



Come Discover Classroom Earth!™

Dear Parent:

I am excited to introduce you and your child to an amazing educational travel opportunity being offered to Boston and surrounding area high school students. We invite your student to embark on an educational journey to the diverse ecosystems of Costa Rica in 2011! Ms. Charlotte Pierce is spearheading this program and will accompany the group of students throughout their experience.

Ms. Pierce works with LEAP Arlington and has elected to work with Global Explorers to provide this life-changing travel opportunity for Boston area students. Global Explorers is a nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring responsible global citizenship through comprehensive educational travel programs. We work with schools, zoos, museums and other educational institutions across the U.S.A. Learn more about our unique programs and our educational philosophy at [www.GlobalExplorers.org](http://www.GlobalExplorers.org).

### Why Travel?

Travel inspires us. Travel teaches us. Travel empowers us to know that we can accomplish whatever we want. Travel with Global Explorers is a unique and challenging leadership and service experience. Much more than just a trip, the Global Explorers program includes preparatory curriculum and a follow-up service leadership initiative in your home community.

Global Explorers helps students understand their role in the world and discover a path that's right for them. Colleges and employers understand the impact that travel can have and recognize the value it has in a young person's life. Independent studies from Duke University and Texas A&M University show that Global Explorers program alumni exhibit increased:

- cultural awareness, acceptance and tolerance
- leadership skills, self-awareness and interpersonal abilities
- awareness of global interdependence
- understanding of the importance of community service
- sense that they can make a positive difference in the world

We encourage you to consider this once-in-a-lifetime experience for your child. For details, contact Ms. Pierce at [charlotte@LEAParlington.org](mailto:charlotte@LEAParlington.org) or (781) 258-9608. You may also contact me, Jordy Oleson, at [Jordy@globalexplorers.org](mailto:Jordy@globalexplorers.org) or (877) 627-1425.

I hope that you are excited about this opportunity and I invite you to visit [www.GlobalExplorers.org](http://www.GlobalExplorers.org) to learn more about our nationally-recognized programs, which have been featured on ABC World News Tonight, CBS Sunday Morning and the Travel Channel. Come Discover Classroom Earth!

Sincerely,

Jordy Oleson  
Outreach Coordinator – Global Explorers

### LEARN MORE

**\*Please join us for a parent and student information session:**

#### Information Session #1:

**WHEN:** Thursday May 27 at 7:00 PM

**WHERE:** St. John's Episcopal Church  
74 Pleasant St., Arlington

#### Information Session #2:

**WHEN:** Monday June 7 at 6:30 PM

**WHERE:** Calvary Church Arlington  
300 Massachusetts Ave.

**\*You may also join an informational webinar and conference call with a Global Explorers representative:**

**WHEN:** Tuesday, June 8, 2010 at 7:00-7:30PM

Go to [www.globalexplorers.org/news/LEAP](http://www.globalexplorers.org/news/LEAP) to find webinar details and login information.



Global Explorers

## WHERE // Sustainable Tropics: Costa Rica

### Program Highlights

- Stroll along Caribbean beaches, explore the rainforest and cruise through the cloud forest on zip-lines as you experience the myriad ecosystems and incredible biodiversity this tiny country has to offer.
- Immerse yourself in the animated “Pura Vida” lifestyle that makes Costa Rica known for its vibrant culture worldwide.
- Search for howler monkeys, poison dart frogs, resplendent quetzals, three-toed sloths, nesting sea turtles and more with expert local guides.

“I felt this swelling inside, like my consciousness, my confidence, my inner-self was literally just growing.”  
- Melinda, Student Explorer



### Program Description

Full of adventure, beauty, captivating culture and rich biodiversity, Costa Rica has everything you could ask for in an educational travel destination. It’s small in size and well-traveled, making it one of the best countries on Earth for student groups. The Sustainable Tropics program brings us to several lesser-known learning spots in some of Costa Rica’s most enticing destinations and immerses us in three different ecosystems. We search for all kinds of wildlife and learn about the successful sustainable development strategies that have made Costa Rica famous for conservation and ecotourism. We also interact with rural community members and have the chance to give back through service projects. Traveling by foot, kayak, boat, canopy walkway and zip-line, we truly experience this wonderful country up close and personal. For more details, photos and a downloadable flyer, please visit our website.

### Pre-Travel Curriculum

- Tropical ecosystems, sustainable development and rainforest conservation.
- Costa Rican history and culture and Spanish language.
- Leadership skills, service learning and responsible travel knowledge.



## Program Itinerary

### Day 1

After traveling from the U.S. to San Jose, Costa Rica, we settle into a comfortable hotel.

### Days 2 – 3

We depart by van and continue by boat for our trip to the Caribbean beaches and canals of Tortuguero. We arrive at the Turtle Beach Lodge and spend time tonight walking the beaches in search of nesting sea turtles. Our next morning begins with a spectacular boat ride through Tortuguero's "Little Amazon" canals to search for wildlife such as caiman, basilisk lizards and monkeys. Our day continues with a service project and another night time walk in search of turtles and other critters.

### Days 4 – 6

We depart Tortuguero this morning and head to the Sarapiquí region. Our first day includes a visit to a pineapple plantation (with plenty of samples), and a boat trip in search of monkeys on the Sarapiquí River. We conclude the day with an exciting bat observation activity and fall asleep to the sounds of the forest at the Tirimbina Lodge Field Station, our home for the next three nights. Day 5 includes a visit to La Selva, one of the most important sites in the world for scientific research on tropical forests. We conduct a research activity and enjoy a night hike in search of frogs back at Tirimbina. Our last day in Sarapiquí is spent working on a service project with the Sarapiquí Conservation Learning Center and a local community.

