



Dear Chicago Area Educator:

Global Explorers and the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation (OPRFCF) Crystal Fund are excited to invite your school to be part of an amazing educational travel program in Costa Rica in 2011. By applying to the program, you and your students have the chance to become our pilot Chicago school, earning the right to a **fully funded Summer 2011 expedition to Costa Rica***, travel and much more!

Based on references from other educators in our network and a preliminary examination of several selection criteria, we feel that your school could be an ideal partner school and that you are the right kind of educator to help us implement a successful program. We hope that you're as excited as we are about this unique opportunity. We would love to have you apply to the program using the steps outlined in this packet.

Global Explorers and the OPRFCF Crystal Fund share a similar vision: to help make the life-changing power of authentic, experiential travel available to all students regardless of their economic background. The OPRFCF Crystal Fund has offered to provide nearly 100% support for one group of ten low-income students to participate in Global Explorers' nonprofit travel programs in 2010. Through this program, students will engage in thought-provoking curriculum pre-travel, learn valuable media skills to tell their own travel stories, travel with you to Costa Rica, and participate in meaningful service before, during and after travel.

We're asking for your help to assist us in organizing an outstanding group of students in Chicago to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime travel opportunity. By applying for the Global Explorers program, you'll give your students the opportunity to experience the joy and spontaneity of travel, helping them better understand our world and their role in it. You'll give them a feeling of empowerment that makes all things seem possible and poises them to keep their lives moving in the right direction. You'll also get to travel for free with your students and take away a feeling of satisfaction knowing that you were the teacher who opened your students' eyes to the world.

To learn more about what your role in the program would be, how to apply, program logistics, funding, and Global Explorers, please refer to the information included in this packet. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Jordan Lonegren at Global Explorers at 877-627-1425 or jordan@globalexplorers.org

We look forward to your application!

David Shurna
Executive Director, Global Explorers

**Students are only required to raise \$200 each to participate. Scholarship support from Global Explorers and OPRFCF Crystal Grant Fund includes all travel costs (e.g. flights, accommodations, guides, tips) as well as support for immunizations and passport fees.*



Global Explorers: How to Apply

Based on references and preliminary selection criteria, Global Explorers has identified several educators and schools in the Chicago area that we feel would serve as ideal partners in helping us implement a successful program. Please review the application process below and submit a completed application to Global Explorers by **June 15, 2010**. We hope to have a school selected by **September 1, 2010**. Please apply even if you may not fully meet all of the selection criteria - we're looking for a school that can make a compelling case as to how this program will impact their students. Here's what we'd like to see from you:

- 1) A letter, signed by both your school's principal and a chosen educator, that addresses the following (*limit 2 pages please*):
 - a. *How a travel program fits with your academic curriculum*: Please describe why your school thinks a travel program would benefit your students. To learn more about the Global Explorers travel philosophy, visit www.globalexplorers.org.
 - b. *Statement of commitment*: We seek a partner school who can commit to helping us implement every aspect of the program before, during and after travel. Please briefly describe your dedication (*see program details below*).
 - c. *The makeup of your student body*: Please describe minority and low income representation at your school, including relevant appendices or external references. Please include specific numbers with regards to percentages of minority students and students on free or reduced lunch.
 - d. *The academic rigor of your program*: Please describe the extent to which you are falling below, meeting or exceeding state standards. Our goal is to find students who appreciate the challenge of our academic curriculum. Please include a school accountability report if applicable.
 - e. *Attendance Rates*: Please provide your annual attendance rates and, if applicable, your students' level of participation in extra-curricular activities.
 - f. *Past History of Travel*: If your school has traveled domestically or internationally in the past, please indicate destinations, approximate group size, general description of students who traveled, and any means that the group used to fund the experience. Regardless of whether the school has traveled please *indicate reasons you think your school board will approve of this travel experience* and/or hurdles you expect to encounter. Your school board does NOT need to approve this expedition before submitting your application.
 - g. *Group Sponsor profile*: One educator from your school will serve as a Group Sponsor (see details attached) and travel with the students. Please submit a short profile of this educator describing any past travel experience, awards, extracurricular duties, and history of commitment to his or her students.

Please submit your application to Jordan Lonegren at Global Explorers. With your application, please include appropriate contact info for notification. Send via:

Email: Jordan@globalexplorers.org, OR
Fax: (970) 672-1073, OR
Mail: Global Explorers
420 S. Howes, Suite B300
Fort Collins, CO 80521



Global Explorers: Program Details and Logistics

Funding details

Ten students from the selected school will be scholarships to participate in the travel experience. Students only will be required to raise \$200/student to participate. The remainder of the costs, estimated at more than \$3,500 per student, is covered by a generous contribution from the OPRFCF Crystal Fund. Global Explorers supports the student fundraising process to reach their \$200 goal and also provides a means to educate a broader community about the program. Participating students must be between the ages of 11 and 19.

Group Sponsor details: Educator role and expectations

An educator selected from the school will become the school's Group Sponsor. A Group Sponsor will travel for free with the group of students including airfare. Group Sponsor responsibilities include:

- Assisting with program promotion to students at school. We will provide you with promotional materials and make a complimentary visit your school to host an information session.
- Implementing the Global Explorers preparatory curriculum. This includes five lessons focusing on different core areas, lasting 2 hours each.
- Help organize and attend a one-day retreat in the Chicago area for your participating students that Global Explorers will run
- Traveling with and supervising your group in Costa Rica. You will also be joined by a bilingual Global Explorers Field Workshop Coordinator, who will handle all planning and logistics along with educational discussions. Your group will also be accompanied by a local Costa Rican guide for the duration of your trip.
- Implementing a follow-up service project with your students upon their return from travel. We believe that follow-up service is essential for a successful program and we hope that as a Group Sponsor, you will fully engage your travelers after their experience with full support from Global Explorers.

Program logistics

Students will follow Global Explorers' 3-phase program model: 1. Preparatory curriculum and media skills retreat, 2. Field workshop (travel), and 3. Follow-up service. Below is a sample program schedule - dates may change based on school schedule:

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| • Sep 2010 | One partner school is selected by Global Explorers |
| • Sep – Dec 2010 | Promotion and recruitment of students by partner school |
| • Dec 2010 – Spring 2011 | Preparatory curriculum and fundraising |
| • March/ April 2011 | Pre-travel retreat co-hosted by partner school |
| • June 2011 | 14-day field workshop in Costa Rica |
| • Summer or Fall 2011 | Follow-up service project |



About Global Explorers and the Crystal Fund

Who is Global Explorers?

Global Explorers is a nonprofit organization based in Fort Collins, CO that shares educational immersive travel experiences with school groups and individual students alike. Since its inception in 2003, Global Explorers has served thousands of students and educators in the United States and supported communities in Canada, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru, Tanzania, and the American Southwest. Global Explorers' programs have been featured on ABC World News Tonight, ABC Nightline, the Travel Channel, and CBS Sunday morning.

Global Explorers' mission is to inspire responsible global citizenship by providing life-changing travel experiences for students and educators of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

To learn more about Global Explorers, please visit www.GlobalExplorers.org.

Who is the Crystal Fund?

The Crystal Fund is a scholarships and educational enrichment program of the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation. The Crystal Fund was established to support grants for an extended "away from home" cultural or educational experience that provide a skill, knowledge and/or personal value as a means of support. Scholarships are limited to Chicago area students ages 11 to 19 that are able to demonstrate extreme financial need and have a potential for providing leadership. **The purpose of the Oak Park - River Forest Community Foundation is to inspire philanthropy and to steward the community toward sustainability and well-being.**

To learn more about the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation, please visit www.oprfcommfd.org.

WHAT WE TEACH

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.

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.

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

