

VISIONS

SERVICE ADVENTURES

2012 | OUR 24th SEASON



VISIONS

SERVICE ADVENTURES



Why VISIONS?

Our programs combine hands-on service work, intercultural living, and adventurous exploration.

We live together as a group in the heart of the host community, working and socializing with local friends. You will know the people whose lives you have impacted.

With VISIONS, you are rooted in one very new, very different place in ways that are exceptional and that surpass the superficial. Local people welcome you, sharing parts of their lives with you.

VISIONS participants spend at least half their time working in construction and other service. We break into several project groups each day so that you can choose what you do.

While service is our core focus, ample time to play and travel are woven into our weeks and days. We explore in ways that are challenging, engaging and purely fun. Because you are learning dynamically on so many levels, the rewards are significant.

Daily life, deep within the context of another culture, has a rhythm and substance that pushes you to tap into your potential and trust your capabilities.

You will return from VISIONS more aware of others, with a genuine appreciation for our diverse planet, and more confident in your ability to impact it productively.

Quality is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives.



Contents

<i>English-Speaking Programs</i>	
Alaska	6
British Virgin Islands	7
Cambodia	8
Dominica	9
Ghana	10
Mississippi	11
Montana	12
<i>French-Speaking Programs</i>	
Guadeloupe	13
<i>Spanish-Speaking Programs</i>	
Dominican Republic	14
Ecuador & Galapagos	15
Nicaragua	16
Peru	17
<i>Middle School Programs</i>	18
<i>Custom Programs</i>	19
<i>General Information</i>	
The Framework	4
FAQs	20
Noteworthy Information,	
Dates, Fees	21
Leaders	22
Participants	23

"Visions gives a unique experience. We live like average Dominicans, not as Americans living in the Dominican Republic. This allows you to understand and empathize for the local lifestyle. Living in the community gave me a life-changing experience that I never will forget."

—Lillian Kravitz, Montclair, NJ

The Framework

Community Service

Common to all VISIONS programs is the thread of service that runs through the days. VISIONS service projects are ambitious. We work hard to meet our commitments. We plan projects in collaboration with host communities in response to their needs.

VISIONS programs undertake a major construction project or several smaller construction and outreach efforts. You will learn technical skills from staff carpenters and local masons. Projects completed by our participants include: houses, schools, medical clinics, community centers, playgrounds, outdoor classrooms, gazebos, athletic courts and fields. We have built roads and trails, wildlife observation towers, sweat lodges and ceremonial arbors.

Projects also incorporate environmental work and sustainable development through the building of greenhouses, irrigation and potable water systems, compost latrines and endangered species hatcheries.

Every program includes non-construction service work. We participate in internships with micro-businesses, farmers, artisans, health workers and others. We organize day camps for children, tutor in classrooms, work with the elderly and disabled.

VISIONS maintains ties with host governments, schools, outreach and charitable organizations. Of equal if not greater value are our relationships, many of long standing, with individuals in the communities in which we live and work.



"This summer was extremely rewarding. I found working with my hands to be very enjoyable and knowing you created something to help the community and the environment was the best feeling. The positive reaction from the community made all the hard work worth it."

—Ella Cobleigh, Ardsley, NY



When we step out of our familiar lives to learn about other people and places through service work, we are choosing to enhance our local, national and global citizenship.

To be effective stewards of our own communities and of the world, we must participate in community life wherever we live.

To serve others, without expecting recognition or reward, brings a deeper understanding of oneself and of what it means to be part of the human community.

Service is fundamental to a healthy community, no matter the size.



Cultural Immersion

Cross-cultural learning and friendship is fundamental to VISIONS programs. Working with and for our hosts is a doorway to learning about their lives. You will learn about your community in various ways. We employ cooks, drivers, project managers and local guides who have been with us for years. We invite storytellers and historians, musicians and artisans to share their perspectives and skills. We enjoy genuine friendships established through long-term commitments with our host communities.

Although there are days we enjoy being tourists, more often we go places only the locals know and do things that tourists never experience. We share meals and downtime with folks who have become close friends over the course of many summers. Opportunities abound to meet and mingle with local people.

Spanish- and French-speaking locations offer language immersion. The strongest incentive to use your language is the desire to communicate with local friends and their desire to connect with you. Whether working with project managers in the Dominican Republic or Peru, visiting shopkeepers and fishermen in Guadeloupe, farming with families in Nicaragua or Ecuador, VISIONS participants engage with the language.

Adventure & Exploration

We take projects seriously and work hard. At the same time, **we provide a balanced experience overall.** Programs offer a variety of scenery, geography and exploring. **Challenging and fun activities are part of every week.** Afternoons following work may include swimming, short hikes, workshops with artisans, a soccer game with locals and exploring town, visiting large markets, and more.

Weekends are carved out for travel and excursions that take in each unique location. Activities include rock or ice climbing, swimming, hiking, backpacking and camping, snorkeling, scuba, sea kayaking, horseback riding and whale watching to name a few.

Everything we do in VISIONS, the degree of our success, depends on teamwork. We become interdependent, alternately supporting and leaning on each other. We live together, work together, explore and play together. Together, we strive to communicate honestly, live simply and enjoy our shared experience.

For this reason, we place a premium on communication. Our days are busy and jam-packed. Carving out time to listen to each other and reflect on the experience is essential. We meet a few times a week to keep lines of communication open, talk about the day's events and share insights. In this way we build the foundation that makes significant achievement and greater awareness possible.



Points of Focus



- Long-standing ties at program sites and daily immersion in local life
- Teaching of technical skills applied to collaborative, ambitious projects
- High-caliber, diverse leaders who return year after year
- Natural sense of place and deeper understanding of culture attained by living within the heart of a community
- Year-round planning that underpins an intentionally well-rounded experience
- Programs blend work, cultural exchange and broad-based, challenging exploration
- Immersion in community life increases foreign language conversational skills

Our Mission Since 1989

Through service work and dynamic experience, VISIONS offers new perspectives and deep learning while working for and with under-resourced communities.

The largest state with a landmass one-fifth the contiguous United States, Alaska has half the world's active volcanoes and more than half the planet's glaciers. Untouched wilderness stretching to the horizon, mountains not viewed so much as experienced, magnificent wild creatures. Ingenuity and resourcefulness are intrinsic to life in this formidable land. So far removed in location and attitude from the rest of the nation, Alaskans refer to everywhere else as simply "outside".

Since 1995, VISIONS groups have lived and worked in Athabaskan native villages along the western edge of Alaska and north of the Wrangell Mountains. The drive from Anchorage, our arrival point, along the Alaska Range over rivers and the Alaska Pipeline potentially offers your first glimpse of moose and caribou.

Service in Alaska is a unique mix of carpentry elements. With hammers and power drills, circular saws and shovels, anything from building bridges to rebuilding wooden trails and milling lumber is possible. Participants have built community centers and playgrounds, basketball courts and environmental trails, smokehouses and more.



"Alaska was undoubtedly the most unbelievable experience of my life. I will never forget the friends I made and the fulfillment I gained."

—Cecilia Boyers, St. Louis, MO

ALASKA ATHABASKAN VILLAGES

June 28 - July 26 (4 Weeks) \$5,050

East Central Alaska ○ Athabaskan Native Culture ○ Backpacking and Climbing ○ Wildlife Viewing

On day hikes to mountain peaks and backpacking trips in the Wrangells, spectacular wildflowers and wildlife viewing will take your breath away. With St. Elias Alpine Guides, we walk on the Root Glacier and climb its ice faces. We tour the ghost town of McCarthy on the edge of Kenicott, once home to the richest copper mines in the world.

You will be immersed in the daily lives of our Athabaskan hosts. Visits with village families are daily occurrences. Play basketball with local kids. Enjoy a picnic laid out with everything from potato salad to smoked salmon, hot dogs to moose and fry bread. Learn how to clean and cook salmon in the traditional way. Seek out village elders and learn beadwork while listening to stories of life in Alaska.



Islands rising out of clear blue waters. Mountain peaks touching trade wind clouds. White sand beaches stretching endlessly. A proud Afro-Caribbean heritage alive in a culture with all the flavor of the tropical surroundings.

Until the 1960s the British Virgin Islands (BVI) were relatively undeveloped, with just a dirt landing strip and few tourists. In the ensuing decades the nation planned wisely, avoiding high-rise casinos and endless shops, while also using the tourist industry to create relative autonomy and well-being unusual to the Caribbean. And yet all BVI residents do not benefit. Pockets of real need exist. BVI social services, for example, are under-funded and under-supported.

We work on Tortola, the largest island of the BVI, and our home base is a community center. Friendships forged through years of collaboration mean that our home base neighborhood knows and trusts us.

Your service will engage you directly with the warm enthusiasm of local carpenters, farmers, environmentalists and public servants. Through partnerships with the Ministries of Education, Health and Welfare, and Department of Agriculture and the National Parks



“The summer in the BVI is unforgettable. It gave perspective on how others live. I definitely encourage teenagers to explore the world, get a sense of different cultures. When you go on a program dedicated to community service, it makes you appreciate all the little things you’ve taken for granted.”

—Rosa Lechartier, France

June 28 - July 25 (4 Weeks) \$5,050

August 2 - August 22 (3 Weeks) \$4,050

Afro-Caribbean Immersion ○ Resort Scuba Diving ○ Hiking ○ Sailing

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS



Trust, VISIONS groups have built homes, playgrounds, mountain lookouts, beach facilities, rain shelters, walking trails and more.

Non-construction projects vary from painting public murals to volunteering with special needs children to a much-loved work rotation on a local farm where we harvest fruits and vegetables in an organic tropical setting.

Recreation engages us in every way with the natural surroundings. ‘Special Assignments’ are one way we explore by talking with locals to learn about small businesses, the environment and culture. We also snorkel and scuba, take hikes through tropical forests, go sailing, listen to steel drum music, play pick-up basketball games and barbecue on the beach.

“Tortola was a great experience. I miss everyone I met sooo much.”

—Kenny Clark, Bethesda, MD



Cambodia is on the rise with booming commerce and foreign investment. It also is a center for international development with over 3,000 registered non-governmental agencies inside its borders. Nestled between Thailand, Vietnam and Laos, Cambodia suffered more than its fair share of war and trauma during the 20th century. Memories of the Khmer Rouge's genocidal rule in the late 1970s remain, and Cambodians born since 1979 learn about this episode from family and in school. With nearly 15 million people today, Cambodians have shown determination and resilience in creating a new, better era.

Our home base is in the town of Battambang, in a province of the same name. Battambang Province is Cambodia's rice basket, renowned for delicious food, friendly people and breathtaking landscapes. It is ideally situated for exploring traditional Cambodia. Battambang town features charming colonial architecture and a relaxed pace unlike Phnom Penh, Cambodia's busy capital and largest, most cosmopolitan city.

Service is the centering lens for learning about Cambodia. Projects mix construction and social service with development organizations that focus on children, historic and cultural preservation, and peace-building. Some of our projects and activities will be integrated with Sarus Exchange Program. Founded by VISIONS' Southeast Asia Coordinator, Wes Hedden, Sarus seeks to build peace and understanding by engaging university students from Cambodia and Vietnam who live and work together in both countries.

Cambodia has two UNESCO World Heritage sites and seven more sites under consideration. Few countries can boast such splendid ancient temples and cities, and such natural beauty. We will take afternoon and weekend excursions to places of cultural and historical importance, including Angkor Wat, Tuol Sleng Prison, the Royal Palace and the National Museum, to name a few.

VISIONS Cambodia is for the adventurous participant with prior travel experience. Minimum age is 15.



CAMBODIA

June 28 - July 26 (4 Weeks) 5,050

Modern & Ancient Culture ○ Adventurous Travel ○ Northern Province ○ Diverse Development Organizations

"I was a fellow with Princeton-in-Asia, have worked with Volunteers In Asia since 2007, and interned independently with Heifer International. I have taught in Vietnam and Burma. These experiences, and what works and doesn't work for Westerners volunteering in Southeast Asia, help form the very foundation of VISIONS Cambodia. Our participants reap the wonderful rewards."

—Wesley Hedden
Southeast Asia Director





Dominica—the Nature Island—in the Caribbean West Indies is one of the purest of paradises, relatively untouched by tourists. Nearly two-thirds of Dominica is undeveloped. Its 365 rivers and streams are mostly usable by boats no larger than canoes. So abundant is fresh water that Dominica exports it to neighboring islands.

In the volcanic mountain range running the length of the island is the world’s largest oceanic rain forest, alive with exotic birds and animals. Evidence of Dominica’s volcanism is everywhere in hot springs and underwater vents that bubble offshore. Yet for all its beauty and natural resources, Dominica is one of the poorest Caribbean countries.

VISIONS lives on the northeast coast in Carib Territory. Caribs are the sole surviving early inhabitants of the Caribbean. Originating in the delta forests of South America, they journeyed in dugout canoes up the Caribbean chain, migrating from one island to the next. Once proud warriors, the Carib people live quietly today on



July 9 – August 5 (4 Weeks) \$5,050

Caribbean Culture ○ Rainforests & Waterfalls ○ Snorkeling ○ Indigenous Territory

DOMINICA

their small Reserve where facilities are primitive, though tropical fruits and fresh fish are abundant. Carib dance, music, foods, crafts and medicines survive, but many traditions quietly are slipping away between generations.

VISIONS participants have built pre-schools, classroom additions and traditional thatched huts. We have cleared land for a greenhouse, built roads and bus shelters, roofs, foundations and drainage systems. We also have renovated homes, assisted with health education initiatives and organized a day camp for Carib children.

In such a lush tropical environment, exploration is a must. We swim at beaches and in fresh water rivers, dip under waterfalls, hike through rainforests, tour Roseau (the capital) and venture to Portsmouth’s colonial forts. Many work days end at Melville Hall and Basa Majo, local nearby swimming holes.

“It exceeded his and our expectations. My son acknowledged that it was hard work mentally and physically, but that it was well worth it. He made sound friends for life and was happy that he was able to make a difference in the lives of the people of the Carib community. I want to thank Visions for giving my son an experience of a lifetime.”

—Parent Shirley Christopher-Vandewalle, Dubai



Akwaaba (“Welcome”) is the word you will hear often during your month in Ghana. Ghanaians are renowned for their hospitality, warmth and easy laughter. Ethnic backgrounds, languages (more than 70), topography and ways of life are as diverse and colorful as the ceremonial textiles integral to Ghanaian culture.

Ghana is widely regarded as a pillar of economic and political stability in West Africa. Because it has not succumbed to ethnic conflicts and civil wars, Ghana has been depended upon as a peace-keeping nation in the region. At the same time, there is widespread need for basic infrastructure and educational support.

Our service in Ghana focuses on youth of the Volta Region. Most construction projects take place at an orphanage and its affiliated school. The orphanage has ambitious long-range plans: renovations and additions to dormitories, construction of a clinic, the creation of a garden and an area to raise animals.

VISIONS participants will do construction work during the morning hours. Some afternoons you will spend time with the 50-plus kids who reside at the orphanage. The children graciously, patiently anticipate our arrival. There will be a few other projects locally in partnership with the Joy Family Association, an NGO doing public health outreach.



GHANA

June 28 - July 25 (4 Weeks) \$5,050

National Parks ○ African Wildlife ○ Volta Region ○ Music and Art



We carve out time to play games with local kids and visit families’ homes to learn their culture and traditions. You will learn traditional Kente textile-making with a weaving master, batik dyeing and drumming. Community leaders and nonprofit directors will talk with us to explain the work they do for their country.

Exploring the rich, mountainous Volta Region also is a priority. There will be excursions to main attractions such as Mole National Park for wildlife viewing, Kumasi (seat of the Ashanti Kingdom), the Cape Coast, gold mines and slave forts, historic castles, the country’s tallest waterfall, and Lake Volta, the world’s largest artificial lake.

“My Visions Ghana experience changed the way I look at life! I now realize how much I have and how much I need to appreciate everything. After spending so much time with the children at the orphanage, I learned that I can be happy anywhere, with or without possessions.”

—Amanda McAneny, Chesapeake, MD





The setting for VISIONS Mississippi is best captured in this 2005 press release of the Lawyer’s Committee for Civil Rights Under Law:

“North Gulfport and Turkey Creek are communities rooted in African American history. Purchased and settled by a group of recently emancipated African-Americans in 1866, the few acres of land later known as Turkey Creek was a vibrant, self-sufficient neighborhood, replete with farms, homesteads, and the first African-American school in the Gulfport region.... At the time that Katrina struck, North Gulfport and Turkey Creek were the sites of historic homes and minority businesses. Residents had been working hard to obtain historic preservation status and build affordable housing. Now, the communities are fighting to survive.”