Then, we get to play a game of fútbol with the very students we just worked alongside.

### Days 7 – 9

Our next stop is the Monteverde region, filled with cloud forests and wildlife. We arrive at the UGA San Luis Research Station, where we stay for the next three nights, and search for wildlife on a night hike. We begin the next day in a similar fashion, with an early morning search for resplendent quetzals – the stunning bird that is symbolic of Costa Rica. Later, we experience the forest as the birds do, zipping through the canopy and exploring a series of walkways. At a local handicraft cooperative, we can support local artists and find gifts for our families and friends. We also visit a local dairy to sample the cheese and ice cream that make Monteverde famous. On Day 9, we visit Finca la Bella, a small, local, sustainable farm where coffee, sugarcane and other crops are grown. We discuss sustainability and participate in an ongoing conservation project that will contribute to offsetting some of the carbon our trip has produced.

### Day 10

We depart early this morning for San Jose to catch our flight back home.

\*This represents a sample itinerary that is subject to change based on weather or other circumstances outside the control of Global Explorers. Sea turtle viewing is unpredictable and there is no guarantee that your group will see wild turtles nesting.

## Program Details

### Essentials:

**Program Fee:** \$1,995\*

\*Students who submit \$200 nonrefundable deposits before June 27, 2010 will receive a \$100 early sign-up discount and owe a total of \$1,895 for their program fee.

**Expedition Length:** 10 days

**Location:** Costa Rica – San Jose, Tortuguero, Sarapiquí, Monteverde

**Dates:** Winter/Spring 2011 (exact dates TBD)

### Who is Eligible to Travel:

Any high school student in Boston and surrounding areas such as Arlington, Lexington, Winchester, etc. If you're a high school student and you're reading this, you can participate!

### What's Included:

All lodging in Costa Rica; all meals and drinking water in Costa Rica; all transportation in Costa Rica; all daily activities and related fees; Global Explorers Expedition Leader; local guides and drivers; all gratuities; basic travel insurance; airport departure fees; preparatory materials and support; t-shirts and journals; carbon offsets for international air travel.

### What's Not Included:

International airfare between your home city and San Jose, Costa Rica; passport fees; immunization fees; spending money (for souvenirs and extra snacks); expenses as a result of travel delays or cancellations that fall outside of Global Explorers' control.

### Accommodations:

Students stay in clean and rustic dormitory-style lodges with bunk beds, indoor bathrooms and electricity in the day time. Food is delicious and healthy local cuisine. Fresh drinking water is always available.

### How to Sign-Up:

Submit a \$200 nonrefundable and register by June 27, 2010. Registration and deposit payments can be submitted using either of two methods:

1. Contact Charlotte Pierce at (781) 258-9608 or [charlotte@LEAParlington.org](mailto:charlotte@LEAParlington.org) to give her your name and relevant information along with a \$200 check (payable to Global Explorers with "LEAP Arlington" in the memo line).
2. Go to [www.globalexplorers.org/news/LEAP](http://www.globalexplorers.org/news/LEAP) to register and pay online.

# WHAT WE TEACH

## EXPLORE YOUR WORLD

**Scientific Curiosity & Competence:** Students develop a curiosity towards the natural world and understand the complexity of interrelationships between human and environmental systems.

**Cultural Curiosity & Competence:** Students build curiosity, respect and tolerance for different ways of life and experience our connectedness with people around the world.

**Career Exposure & Leaders that Inspire:** Students learn about the motivating factors behind career choices made by a diverse group of professionals and develop ideas about fulfilling careers for themselves.

**Service Knowledge:** Students explore the meaning of service-learning and civic responsibility and navigate the challenges of working with communities to identify and evaluate needs.

## DISCOVER THE LEADER WITHIN

**Self-Awareness:** Students explore the ways they see themselves, others, the world and their place in it.

**Communication:** Students learn to listen, to appreciate diverse perspectives and to improve their peer-to-peer communication skills.

**Collaboration:** Students learn about creating a shared vision and utilizing the skills of all team members.

**Critical Thinking Skills:** Students practice problem solving, analysis, logic and reflecting on the big picture using systems thinking.

**Self-Direction:** Students explore their personal passions, adaptability, sense of responsibility and personal vision.

**Information Literacy:** Students investigate various forms of knowledge acquisition, source discernment and management of complex information to deepen the quality of their analyses.

Our Mission is to inspire responsible global citizenship by providing life-changing travel experiences for students and educators of all abilities and backgrounds.

Our unique educational model equips students to explore science and culture for a deeper understanding of the world, to discover their personal interests and to tackle community issues with passion and wisdom.

## INSPIRE CHANGE

**Appreciation for Life:** Students deepen their appreciation for the opportunities they have in life and recognize that there are many ways to make a difference in the world.

**Take Action:** Students take action and engage in service before, during and after their Global Explorers expedition.

**Service Attitude:** Students develop confidence in their ability to inspire change and demonstrate an ongoing willingness to spend time bettering communities at home and abroad.

“I not only gained academic knowledge, but also learned about the importance of an open mind and an open heart, the power of smiling at a stranger and so much more. Global Explorers is a family that gives young adults incredible opportunities and teaches life skills that make us all better people.”

- Laura, Student Explorer

