

Dear *Global Explorers Learning Afar* Program Applicant:

We are very excited to invite you to be a part of the 2010 *Global Explorers Learning Afar* program, featuring a 10-day field workshop trip to Costa Rica. We hope you are beginning to dream about how travel will change your life, the cool people you'll meet and the empowering life skills you'll learn along the way. On behalf of the Afar Foundation and Global Explorers, we look forward to receiving your application and showing you where travel can take you!

Oakland High School and Ms. Katie Noonan are working with Global Explorers, a nonprofit organization, to make this travel opportunity an incredible experience for you. The 2010 *Global Explorers Learning Afar* program promises to be an amazing, safe and life-changing experience. As a participant in this program, you will have the chance to:

- 🌍 Spend 10 days traveling in Costa Rica from August 13-22, 2010 with your friends from Oakland High School.
- 🌍 Engage in comprehensive pre-travel learning activities before your trip.
- 🌍 Learn valuable media skills to tell your own travel stories at a 2-day media skills retreat.
- 🌍 Co-host a fundraising event with the help of Afar Media and Global Explorers to help cover program costs that are not covered by scholarship funding.
- 🌍 Participate in meaningful community service before, during and after travel.

The Afar Foundation, an affiliate of Afar Media, has generously donated scholarship funds for 10 students at Oakland High School to participate in this program at a minimal fee. The Afar Foundation and Global Explorers have also pledged to work with you on a major fundraising event in the Bay Area to secure additional funds and help meet program costs. We will do everything we can to help you cover all of your program costs but we also expect you to take a leadership role in raising funds with your group. Global Explorers, the Afar Foundation and Ms. Noonan will help you every step of the way. The final program fee for this program is \$995. Please see the *Global Explorers Learning Afar* Program Details sheet for specific information about what's included and details about anticipated costs for anything that is not included. If you are interested but worried about finances, please APPLY to this program. Along with scholarships, we are 100% committed to helping the selected team raise the funds they need to travel!

Global Explorers is seeking capable, curious, mature and confident students who feel that this experience will help their personal growth and discovery. Because we anticipate high demand for this program, we are requesting that you complete the following application as soon as possible. Spots will disappear quickly!

*This is an open enrollment program. The application deadline is **December 2, 2009**. Participants will be chosen no later than December, 15 2009.*

Please read the application instructions and follow them thoroughly. **Return your completed application to Ms. Noonan in room 345.** Global Explorers and the Afar Foundation are excited to make this program accessible to all interested students and we encourage you to apply no matter who you are! Acceptance will be based on merit and need. If you have questions or need further information, please contact Ms. Noonan (510-684-4157 or Ktnoon@aol.com) or Jordy Oleson at Global Explorers (877-627-1425 or jordy@globalexplorers.org).

Sincerely,

David Shurna
Executive Director, Global Explorers



Student Application

We welcome all students of all abilities and backgrounds to compete this application. We believe international travel should be accessible to all youth who are curious about discovering our world. YOU CAN ALSO FILL THIS OUT ONLINE AT: www.globalexplorers.org/programs/learning_afar/

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF:

Today's Date: _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____ Birth Date: _____

School: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____

Is your school public or public charter? Public Public Charter

Current Cumulative GPA: _____

Gender: Male Female Transgender

Ethnic Identity (For research purposes only – Global Explorers does not select program participants based on ethnicity):

☺ What is your ethnicity? Please check one of the following:

- Hispanic or Latino Not Hispanic or Latino

☺ What is your race? Mark one or more races to indicate what you consider yourself to be.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native | <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> East Indian/ Pakistani | <input type="checkbox"/> Filipino | <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Korean | <input type="checkbox"/> Mexican | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese | <input type="checkbox"/> White | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Please Specify |

Personal Experience and Background Information:

The *Sustainable Tropics: Costa Rica* field workshop is designed for adventurous participants! We suggest participants prepare both physically and mentally for their workshops in order to get the most out of the experience. While the hikes and activities on our Costa Rica field workshop are not overly physically demanding, the heat and humidity can be taxing for some travelers. We expect students to come ready to be active for many hours of the day! We will do a lot of work prior to travel to ensure you are prepared, but we would like to get a gauge on your background to ensure the health and safety of the entire team selected. Please call us for more details and discuss any concerns with your physician and/ or school medical professional.

*Note: Prior experience is NOT REQUIRED to be accepted. Upon acceptance into the program, ALL participants will be required to submit a comprehensive health history report and a sports physical signed by a certified health practitioner demonstrating the student's ability to participate.

☺ Do you have a physical disability? (If yes, please complete the attached survey for students with disabilities.)