In partnerships with the North Gulfport Land Trust, Audubon Mississippi and Turkey Creek Community Initiatives, VISIONS participants have accomplished impressive service. This includes construction of a 600 sq. ft. outdoor environmental classroom, fishing decks, and an arched footbridge giving access to a waterway that was once the setting for Saturday fishing contests. We have painted community murals with the North Gulfport Youth Council, distributed health and social services information throughout the community, volunteered at the Isaiah Fredericks Senior Center, planted trees, and more.



June 28 - July 25 (4 Weeks) \$5,050

Historic African-American Neighborhood ○ Flatboat Crabbing ○ New Orleans ○ Cajun Cookouts

MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST REGION

Of course, it’s never all work in Mississippi. A spontaneous invitation to Flowers’ family reunion, complete with his famous fried catfish. Mark LaSalle’s irresistible Cajun hospitality and keen Audubon wisdom, and a Moss Point barbecue with live music and tall Southern tales. Derrick Evans’ compelling accounts of Turkey Creek’s strategic place as a major watershed wetland. (In 2006 Robert Kennedy Jr. stood in the outdoor classroom that VISIONS built and named Derrick Mississippi’s first Waterkeeper.)

You’ll also fish on the bayou, take a flatboat spin to try crabbing, spend a day and night in New Orleans, attend Choctaw Indian Days and a pow wow, explore Shipp and Dauphin Islands and the lush coastal backwoods by canoe and riverboats.

“...we should give and help when we can. I think Visions really awakened that quality in me—it showed me what a little bit of goodness can do for the greater community.”

—Ricardo Daniel Pagulayan, Arlington, VA



America's fourth largest state is home to fewer than one million people. Montana is vast prairies, golden grain fields and wilderness. Montana also is home to seven Plains Indian reservations, each a semi-sovereign nation with distinctive histories and traditions. History, politics and prejudice still conspire against Native Americans. Indian tribes have the lowest median income of any racial group in the country and the highest percentage of population below the poverty line.

VISIONS Montana is a window to the generosity, humor and traditions that characterize Plains Indian life today. Our home base on the Blackfeet reservation, which borders Glacier National Park and Canada, is a place of power and beauty.

Long-standing ties since 1991 create opportunities to learn about Indian culture from the inside. Project partners include the Blackfeet Head Start Program, the Piegan Institute Immersion Schools and the Blackfeet Land Trust.



MONTANA PLAINS INDIAN RESERVATION

June 28 - July 25 (4 Weeks) \$5,050
August 2 - August 22 (3 Weeks) \$4,050

Glacier National Park ○ Blackfeet Indian Reservation ○ Backpacking ○ Horseback Riding

Projects have included renovations to community buildings and elders' homes, playgrounds for schools, softball fields and basketball courts, traditional dance arbors and landscaping.

You will meet tribal historians, civic and spiritual leaders, storytellers, ranchers and naturalists. You will join in a sweat ceremony, possibly help build a sun dance lodge, learn traditional

beading and share meals with local friends. We also venture beyond the reservation's border for activities such as rock climbing, hiking, backpacking in Glacier National Park, and even attending a rodeo. We ride horses and relax at the Crossguns family ranch, and attend a weekend pow wow of dance and drumming competitions, fry bread, beaded jingle dresses and ornate headdresses.

"I felt that by living on the Blackfeet reservation, I gained a sense of being one with nature and I began to look at life through the lenses of the tribal members I met."

—Sarah Jen, Chappaqua, NY





In the French West Indies, where French is spoken with a musical lilt, Guadeloupe comprises nine inhabited islands. It has seen Spanish, English and French Colonial settlers and the importation of African slaves and indentured servants from India. All brought traditions that have blended over centuries into a lively cultural potpourri.

Islanders perceive their dependence upon France as a two-edged sword, bringing economic stability at the price of independence. Guadeloupeans are forever discussing their country that, as a Department of France, is both a part of Europe and decidedly not, a member of the global economic order, yet a world apart.

