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*"It was the most wonderful, enlightening and meaningful thing I have ever been a part of."  
- Ashley, Global Explorers Participant*

Dear Colleagues:

We're excited to let you know about an amazing travel opportunity for Western Michigan educators and parents: an educational journey to the Amazon rainforest in Peru in 2011! Our group will learn together before we travel, visit the Tambopata region of the Peruvian Amazon rainforest for 10 days in the summer of 2011 and connect the experience to our own communities through follow-up service projects upon our return. For those who are interested, we will also offer an optional extension to Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley.

We have chosen to coordinate this exciting program with Global Explorers, a nonprofit organization. Having organized many student travel programs to Peru with Global Explorers in the past, we can say with certainty that their organization holds true to its mission of inspiring responsible global citizenship through travel and provides the most educational, fun and safe travel programs available.

One of our goals for this experience is that it will inspire you to share the power of a truly meaningful travel experience with your students or children in the future. To help make this happen, Global Explorers will offer a **\$100 discount** for future travel to children or students of any adult that participates in this program. In 2011, we will organize a group of Grandville students to visit Tambopata in 2012. In addition, we hope that you will consider organizing a group of students from your school to travel or encourage your own child to join one of these groups.

If you've ever had a deeply personal and truly meaningful travel experience, you know first-hand the impact that travel can have on your life. If you haven't, maybe this is the opportunity you've been waiting for? Either way, we truly hope that you join us for this adventure. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

**Blake Mazurek, Sally Van Eck and Teresa Snoap** – Grandville Teachers

**Blake:** bmazurek@gpsk12.net or 616-540-8902 / / / **Sally:** svaneck@gpsk12.net or 616-531-4554  
**Teresa:** tsnoap@gpsk12.net or 616-791-4435

\*You may also contact Jordy Oleson, Outreach Coordinator at Global Explorers, at [Jordy@globalexplorers.org](mailto:Jordy@globalexplorers.org) or 877-627-1425.

Visit [www.globalexplorers.org/news/WesternMichigan](http://www.globalexplorers.org/news/WesternMichigan) to learn more and to register. *Please note that this destination is not one of Global Explorers' standard offerings - Tambopata is a customized program.*

**LEARN MORE**

There are several opportunities to learn more about this opportunity:

**1. Join us for an information session:**

**When:** Thursday, March 25 at 7:00 PM

**Where:** Grandville High School rm 290

**2. Join us for a teleconference webinar with a Global Explorers representative:**

**When:** Tuesday, March 30, 7:00-7:30PM

**Instructions for Joining:**

- 1)** Dial 866 740 1260 (toll-free)
- 2)** Enter your access code: 4843633
- 3)** You can view slides at [www.readytalk.com](http://www.readytalk.com) by entering access code 4843633 at the top left. (Please allow five minutes prior to the call for the ReadyTalk slides to load.)

\*Can't join the call? It will be available on the Global Explorers website for download on March 31st by going to:

[www.globalexplorers.org/news/WesternMichigan](http://www.globalexplorers.org/news/WesternMichigan)



Global Explorers

## Western Michigan Educators & Parents

### Adventure Highlights

- Visit one of the most pristine and untouched areas of rainforest in the Americas. Learn about life in this remote region and search for giant river otters, poison dart frogs and maybe even a rare jaguar!
- Visit a world-famous macaw clay lick and marvel at the hundreds of scarlet macaws that flock there daily.
- Give back to this incredible place through a service learning project alongside local community members.
- Scour the tree line for caiman, boas, monkeys, three-toed sloths and other critters on a silent evening rainforest float.

*"It just made me look at life in a whole different perspective. We all came to a point where we realized that we understood life more for what it was."*

*- Vanessa, Participant*



### Program Description

Few places on Earth can rival the rich diversity, both culturally and ecologically, of the Amazon rainforest of South America. The vastness of the Amazon captivates the mind and reveals a world full of secrets. Experience the hustle and bustle of the rainforest community of Puerto Maldonado and immerse yourself in the slower lifestyle of rural river communities. Along the way, search for scarlet macaws, poison dart frogs and thousands of other species that call this amazing place home. Through fun, hands-on science activities and meaningful visits to local communities, this program presents a genuine opportunity to understand the importance of conservation in the rainforest. A true living classroom, the Amazon has the power to open the mind like no textbook can.

### Pre-Travel Learning

- Amazon ecology and rainforest conservation.
- Peruvian culture and history, and Spanish language.
- Leadership skills, service learning and responsible travel knowledge.



## Program Itinerary

*\*This tentative and customized itinerary is subject to change depending on group needs.*

### Day 1

We depart the U.S. and arrive in Lima, the capital of Peru. Depending on our flight schedule, we may spend the night at a hotel or we may head directly to Puerto Maldonado.

### Days 2-3

A connecting flight brings us to Puerto Maldonado, a small but bustling jungle city on the banks of the Madre de Dios River. From here we board a motorized boat for a spectacular ride to Posada Amazonas Lodge, our home for the next two nights. Here, we have the opportunity to learn about life in the neighboring river-side community of Infierno through a day-long community visit, a dance performance by local secondary school students and a guided ethnobotany walk by a local expert. We also go in search of the elusive giant river otters.

### Days 4-6

We travel for several hours by boat to reach the most remote of the lodges we will visit, Tambopata Research Center. The ride itself is spectacular with many wildlife spotting opportunities. Our expert

guides introduce us to the unparalleled richness of this area in terms of biodiversity. We spend our time looking for and learning about birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles, fish and insects. A highlight is the opportunity to visit the famous macaw clay lick located just next to the TRC. Here, we observe hundreds of macaws each morning as they retrieve nutrients from the clay. It is a truly spectacular display.

### Days 7-8

Today we depart TRC for Refugio Amazonas. We gain perspective of the canopy by practicing our tree climbing skills and then have an opportunity to explore river canals and tributaries. An evening boat-based caiman search is a highlight of our stay at this beautiful lodge.

### Day 9

We say goodbye to the forest this morning and head first by boat and then by plane back to Lima. We depart late this evening for the U.S.

### Day 10

Travel Home

## Program Details

Price: 2011: \$2,950

Expedition Length: 10 days

Location: Peru – Puerto Maldonado, Tambopata

Travel Dates: Summer 2011

### What's Included:

- All expenses while traveling in Peru (food, lodging, tips, in-country transportation, etc)
- Please see Global Explorers catalog for a more detailed list of everything our program fees include

### What's Not Included:

- International airfare to Lima, Peru
- Passport and immunization fees
- Personal travel items

### Who's Invited:

Any educator or parent in Western Michigan

### Group Size:

Minimum group size of 10 paying participants. Group may get as large as 30 travelers.

### Accommodations:

Participants stay in rainforest eco-lodges and always have access to clean drinking water and beds with mosquito netting in shared rooms. Expect delicious food and exceptional service everywhere you stay.

### To Sign Up:

Submit \$200 deposits to Blake Mazurek, Sally Van Eck or Teresa Snoop by June 1, 2010. Join us for an information session and/or webinar to learn more details.

# WHAT WE TEACH

## 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.

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.

## 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

