Proposal for Service Learning Tour in Costa Rica

An EF Education lead tour to Costa Rica over the 2014 April Break combining the AP Environmental Science and Global Leadership courses.

1. Destination
   a. Central Coast Region, Costa Rica
   b. Arenal Region, Costa Rica

2. Educational Rationale
   a. AP Environmental Studies – Being able to discover firsthand the solutions to stabilizing ecosystems is a foundation of Environmental Science Curriculum. The exposure this trip provides along with the immersion of the service project gives students a wide variety of opportunities to observe and practice positive environmental transformation. This trip would be an opportunity for students to incorporate their experiences in with the environmental service portion of the course and present their research to the community upon return.
   b. Global Leadership – The service learning aspects of the tour in Costa Rica support the social justice themes of Global Leadership, with obvious connections to the Millennium Development Goals (for example, environmental sustainability) and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. EF’s WeShare project based curriculum engaged students in problem solving, critical thinking, collaboration, and other 21st Century Skills that are embedded in the Global Leadership curriculum as well as the school’s mission.

3. Participants
   a. Seniors from the AP Environmental course and the Global Leadership course would be allowed to apply. Our maximum number of students would be 24.
   b. For every 6 students we would have one chaperone and there is also a Tour Director provided by the company.

4. Trip Leaders
   a. Peter Guellnitz and Jeff Shea

5. Itinerary
   a. Day 1: Fly to Costa Rica
      i. Meet your Tour Director at the airport in San José
   b. Day 2: Playa Palo Seco • Central Pacific Coast
      i. Travel to Playa Palo Seco
      ii. Visit a crocodile farm
      iii. Service Learning activities:
          1. Introduction to project
          2. Overview of methodologies and working plan
   c. Day 3: Central Pacific Coast
i. Service Learning activities:
   1. Take a tour of mangrove and protected areas
   2. Mangrove restoration project

d. Day 4: Central Pacific Coast
   i. Service Learning activities:
      1. Visit a nursery
      2. Mangrove restoration project

e. Day 5: Central Pacific Coast and Arenal Region
   i. Travel to the Arenal Region
      1. Visit hot springs

f. Day 6: Arenal region
   i. Enjoy a canopy tour
   ii. Visit a local school

g. Day 7: Arenal region
   i. Enjoy a kayaking trip on Lake Arenal
   ii. Visit La Fortuna Waterfall

h. Day 8: Arenal region • San José
   i. Return to San José
   ii. Visit INBioparque and/or Earth University
   iii. Enjoy a folklore evening

i. Day 9: Depart for home


6. Safety and Risk Management
   a. Tour is organized by EF Education
   b. Tour Director Provided and Local Offices in Costa Rica
   c. EF’s Global Liability Insurance Plan
   d. Student Travel Insurance Plans optional

7. Projected Costs:
   a. Estimated cost at $2500 per student
   b. Fundraising Activities will be conducted to help reduce cost
   c. Options for financial assistance are being considered