- Yes No



Personal Experience and Background Information continued:

- ☺ Please list any health concerns (e.g. diabetes, asthma, seizures, heart or respiratory problems or any other physical condition that may affect your ability to fully participate in all activities):

- ☺ Please list any medications you are currently taking (include dosages and frequency):

- ☺ Do you have any additional concerns about your ability to participate in a Global Explorers Expedition?

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY:

Primary Language(s) Spoken at Home: _____

Income and College Education:

Are you eligible to participate in the free or reduced meals program at your school? Yes No

Annual Household Income before taxes: \$ _____

How many individuals are supported by your household income? _____

Has anyone in your immediate family graduated from a four year college or university?

Yes No

If there is additional information that speaks to your financial need, please describe below:

Parent/ Guardian Information:

Each applicant should understand that it is their responsibility to communicate directly with Ms. Noonan. In addition we ask that each applicant provides information for the 1st Legal Guardian whose role it is to offer support to the applicant. The 1st Legal Guardian will be included on necessary email and phone correspondences that include logistical information (i.e. travel arrangements, health related topics, payment schedule).

1st Legal Guardian Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address (if different than the applicant's): _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Employer: _____ Marital Status: _____

2nd Legal Guardian Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address (if different than the applicant's): _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Employer: _____ Marital Status: _____

** Please note: We do most of our correspondence through email. Please print legibly and provide email addresses that are checked frequently.*



Global Explorers Learning Afar Program: Short Answer Questions

Please answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper. Limit your response to each question to no more than one paragraph.

1. What do you hope learn from this program, and why are you interested in traveling to Costa Rica?
2. What does being a good leader mean to you, and how have you demonstrated this?
3. What are your current plans for after you graduate from high school?
4. What career(s) are you interested in for the future? What do you like about that career(s)?
5. Do you think it is important to give back to your community? Why or why not? What does giving back mean to you?
6. Have you ever traveled outside the United States before? If so, please tell us a little bit about your experience?

Please attach the following to your application:

- A copy of your parent's most recent 1040 tax form.
- Parent/ Legal Guardian please answer the following question on a separate piece of paper:
-Why are you interested in this applicant being involved in the *Global Explorers Learning Afar* program sponsored by the Afar Foundation?
- Two Educator Referral Forms (attached below). The first form must be completed by an educator who has worked with the applicant. The second may be completed by another educator or a non- family member (i.e.: Coach, Neighbor, Employer, etc.)

Your signature below confirms your commitment, if accepted, to be an active participant in the full *Global Explorers Learning Afar* program including pre-travel lessons & retreat, the field workshop and post-travel service project.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: ___/___/___

Your signature below indicates approval for your child's participation in the *Global Explorers Learning Afar* program including pre- travel lessons & retreat, the field workshop and post- travel service project.

Parent/ Guardian Signature: _____ Date: ___/___/___

Please contact Ms. Noonan (510-684-4157 or Ktnoon@aol.com) or Jordy Oleson (877-627-1425 or jordy@globalexplorers.org) with any questions.

Visit www.globalexplorers.org to see photos and a sample Costa Rica itinerary.



PERSONAL COMMITMENT CHECKLIST

Applicant Personal Commitment Checklist: *By initialing the statement below, I indicate that I have given serious thought to each item and I hereby make a commitment to adhere to the statement.*

- 1. I understand that I will have to submit a sports physical to Global Explorers upon being accepted into this program.
- 2. I understand that the GEx Program requires a nine month commitment.
- 3. I understand that the GEx program emphasizes leadership, science, culture and service.
- 4. I will be a responsible, cooperative and active participant for the entire GEx Program.
- 5. I will not use alcohol or drugs or engage in sexual activity during the GEx Program.
- 6. I will complete preparatory lessons BEFORE the Field Workshop and participate in the preparatory retreat. This will mean completing homework in addition to my school work.
- 7. I understand that as a participant in this program I will be an integral part of a team and I agree to be an active and supportive team member.
- 8. I am willing to live without such things as make-up, hair dryers and electronics (CD players, games, etc.) for the Field Workshop.
- 9. I understand that the Field Workshop might be physically demanding.
- 10. I understand that AFTER the Field Workshop, I am required to spend time implementing a Service Leadership Project in my home community.
- 11. I am committed to helping to raise money to support the cost of the GEx Program.
- 12. I understand that my right to continue participating in the GEx Program depends on my ability to maintain a positive attitude, appropriate behavior and to complete assigned tasks. Global Explorers can expel me from the program if I do not live up to my commitment.

Parent/Guardian Personal Commitment Checklist: *By initialing below, I indicate that I have given serious thought to each item and I hereby make a commitment to adhere to the statement.*

- 1. I understand that a sports physical is required after being accepted into this program.
- 2. I understand that the GEx Program requires a nine month commitment from my student.
- 3. I understand that the GEx program emphasizes leadership, science, culture and service.
- 4. I will make sure that my student attends the required retreat.
- 5. I understand that my student may have additional homework as he/she prepares for his/her Field Workshop.
- 6. I understand that my student will be traveling to Costa Rica for 10 days in 2010.
- 7. I understand that though the Global Explorers Field Workshop is very safe and has extensive safety and emergency procedures in place, there is always a small chance that my child could get sick or hurt while traveling.
- 8. I understand that I might also have to review informational materials that will help prepare my student for travel.
- 9. I understand that the GEx Experience is primarily for students. My participation will only support the group in ways that Global Explorers identifies as necessary.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date



EDUCATOR REFERRAL FORM

This form is intended to be completed by a teacher who has experience with the applicant in an educational setting, whether formal or informal.

To complete online, visit:

<https://globalexplorers.wufoo.com/forms/educator-non-family-member-referral-form-afar/>

Dear Educator/Evaluator,

The student identified below is applying to the *Global Explorers Learning Afar* program, an educational travel program through a nonprofit organization called Global Explorers. This program involves a nine month commitment to: spend time outside of school studying about the country he/she will be visiting; participate in a field workshop with an integrated team of students; and independently implement a follow- up Service Leadership Project. This referral form helps us determine whether this applicant will be able to meet our criteria for having cooperative, trustworthy and committed students enrolled in this program. We greatly appreciate your honest feedback.

Student Name: _____

1: Rarely, 2: Sometimes, 3: Usually, 4: Most times, 5: Always

rarely → always

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Is a cooperative and encouraging team-player. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2. Respects other classmates in diverse situations. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3. Respects his/her teacher. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4. Takes initiative to complete tasks. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5. Is dependable and conscientious about completing homework assignments. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6. Works well with groups. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 7. Takes his/her studies seriously. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8. Exhibits good and appropriate behavior in diverse situations. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 9. Is polite and respectful of adults. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 10. Has a good attendance record. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 11. Handles challenges well. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 12. Has a positive attitude. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

***Please print legibly. If you have any concerns about this student's ability to participate in this program, please describe them on another sheet of paper. Be sure to consider the student's capability of completing physical the demands on the trip that may include hiking, and being outdoors.

Evaluator's Signature Printed Name Date

Title Organization/School Name

Phone Number Email Address



EDUCATOR/ NON- FAMILY MEMBER REFERRAL FORM

This form is intended to be completed by a teacher or non- family member who has experience with the applicant in an educational or personal setting.

To complete online, visit:

<https://globalexplorers.wufoo.com/forms/educator-non-family-member-referral-form-afar/>

Dear Educator/Evaluator,

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| 10. Has a good attendance record. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 11. Handles challenges well. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 12. Has a positive attitude. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

***Please print legibly. If you have any concerns about this student's ability to participate in this program, please describe them on another sheet of paper. Be sure to consider the student's capability of completing physical the demands on the trip that may include hiking, and being outdoors.

Evaluator's Signature Printed Name Date

Title Organization/School Name

Phone Number Email Address



Global Explorers realizes that the word “disability” is term that comes with many different stereotypes and judgments. Over the years we’ve also witnessed these stereotypes be shattered into pieces throughout our program and that the notion of a disability is often a relative concept. The goal of the Global Explorers programming is to integrate individuals with and without disabilities for a meaningful, fun, and educational experience with the focus being on the abilities and strengths of all the participants. In order to achieve this goal, we need to know a little about you!

Please tell us more about yourself and what, if any, accommodations you may need in relation to your disability. This is important to ensure this a successful trip for you and your fellow teammates. Please don’t hesitate to contact Global Explorers with any questions or concerns. 877-627-1425

Applicant Name:	Date:
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1. Please tell us about your disability and any accommodations or adaptations you use daily.

2. When/where do you notice your disability affecting you the most? (ie: Low light, Noisy environments, getting around in public places, hot or cold environments, etc.)

3. Do you use any adaptive equipment? (ie: Long white cane, glasses, hearing assistance technology, wheelchair, etc.) Will you bring any adaptive equipment on the trip? Will staff or other participants need any training in how to use this equipment?

4. Please specify any material adaptations and preferred book format. (ie: Standard Print, Large Print (16pt.), Braille, Electronic, Audio Books, Standard Books, etc.)

5. What is your experience with adventure-type activities? Have you ever used outdoor adaptive equipment? If so, please tell us when and what you used?

6. Are there any additional details you’d like to share to help us serve you better? (ie: special accommodations)