

Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School GCP Approved Travel Program List

The following travel programs have been pre-approved as satisfying the criteria for GCP travel. These programs represent a cross-section of the many excellent programs that are available. GCP participants are by no means limited to these travel programs, but should use them as a reference from which to determine if other programs might satisfy GCP criteria.

Please note that GCP participants must receive prior approval for any travel program in order to get GCP credit for it.

Approval may be given retroactively for qualified trips taken prior to the September 2011 launch of the Global Competence Program. The GCP Travel Experience Form is available on the GCP page of the Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School website.

Many programs below offer scholarships. The program contacts will be happy to discuss their scholarship opportunities with you. For suggestions on how to fund your travel experience, please go to the “GCP Travel is within Everyone’s Reach” section of the GCP website.

GCP Travel Partners

1. Amigos de las Americas

Local contact: Lawrence Copley

lgcopley@verizon.net

Website: www.amigoslink.org

Years in Operation: 41

Destinations: Central and South America

Program Length: 6-8 weeks

Philosophy: High level of immersion with a small number of students living and working in their assigned village

Program Focus: Homestay and community service; full cultural and language immersion

Scholarships: Fundraising offsets at least half of the \$4600 total program cost; cost should not be a deterrent, as the cost can be brought down to as low as \$500 for students in need of more financial support

Cost: \$4600 includes all except incidentals; students fundraise for half (\$2300) of total cost; there is a full-pay option for students who cannot commit time to fundraising; this program’s costs are relatively low because the host villages provide food and accommodations

Preparatory Requirements: Fundraising and pre-planning

Fundraising Support: Yes

Customized Programs for Teacher-Led Trips: No

Emergency Support: Work through locally based partner agencies

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2. AFS Intercultural Programs

Regional Contact: Jane Howard

jhoward@mountida.edu

Website: www.AFS.org/usa

Years in Operation: 61

Destinations: Extensive

Program Length: Exchange programs for one semester or full year; summer programs for 4-5 weeks

Philosophy: "Building a just and peaceful world begins when people from different cultures have better opportunities to understand one another."

Program Focus: Homestay with language study, community service or cultural activity focus; semester or year long exchange programs

Scholarships: Many! 40% of participants receive some financial aid; eligibility for scholarships is greater for those willing to let AFS match the participant to the destination

Cost: \$4500-6000, excludes domestic airfare to departure city, visa costs and \$120 for secondary insurance

Preparatory Requirements: Mandatory pre-departure orientation held regionally

Fundraising Support: Weekly fundraising conference calls with AFS contact and other students; fundraising info book

Customized Programs for Teacher-Led Trips: No. Do offer programs for U.S. educators to travel abroad, however.

Emergency Support: AFS office in every country, 3 volunteers/student (host parents and host "aunts/uncles")

3. Experiment in International Living

Contact: Geoff Hunt, 800-345-2929, geoff.hunt@worldlearning.org

Website: www.experimentinternational.org

Years in Operation: 78

Destinations: 31 countries

Program Length: 3-5 weeks

Philosophy: "Changing the world, one friendship at a time."

Program Focus: home-stay with different focus themes: community service, language study, travel, ecology, the arts, sustainable development, fair trade, cooking, photography, theater, outdoor adventure

Scholarships: yes; 5-50% of program fees are awarded to students requesting financial aid, based on need, and allocated on a rolling basis, therefore apply in November or December to have the best chance of receiving aid; if a strong relationship develops b/w NHS and EIL, they may consider awarding larger scholarships to students who qualify as "Outbound Ambassadors" based on an interview and financial need

Cost: \$4300-7600; includes international airfare, with the exception of the Mexico and Navajo Nation programs, as well as medical and travel insurance, three meals a day, in-country travel and group activities.

Preparatory Requirements: some programs have language requirements; short answer essays required for acceptance.

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Fundraising Support: nothing formalized, but fundraising is encouraged
Customized Programs for Teacher-Led Trips: 1-3 teacher-led trips/summer;
would consider customizing trips for school vacation programs; very proud of the
quality of their customized programs

Emergency Support: EIL feels that their emergency support system is one of
their strengths; have a broad network of native professionals (not volunteer) who
are actively involved with each group in all phases of each program; VT office is
on-call 24/7 for emergency assistance and has medical professionals on staff for
consultation.

4. Global Routes

Contact: Dianna Hahn or Rosie Perera, 413-585-8895, mail@globalroutes.org

Website: www.globalroutes.org

Years in Operation: 24+

Destinations: Asia, Africa, Central and South America

Program Length: 2 1/2-5 weeks

Philosophy: "The future of our global community depends upon our self-knowledge
as well as upon mutual understanding and respect among diverse
cultures. Global Routes deepens these roots of our shared community as we foster
personal and international development. Undertaking voluntary work overseas
allows North American youth the opportunity to push past stereotypes and
misconceptions to build strong relationships and self-understanding, as well as
buildings. Our foreign exchange programs help the global community to
flourish."

Program Focus: Extended cultural immersion and community service through
home-stays in rural areas combined with adventure travel. Students receive
between 50 and 100 hours of community service depending on program length.
Scholarships: Yes; financial aid awards are based on need, merit and availability;
covers 30-50% of program cost; all 2010 financial aid applicants received some
level of assistance.

Cost: \$3700-5625; doesn't include airfare, but Global Routes books air travel for
all participants at a group rate

Preparatory Requirements: 1 year language requirement for Spanish speaking
destinations; 2 teacher references and health form required; pre-departure phone
conversation between student and their group leader; each student encouraged to
fundraise prior to program departure to help cover the cost of building materials
and resources for community service projects

Fundraising Support: Guidelines for fundraising provided which includes
information on online fundraising.

Customized Programs for Teacher-Led Trips: Yes

Emergency Support: Work with local community contacts; leaders carry
international cell phones for direct access to and support from Global Routes
office; established relationships with medical clinics and hospitals within close
proximity to groups throughout program; 2 leaders/program of 14-18 students;
Global Routes administrative team is on-call 24 hours/day 7 days a week.

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5. Global Works

Contact: Polly or Fritz Moriarty

1-303-545-2202, groups@globalworkstravel.com

Website: www.globalworkstravel.com

Years in Operation: 18

Destinations: Costa Rica, Ecuador, Fiji, New Zealand, Puerto Rico, Ireland, France, Spain, Mexico, Peru, Argentina, Martinique

Program Length: 4 weeks, some 2-3 week programs

Philosophy: "Travel with purpose;" leaders trained to plant seeds for what students can do following their experience to continue to work toward improving the world

Program Focus: 40-80 hours of community service for which they receive a certificate; some programs include language immersion

Scholarships: Yes

Cost: \$4000-5000 for 4 weeks; doesn't include airfare or personal insurance

Preparatory Requirements: Language immersion programs require 2 years of study in the language

Fundraising Support: Guidelines available for customized programs for school groups

Customized Programs for Teacher-Led Trips: Yes

Emergency Support: Well outlined action plans for each destination and updated frequently; work with local community leaders/grassroots organizations at local level

6. Putney Student Travel

Contact: Jeff Shumlin

802-387-5000, jeff@goputney.com

Website: www.goputney.com

Years in Operation: 57

Destinations: Global

Program Length: 4 weeks, some 6 week programs

Philosophy: "Challenging, fun, active, educational summer programs to promote lasting personal growth through individual responsibility, friendship, mutual respect and active participation in communities around the world."

Program Focus: service, global awareness in action, language learning, cultural exploration or summer enrichment (study) programs

Scholarships: Students from families with an annual income of less than \$30,000 may receive financial aid; amount based on need; 25-30% of those applying for financial aid will receive it

Cost: \$5000-8000; includes everything except incidentals

Preparatory Requirements: Minimum number of years of language study for language learning programs

Fundraising Support: None

Customized Programs for Teacher-Led Trips: No

Emergency Support: Networks of doctors and clinics in each country; enroll each participant in emergency medical evacuation insurance plan

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7. United Planet

Contact: Katherine Osgood

Phone: 617-267-7763, Katherine@unitedplanet.org

Website: www.unitedplanet.org

Years in Operation: 7

Program Lengths: Short-term programs are 1-12 weeks and long-term programs are 6 months and 1 year. Volunteers choose their length of stay.

Destinations: 16 locations for short-term programs (1-12 weeks): Cambodia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Japan, Jordan, Nepal, Peru, Romania, Tanzania, Thailand, Tibet, Turkey

31 locations for long-term programs (6 months and 1 year): Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Honduras, Iceland, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Moldova, Mozambique, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Uganda, United Kingdom

Philosophy: As a non-profit organization, United Planet's mission is to foster cross-cultural understanding and address shared challenges to unite the world in a community beyond borders. United Planet's Quest volunteer abroad programs are designed to mirror this mission so that volunteers are immersed as much as possible in the local community while working in partnership with a local organization.

Program Focus: The Quest programs focus equally on cultural immersion and volunteer work. The programs are designed to allow the participants as much community interaction as possible through the volunteer work, homestays, cultural activities, language classes and excursions.

Scholarship: No

Cost: The cost for each program varies based on length of stay and destination.

Program fees for 1-week programs begin at \$1,395 and one-year programs cost \$8,956. Not included in the program fees are: international airfare, necessary vaccinations and relevant visa fees.

Preparatory Requirements:

Volunteers must read all pre-departure materials and attend a one-hour training that is held via phone and web conference. Volunteers must also sign a contract and submit a health form. Volunteers are welcome to fundraise toward the total cost of their program fee and international flight if they wish. There are no language requirements for most programs, except for Latin America where at least basic Spanish is required in most cases. We encourage all volunteers to learn as much of the local language before they depart.

Fundraising Support:

The United Planet Quest Team works very closely with each volunteer during the pre-departure phase. All volunteers have access to a United Planet and countryspecific on-line space with extensive pre-departure materials and information about the host country, local culture, health & safety, cultural adjustment, a sample itinerary, and more. Each volunteer's Regional Coordinator in the Boston office is available via phone and e-mail to answer all volunteer and parent

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questions. United Planet has a fundraising kit on-line with suggestions for fundraising, sample letters and other resources. Volunteers can also create their own fundraising webpage via the United Planet website where they can have friends and family donate directly to their Quest on-line.

Customized Programs for Teacher-Led Trips: Yes

Emergency Plans, Support at Travel Destination(s), Insurance:

All volunteers receive emergency medical insurance and repatriation coverage for the time they are on their Quest. Country specific health and safety information is available during the pre-departure process. United Planet has systems in place between the Country Coordinators and the Boston office staff to ensure communication at all times in the case of an emergency. The Country Coordinators are available to the volunteers 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

8. Where There Be Dragons

Contact: Megan Fetlig, 1-800-982-9203, Megan@wheretherebedragons.com

Website: www.wheretherebedragons.com

Years in Operation: 16

Destinations: China, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, India, Guatemala, Peru, Bolivia, Senegal and Morocco

Program Length: 6 week summer programs and semester programs

Philosophy: intimate, dynamic and rugged programs; students and leaders shape itinerary together to “follow their passions;” “Our programs are not for passengers; they are for participants!”

Program Focus: homestay, service, internships, meeting with leaders and artists

Scholarships: 20% of participants receive need-based scholarships

Cost: Summer: \$5250-7000, Semester: \$9250-9650; does not include airfare or personal insurance

Preparatory Requirements: None

Fundraising Support: None

Customized Programs for Teacher-Led Trips: Yes

Emergency Support: Connected with SOS for 24-hour on-call doctors and emergency evacuation plan; instructors carry medical kits, cell and or satellite phones; hire staff with in-country experience of at least 2 years; usually one of the three leaders are from the country, but familiar with American culture as well

9. Windsor Mountain

Contact: Angus Whyte, 404-549-9197

angus@windsormountain.org

Website: www.windsormountain.org

Years in Operation: 46

Destinations: Caribbean, Cuba, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico, South Africa, China

Program Length: 1 month

Philosophy: “...for students to gain a global perspective on complex ecological, social, economic and other cultural issues facing local communities, and discover the skills they need to carry their personal missions forward and to affect their own communities in meaningful and enduring ways.”

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Program Focus: Intercultural friendship exchange, leadership development, community service learning, wilderness adventure, environmental awareness, student-directed itinerary

Scholarships: 27% of participants receive some aid (up to 50%)

Cost: \$4700-5000; doesn't include airfare

Preparatory Requirements: Language training for Mexico, Cuba and China

Fundraising Support: Encourage fundraising and have some ideas to offer

Customized Programs for Teacher-Led Trips: A huge emphasis on such programs!

Emergency Support: Most programs work with a non-profit in the area or have many local contacts

10. World Challenge

Contact: Dana Artz, 617-391-0553; dartz@wcexpeditions.com

Website: www.wcexpeditions.com

Years in Operation: 21

Destinations: 30 countries

Program Length: 4 weeks

Philosophy: "Education through experience...physical challenges, eye-opening cultural exchanges...journeys of self-discovery." "From fundraising and travel preparation to teamwork in the field, 'Challengers' will develop skills and gain new insights at every step."

Program Focus: 19 month development program, culminating in a month-long overseas expedition; develops leadership and teamwork skills, organization and responsibility; trip includes a challenging trek and one week community service project

Cost: \$5700 for 2008 program to Peru

Scholarships:

Preparatory Requirements: 19 months of meetings to plan for trip, design itinerary and fundraise

Fundraising Support: Extensive

Customized Programs for Teacher-Led Trips: All World Challenge programs have a teacher-chaperone who advises the students in their fundraising and trip planning

Emergency Support: rigorous training for students and leaders, 24-hour

Operations Center, thorough risk assessments carried out prior to and during every expedition, ability to divert expeditions to alternative destinations when need arises, in-country agents, satellite communications

11. Youth for Understanding

Contact: Liz Sura, 617-868-3660, Lsura@YFU.org

Website: www.yfu.org

Years in Operation: 50+

Destinations: 35 countries

Program Length: Summer (4-8 weeks), semester and year

Philosophy: "We seek to transform young people by instilling passion for lifelong learning and the skills and knowledge to thrive and contribute amidst cultural diversity."

Program Focus: homestay, language and cultural immersion, interest-related, some travel programs with a homestay

Cost: Summer: \$5000-8000; doesn't include airport taxes, visa and passport costs, insurance or incidentals

Scholarships: 300 scholarships available

Preparatory Requirements: some language study required for some programs; pre-departure orientation first weekend in June to prepare students and parents

Fundraising Support: Strategies available on website

Customized Programs for Teacher-Led Trips: No

Emergency Support: Each student has an assigned volunteer in the host country; area rep. helps with medical emergencies

12. The Rotary Youth Exchange

Through the Rotary Club of Hamilton-Wenham, Rotary International, an excellent opportunity is available to you for experiencing another culture as part of your Global Competence Program. Rotary International has a program called Rotary Youth Exchange where students travel from the US to live with families in other countries and students from other countries come to the US to stay with families here. These trips can be for a whole school year (Long-Term Exchange), or for 3-8 weeks (Short-Term Exchange).

For outgoing students, the costs are kept extremely low compared to other programs because Rotary Clubs on both ends are doing much of the organization through volunteer efforts and the host families are volunteering their homes. The costs are limited to a \$65 application fee, a \$150 insurance policy, and air fare. If you are traveling on a Long-Term Exchange, you will even get a monthly allowance to give you spending money while you are there. The hosting Rotary Club pays that expense.

If you are interested, you should first check out the Rotary Eastern States Student Exchange web site (www.exchangestudent.org). Here is a quick excerpt from what you will find there:

"Each year, Rotary Youth Exchange provides about 8,000 young people the opportunity to experience the cultures, problems and accomplishments of people in other countries. Through this Rotary program, students are given the opportunity to grow as individuals while their concept of the world is growing too. Participants return with a broader view of the world and a deeper understanding of themselves.

When these young people become adults, many assume leadership roles in their

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communities and bring to these positions the benefits of and insights from their exchange experiences. As a result, Rotary's Youth Exchange program becomes a powerful force in the promotion of world understanding and peace.

Through Youth Exchange, Rotarians seek to provide the best possible environment for students. The program enjoys the advantages of over 30 years of experience and a network of more than 1.2 million Rotarians around the world. This experience and support system ensures the best possible exchange for participants in the program.”

Once you have reviewed the web site, if you are interested, you should call or email the Rotary Club of Hamilton-Wenham.

Contact: Betsy Manzelli at 978-468-3211 for more information.

GCP Travel Partners Disclaimer

These GCP approved programs have been selected based upon available information, but the Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School and Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District administrations have not independently verified this information. Therefore, Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School and Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District assume no risk or liability associated with participation in these programs. It is recommended that the parents/guardians of students applying to these programs independently verify all information and perform other due diligence.