



Costa Rica Science Research Trip Application & Instructions

Course Description:

The SOC Costa Rica trip will embark on a science driven experience to the research site two hours outside of Liberia, Costa Rica. While at this site (8 days), students will be immersed in a tropical rainforest research program where they will develop their own research questions and experiments focusing on leaf cutter ants and butterfly caterpillar instars. After their tropical field research project is complete, students will travel to El Jobo on the Pacific coast (2 days). Here students will do marine biology research and learn about community-based marine conservation: They will compare sea turtle nesting habitats and snorkel to learn how to find, capture and release stingrays!

Student Requirements:

Students in grades 9-12 will be able to apply. Depending on the school system, it is best if the student has had basic biology or chemistry. Students will be selected based on the following criteria: academic history, teacher recommendation, student essay. Students will be required to attend all pre and post departure classes. There is a tuition charge for this course, so students will also be required to meet the payment deadlines in full. There will be 16 students selected from a participating school. The school may elect to accept alternates who would fulfill the position of a student who might have to drop out for any number of reasons prior to the trip departing in the summer months, or the alternate might then be the highest priority on the selection list for the follow year.

Application Process:

The following requirements will need to be met in order to complete your application

- Submit SOC Application and essay to your group's lead teacher with \$150 check or printed receipt from online payment of \$150 application fee: www.soc-cr.org/registration-1. The Application fee is refundable if you are not selected.
- Submit teacher evaluation forms (if required, ask your group leader)
- Students who are accepted will fill in a detailed registration form and parents/guardians will E-sign waivers (SOC will send form and waiver link via email).
- Students obtain any necessary travel vaccinations: US Center for Disease Control Costa Rica Recommendations
- Families decide if they would like to purchase 3rd Party Student Travel Insurance (refunds for program costs only through insurer)
 - [World Nomads](#)
 - [Allianz Global Assistance](#)
 - other Insurer of your choice
- Families pay remaining program tuition funds (full pay or Nov-April \$600/month payment plan by check, if use credit card option there is an added fee of 2.5%)

I. Essay Question: Please answer **ONE** of the following questions in 500 words or less. Your essay will be evaluated on content and composition. This experience requires a high level of commitment; please submit your best work.

- **Why is it important to you to have a course abroad instead of a class trip?**
- **Why is it important to learn about science in the field over other classroom experiences?**
- **How do you plan to use what you learn in this course in your future?**
- **How do you hope to bring what you learn back to your community?**



SOC Costa Rica Science Trip Teacher Recommendation Form

Student Name:

Recommending Teacher:

The above student is applying to be a participant in the SOC Costa Rica Science trip. This is a potential credit bearing experience that requires both academic and functional skills in order to be successful. Please rate the above student on the listed skills (5 is best) and provide any additional information you feel would be helpful in the selection process. If you have any questions about the requirements and skills necessary for this experience, feel free to contact _____.

Please return this form directly to _____.

Skills	1	2	3	4	5
Communication -the student can communicate clearly in a large and small group setting.					
Quality of work -this student consistently submits high quality work that demonstrates that he or she is invested in the academic subject.					
Interpersonal Skills -the student can work with other students that they may not know and create working relationships without a teacher's assistance.					
Problem Solving -the student can work through basic problems and try possible solutions on their own before coming to a teacher for help.					
Responsibility -the student takes responsibility for his or her actions and is able to attend his or her own needs independently.					
Learning Style -this student can function beyond the traditional teaching and can think and respond beyond concrete instruction.					

Teacher Comments: