

COSTA RICA EXPLORATIONS

Student Application

Please completely fill out this application and turn it in to Mr. / Ms. _____ with your deposit check by _____, 20____

Student Information

Name _____ Male Female
Home Address _____ Date of Birth _____
_____/____/____
Student's Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
Student's Email _____ T-shirt size: S M L XL XXL

Parent Information

Parent 1 _____	Parent 2 _____
Address _____	Address _____
_____	_____
Home Phone _____	Home Phone _____
Work Phone _____	Work Phone _____
Cell Phone _____	Cell Phone _____
E-mail _____	E-mail _____

Student primarily lives with:	Both Parents	Parent 1	Parent 2	Other
Program updates sent to:	Both Parents	Parent 1	Parent 2	Other
Applicant's legal guardian?	Both Parents	Parent 1	Parent 2	Other

The following questionnaire will help to ensure that our program is a good fit for you and your child. It will also help us understand your individual goals and aspirations.

To be completed by student:

1. What attracts you to a CRE program? _____

2. What past experiences have helped prepare you for this type of program?
(examples: hobbies, community service work, travel, camp, classes, etc.)

3. Name and briefly explain one goal, one fear, and one expectation you have entering this program? _____

4. Although speaking Spanish is not required, explain any experiences that you have had speaking and/or learning Spanish.

5. If you had to pick 3 words to describe yourself, what would they be?

Please include 1 letter of recommendation (see attached form)

To be completed by parent(s):

1. What makes your child a good candidate to participate in this program?

2. If your child learns one thing from this program what would that be?

3. What past experiences has your child had that has prepared him/her for this program?

4. Please include any other information that you feel would help Costa Rica Explorations would benefit in knowing about your child.

Thank you for your time in completing this application.
We look forward to seeing you in Costa Rica!

Please review the *Student Application* and turn it in along with the completed *Terms & Conditions* and a \$500 deposit check to the host teacher at your school.

Please make check out to **Costa Rica Explorations**.

Letter of Recommendation

Applicant's name _____

To the teacher/community leader: The above student is applying for a community service-based, adventure-learning experience in Costa Rica. Your assessment of the applicant's performance in school and/or community activities and his/her personal qualities provides valuable input for the **Costa Rica Explorations** screening process.

Person completing form _____

Association to applicant _____

1. Why do you recommend this student for a Costa Rican exploration?

2. What specific strengths would this applicant bring to a community service program abroad?

3. What would be the applicant's biggest challenge on this type of program?

4. Please add any additional comments.

Signature _____ Date _____

Thank you for taking the time to thoughtfully evaluate this applicant.

COSTA RICA EXPLORATIONS

Terms & Conditions

Participant Non-negotiable Rules and Policies

Costa Rica Explorations' (CRE) philosophy is to provide participants with a safe international learning adventure within a small group setting. Participants are required at all times to follow CRE's non-negotiable rules, policies, and the law. Participants will be required to work as a team and will be asked to put the group's priorities ahead of their own. Participants need to respect their leaders' decisions and instructions at all times.

In order for the participant, the group, and the program to be safe and successful, everyone must adhere to the following non-negotiable rules and policies: **CRE prohibits the use and/or possession of alcohol, tobacco products, illegal drugs, and weapons. CRE prohibits exclusive relationships of any type, sexual activity, and any unauthorized absence from the group. CRE also prohibits all forms of physical violence by their participants. These are the non-negotiable rules and any violations by participants are grounds for immediate expulsion.**

CRE maintains the right to remove any participant involved or presumed to be involved in any violation of the above stated non-negotiable rules and policies. Participants, who are expelled or withdrawn, including medical and emergency cases, will be sent home unaccompanied at their own expense without refund for any program costs. The parent(s)/guardian(s) of the expelled or withdrawn participant are responsible for any additional expenses realized during or as a result of this process.

Participants and parent(s)/guardian(s) understand that CRE reserves the right to refuse or remove a participant from a program. This includes: any person CRE deems incapable of meeting the rigors and requirements of participation in the activities, any person who is negatively affecting the outcome of the program or anyone in violation of the non-negotiable rules and policies of the program.

Safety and Risk Management

Safety is our number one priority! The participants' physical and emotional well being is the most important element throughout the program. CRE leaders are held to the highest standards. They are experienced educators, seasoned travelers, and knowledgeable guides. CRE uses only established and well-reputed outfitters, transportation companies, facilities, and other service providers. We work to identify, analyze, and manage all inherent risks potentially and actually involved in our programs. CRE tries to minimize these risks, but parent(s)/guardian(s) and participants must realize and accept that all risks cannot be completely removed.

Initials: _____/_____

Program Payment Process and Refund Policy

The program tuition covers all in-country, group program expenses. The program tuition does not cover transportation to and from the starting point of the program unless otherwise noted, personal spending money or any additional costs realized due to medical and/or personal needs of the participant. If issues arise beyond CRE's control such as, but not limited to, significant fuel price increases, excessive inflation, currency revaluations, or any uncontrollable situation which makes it impractical for CRE to perform the trip, then CRE reserves the right to cancel the trip with program tuition refunded.

CRE program tuition is paid in two installments: (1) \$500 deposit, and (2) a second payment which is equal to the balance of the program tuition. The \$500 deposit consists of a \$200 non-refundable processing fee. The remaining \$300 of the deposit is refundable until 30 days before the program start date. Within 30 days of the program start date, the entire deposit becomes non-refundable. Any applications received without a deposit will not be processed; therefore, a space will not be held on the participant's behalf until a deposit is received. The balance of the program tuition should be paid in full by 30 days prior to the program start date and is completely non-refundable. Any applications received within 30 days of the program start date must be accompanied with the full program tuition. Acceptable forms of payment are personal checks, cashier's checks, money orders, or wire transfers.

Fundraising Requirement

While fundraising isn't a requirement, CRE **strongly** encourages that participants raise at least \$100 to donate to the community service project. This donation amount is in addition to the program tuition. One hundred percent of these funds will go directly to the purchase of materials, tools, provisions, and personnel necessary to complete the service project. When the participants personally raise this money, they will feel a closer bond to the community and feel more invested in the overall service project. Upon completion of the community service project, participants who need community service hours can be credited the applicable community service hours that they have fulfilled.

Program Research, Design and Development

CRE reserves the right to modify the designed program itinerary before the program begins or while the program is running. While all CRE programs do have a defined itinerary, changes to these itineraries can take place due to uncontrollable issues that may arise such as, but not limited to, political considerations, weather and/or natural disasters, health issues, terrorism, and any other uncontrollable circumstances. Any changes made to the program, beforehand or on-site, to the program are made with the safety of the participants as the number one priority.

Flight Arrangements

Transportation and flight arrangements to and from the start point of each program are the financial responsibility of the participant. CRE will require a specific time-frame for the participants to arrive at the start point of the program. Regardless of transportation mode, CRE requires copies of all travel arrangements and itineraries to be submitted before the program begins. For an additional cost, CRE is able to arrange international group flights if the participants desire.

Initials: _____/_____

Participant's General Assessment and Proof of Insurance Forms

Acceptance to a CRE program is contingent upon the approval of the *General Assessment Form* by a licensed physician. A physician who has examined a participant within twelve months of the program start date must fill out this *General Assessment Form* completely and accurately. **The physician's signature as well as the parent(s)/guardian(s) signature must be present on this form.**

Misrepresentation of a participant's physical and/or emotional condition or failure to answer questions accurately may be cause for the dismissal of the participant at the participant's expense regardless if the program has started. All participants must be covered by medical insurance. In the case of illness or injury, CRE will take the necessary precautions to get the participant professional medical services. The expenses realized through these services are the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s). Participants will provide copies of proof of medical insurance and medical cards with their final program payment.

Photography and Video

By participating in a Costa Rica Explorations' program, the participant agrees to allow Costa Rica Explorations to use photography and/or video of the participant as well as his/her creative writing in promotional, documentary, or other educational publications either printed or electronic.

By signing below, I have read, agree to, and understand the terms and conditions set forth by Costa Rica Explorations (CRE).

Participant's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Please make sure that you have signed above and initialed each page within the *Terms & Conditions*. Please review the entire *Student Application* and turn these two documents in to your host teacher along with a deposit check for \$500.

Please make check out to **Costa Rica Explorations.**