUR DAY-BY-DAY ADVENTURE

DAY 1

Arrive in Washington, D.C.

Meet your WorldStrides representative and begin your once-in-a-lifetime experience!

Arlington National Cemetery America's most famous military cemetery: Changing of the Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Kennedy Gravesites

Iwo Jima Memorial A tribute to all U.S. Marines based on the famous WWII photo by Joe Rosenthal

Pentagon Memorial Honors the 184 victims of the 9/11 attack at the Pentagon

Dinner and hotel check-in

DAY 2

Breakfast

Alexandria One of America's oldest and most historic cities

Mount Vernon George Washington's home, plantation, and Education Center, which showcases life during colonial times, 18th-century treasures, and our first president as a farmer and businessman

Washington Monument (picture stop) The world's tallest stone monument, which honors our nation's first president

Lunch

Capitol Hill Grounds Tour: Capitol Visitor Center, Supreme Court, Library of Congress

National Archives Home of the original Constitution, Bill of Rights, and Declaration of Independence

Dinner and return to hotel

DAY 3

Breakfast

Lincoln Memorial In remembrance of former President Abraham Lincoln and the great nation he fought to preserve during the Civil War

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Dedicated to the more than 58,000 men and women killed or missing in Vietnam

Korean War Veterans Memorial Tribute to the men and women who defended South Korea in the Korean War

Lunch

Smithsonian Institution The world's largest museum complex: National Air and Space Museum, Natural History Museum, National Gallery of Art, National

Museum of American History

Dinner

Jefferson Memorial Dedicated to our third president and author of the Declaration of Independence

World War II Memorial Honors the 16 million who served — and 400,000 who died — in the U.S. Armed Forces during WWII, and all who supported the war effort from home

Return to hotel

DAY 4

Breakfast

FDR Memorial In remembrance of former President Franklin Delano Roosevelt

MLK Memorial Honors the famous civil rights activist, Martin Luther King, Jr.

Lunch

Holocaust Museum Get a glimpse of life for the victims of Nazi Germany with a viewing of "Daniel's Story" at this living memorial

Kennedy Center A magnificent performing arts center dedicated to our 35th president

Dinner and return to hotel

DAY 5

Breakfast and hotel check-out

Ford's Theatre and Petersen House (by appointment) Where President Lincoln was shot and later died on that fateful day

White House (picture stop) Home of the U.S. president

Embassy Row Houses more than 170 foreign embassies

Lunch

National Zoo Home to several giant pandas and more!

Dinner

Depart Washington, D.C., for home

 **WorldStrides**
Educational Travel & Experiences

PRICE QUOTE

DEPART DATES: May 25 – 29, 2023

NUMBER OF DAYS TOURING: 5

TRIP PRICE: \$1799 which includes a \$100 early registration discount. Prices are good through 6/1/23 and includes a special reduced \$49 deposit. Prices are based on at least 35 full paying participants.

INCENTIVES: \$1000 WorldStrides Scholarship, \$100 parent meeting reward for signing up within 48 hours of your meeting, \$600 Recipe for Success Rewards

DEPARTURE AIRPORT: TPA

CHAPERONE RATIO: 1:10

PROGRAM LEADER: Kurt Schaefer

SCHOOL: Venice Young Marines

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ROUND TRIP
TRANSPORTATION



HOTEL
ACCOMMODATIONS



THREE MEALS
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GROUND
TRANSPORTATION TO
AND FROM
ALL ACTIVITIES



ALL ADMISSIONS AND
FEES FOR SCHEDULED
ACTIVITIES



EXPERTLY
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COURSE
LEADERS



24-HOUR
EMERGENCY
SUPPORT



ACADEMIC
CREDIT

LEAP

LEARNING THROUGH EXPLORATION
AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

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UNMATCHED SAFETY AND SECURITY

AROUND THE CLOCK COVERAGE

- > 24-hour supervision including night chaperones on each hotel floor with students
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- > \$1 million USTOA Travelers Assistance Program
- > Comprehensive liability coverage for you, your school, and all travelers
- > Accident, medical, and dental coverage for all travelers



FIELD SPECIALISTS

To meet you at the airport and help get you to your motor coach



TOUR CENTRAL

Our 24-hour local office, available to provide support



NIGHT CHAPERONES

To monitor hotel hallways overnight



ON-SITE COORDINATORS

To assist you throughout your entire hotel stay



COURSE LEADERS

Your destination expert to guide your group during your trip



DOCTORS ON CALL

Exclusive partnership giving you access to doctors for consultations and treatment recommendations

COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

- > Free professional development for traveling teachers
- > Hands-on educational experiences with an expertly trained course leader
- > Opportunity for students to earn free high school and even college preparatory credit (on some programs)
- > Educational materials including Student Discovery Journals and teacher support materials

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TURNKEY SERVICE FOR TEACHERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

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- > All registration and financial services for families provided by WorldStrides
- > Multi-lingual customer support team for families
- > All trip promotional and registration materials provided by WorldStrides to the program leader
- > Discounted trip price for family of program leader and chaperones
- > Optional Full Refund Program (FRP) available to families for a small additional fee \$245. Otherwise the Standard Cancellation Policy applies, for which WorldStrides will retain the following % of the base trip price:
 - > 25% if cancellation is 75 days before departure
 - > 50% if cancellation is 74-45 days before departure
 - > 100% if cancellation is less than 44 days before departure (no refund)

GIFT OF EDUCATION FUNDRAISING

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Visit worldstrides.fundraising.com for complete details.



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Educational Travel & Experiences