While Guadeloupe is hardly affluent, crippling poverty is rare. Yet in the context of language immersion, you will understand service as meeting both material and social needs of a unique community. Projects vary from renovating public buildings to paving walkways and maintaining the community garden to clearing trails with Service Technique. We work with children and we apprentice with fishermen, sorbet vendors, and a craftsman who weaves salaku hats.

We live on Terre de Bas, one of Iles Des Saintes, tiny islands forming the Archipelago. If the main island of Guadeloupe is a special mélange of new worlds and old, then the tranquil fishing villages of the Saintes are an even smaller universe. Charming, unhurried ways of the village of Petite Anse are all ours to savor, and we are warmly welcomed by our Saintoise friends.



June 28 - July 25 (4 Weeks) \$5,450

West Indies ○ Southern Archipelago Island ○ Snorkeling ○ Beaches ○ French Immersion

GADELOUPE



Hiking is a frequent pastime, usually ending at a beach or vista overlooking the sea. We ferry to Terre-de-Haut and to the mainland where we shop at artisan markets and hike to La Soufriere volcano. We snorkel, kayak and scuba dive. We learn *Zouk* and *Gwoka* (Creole for “big drum”), the dancing and drumming that underpin the islands’ musical tradition.

“Terre-de-Bas feels apart from the rest of the world in a timeless way. [You live] in a place where everything is imported, even the fresh water is brought from the mainland through pipes across the sea. The smallest changes can affect everyone. I learned to face change—like how the pelicans sleeping on the ocean surrender to the waves, trustingly letting the current carry them to an unknown destination. I came back renewed and refreshed.”

—Andrew Russell, Appomattox, VA





The island nation of the Dominican Republic is one of the most culturally vibrant and historically rich countries in the Americas. The warmth and resilience of Dominicans have charmed and inspired VISIONS participants since 1991. VISIONS' history in the communities where we live is one of deep friendships and enduring partnerships.

“One of the best experiences of my life. It was great to get away from my daily routine. I connected with a lot of people who I am thankful I had the chance to meet.”

—Ethan Leigner
Northbrook, IL

Poverty is a fact of life in the Dominican Republic. So precarious are resources that electricity is rationed in most neighborhoods and receiving an education can be a luxury. Our current project site is San Luis, on the northern edge of Santo Domingo. Santo Domingo is the DR's most populous city and arguably one of the nation's most impoverished regions. San Luis is a batey neighborhood, built up around a now-defunct sugar cane factory.

Service in the DR is demanding, eye-opening and rewarding. Projects are primarily masonry construction. We work with the families whose homes and community centers we build. Past participants have built over a dozen homes, a medical clinic and



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

June 28 - July 25 (4 Weeks) \$5,050

Vibrant Music ○ Language Immersion ○ Beaches ○ Dominican Alps ○ Historic Sites

public schools. We have renovated housing and created a public park. We also organize a day camp for children.

The counterpoint to our labor is the time we spend exploring and playing. We visit marketplaces, learn *merengue*, and stroll through the colonial district of Santo Domingo, the oldest city in the Western Hemisphere. We relax on beaches with clear waters perfect for snorkeling and swimming.

In the country's interior, you will climb one of the Caribbean's highest peaks in the Dominican Alps. Days always include time with Dominican friends—perhaps a game of dominoes or *bitilla*, played with a broomstick and plastic bottle cap, the skill-sharpening precursor to baseball.





Ecuador is a land of marked contrasts where wood-burning stoves and thatched roof dwellings coexist with iPods and cell phones. Where the rarest of species live on an isolated group of islands 600 miles off the coast. Where Galapagos fishing and farming threaten the very existence of the extraordinary island ecosystem.

VISIONS Ecuador offers an experience that includes diverse elements: traditional Andean villages, larger cities and the Galapagos Islands. For three and a half weeks your home is in Patate, an idyllic village of 12,000 people in Central Ecuador's Tungurahua Province. The region's rich soils yield a diversity of crops, earning Tungurahua Province the epithet "dinner plate of Ecuador". The views are breathtaking and local people are proud of their treasured landscape.

Service projects are a mix, to be sure. Ecuador participants have constructed preschools, kiosks for marketplaces, cisterns, an ethnographic museum and potable water systems. We teach English, art and sports to school children, have prepared greenhouse space for communal gardens, assisted reforestation efforts, and helped families milk cows and harvest crops.

We eat meals with Ecuadorans, join their pastimes and festivities, play street soccer, learn local trades, make *quimbolitos*, and enjoy traditional dance and music. Andean



June 28 - July 25 (4 Weeks) \$5,600

Andean Village ○ Galapagos Islands ○ Eco-Exploration ○ Snorkeling ○ Spanish Language

ECUADOR AND THE GALAPAGOS



exploration includes artisan markets, sojourns at Banos hot springs, treks to coves and waterfalls, hikes to mountain vistas that will take your breath away. After departing Patate, we tour the historic capital of Quito.

Our final days unfold on the Galapagos island of San Cristobal, where Darwin first landed. You will discover wildlife treasures and accomplish service, but with scales tipped in favor of exploration. We get up close to blue-footed boobies, giant Galapagos tortoises, sea lions, iguanas, penguins and finches. An all-day boat trip includes snorkeling in the clear blue waters.

"My beliefs, values and morals changed in ways I will never fully understand, and the sense of camaraderie with the other participants is something I never will let go of."

—James Robbins, Little Rock, AR





“It was an incredible summer. I would recommend this to anyone who wants to experience a new culture and have some adventures. I made so many strong friendships with my fellow participants, as well as with my Nicaraguan hosts. I learned a lot about a different way of life, and I learned even more about myself. Every Visions kid on this trip had an amazing time, and we all want to go back to Nicaragua some day.”

—Alison Fisher, Westboro, MA

Nicaraguans embrace life with openness and equal measures of tranquility and optimism. It is our good fortune to spend free time with our hosts eating dinner together, partaking in dancing and karaoke nights, playing games and sports, talking about culture and history. You’ll make many local friends and gain insights into the country of which they are so proud.

Our home base is in the northern highland city of Jinotega, nestled at the base of a forested mountain range and in a region renowned for its top-end coffee production. Exploration during the program includes an overnight stay on an ecological coffee farm, hiking to panoramic views, boating at nearby Lago de Apenas. We tour Granada, the oldest colonial city in Central America, with its cobblestone alleys and vibrant colonial homes, and we take in a sprawling artisan market.

Nicaragua has emerged as one of the safest Central American destinations for travelers. The least densely populated yet physically the largest country in Central America, it arguably has the most breathtaking landscapes. One-fifth of the nation is protected in



NICARAGUA

June 28 - July 25 (4 Weeks) \$5,050
August 2 - August 22 (3 Weeks) \$4,050

Coffee-Growing Region ○ Mountain Valleys ○ Crater Lakes ○ Intensive Immersion



national parks and reserves. And yet, Nicaragua is one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere, second only to Haiti. Nicaraguans are determined to change this.

A nationwide sustainable movement has taken hold. A shared notion among Nicaraguans is sustainability—solar and wind power, clean water, ecotourism and organic production initiatives abound. We partner with AVODEC, a grassroots NGO working on a variety of initiatives including potable water systems, compost latrines, plant nurseries, agricultural and other environmental projects. You might also volunteer with young children teaching handicrafts and games.





Peru claims 84 of the world's 103 known ecological zones and 28 different climates, placing it among the five countries with the greatest biological diversity in the world. The country's Andean peaks rise to their most majestic height in the heart of Peru's southern interior. There, in the Sacred Valley of the Incas, lies our home town of Urubamba.

The sierra region is home to Peru's poorest. In collaboration with local community sectors and in the *faena* tradition, we build schools and classroom additions, irrigation canals, wells, potable water septic systems, even the valley's only fire station. We install *cocinas mejoradas* (cleaner-burning stoves) in highland homes. Internships with small businesses engage us with traditional weavers, potters, carpenters and beekeepers.



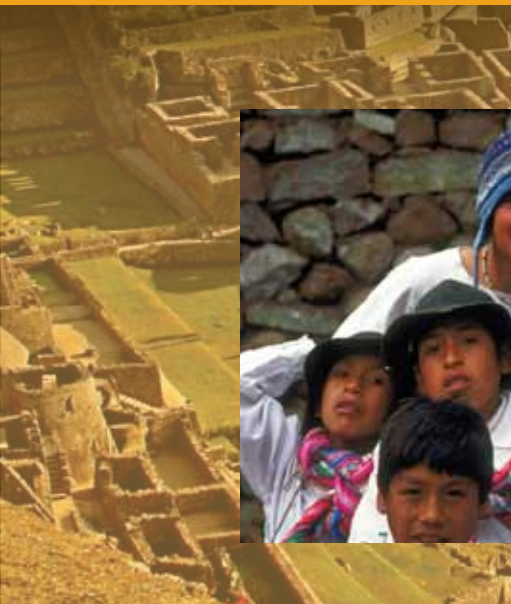
Spanish language skills inevitably improve when conversing with Nico, our projects manager, with our cook Neyda while helping her prepare a meal, and with the masons who work with us daily. Trekking and exploring are weekend pastimes. We explore Ollantaytambo, the immense



June 28 - July 26 (4 Weeks) \$5,050
August 1 - August 22 (3 Weeks) \$4,050

Sacred Valley of the Incas ○ Spanish & Quechua Cultures ○ Cusco ○ Machu Picchu

PERU



fortress of Saqsaywaman whose walls boast 125-ton stones, and PISAQ market where merchants have been selling their wares for more than four centuries. In Cusco we discover gilded art adorning Spanish cathedrals, walk Plaza de Armas and browse the shops.

We hike to the Maras salt mines, an ancient sprawling complex of shallow pools dug into the hillside filled with naturally saline waters. We go to Machu Picchu, starting our journey by train, passing centuries-old aqueducts, tombs and terraces on the way. We overnight in a hostel on the banks of the Urubamba River and rise before dawn to be at the Sun Gate just as the sun's first beams break over the majestic peaks.

"This was the best experience of my life. I met 25 kids who I became close with and who were excellent friends. My knowledge of Spanish expanded greatly. Lastly, the community service aspect was the best part. Every Peruvian was thankful and they always were smiling."

— Samuel Wander Slingerlands, NY

The Passage Programs have the same components and framework as VISIONS' programs for teens: service, cross-cultural learning, and adventurous exploration in a supportive, interdependent small group setting. Participants will be fully engaged and appropriately challenged, members of a family-like team that lives and works together to achieve shared goals. Both Passage Programs aim to give participants a wider perspective, increased self-confidence, greater self-awareness and respect for others.

ISLAND PASSAGE - British Virgin Islands

Virgin Gorda is a small, quiet, closely knit island community. Our home base is St. Mary's School, long familiar to VISIONS. The school sits atop a hill on the north coast and it boasts the best breezes on Virgin Gorda. From our back door we can see to the ocean below and hear the waves.

Projects include anything from building shade arbors and picnic benches for BVI National Parks or doghouses for the island's animal shelter to renovating playgrounds and helping teach swimming lessons to local children. We also assist with odds-and-ends repairs at the school's campus.

Excursions will include a boat trip to neighboring Anegada, an even more remote island and coral atoll where pink flamingoes forage the saltwater

ponds. We will hike, snorkel, enjoy mini-golf and the exquisite beaches, and ferry to the main island of Tortola to shop and see the sights.

We'll meet and mingle with many island friends, enjoy dancing and listening to steel drums, and learn about Virgin Islands' culture up close, every day.

"I enjoyed everything one hundred percent. The staff were amazing. They were patient, full of energy, and enjoyed and wanted to be on the program as much as I did. The projects were rewarding and at the same time a lot of fun. This trip was truly an amazing experience that I loved from start to finish."

—Dana Weinberg, Chappaqua, NY



PASSAGE PROGRAMS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Island Passage: July 5 - July 26 (3 Weeks) \$4,100
Northern Passage: June 28 - July 18 (3 weeks) \$4,050

Two unique programs tailored to students interested in an early start with VISIONS

"It was a great experience for both of my boys, and they are planning to go again next year."

—Marion Lang, Amarillo, TX

NORTHERN PASSAGE - Montana

The Northern Cheyenne reservation in southeast Montana has been home to VISIONS off and on since 1992. We live together in a school in Lame Deer, the central town on the reservation, and also work in Birney Village, a traditional village of just 50 families on the Tongue River.

Service projects include renovating playgrounds, building handicapped ramps and making repairs to elders' homes, constructing facilities at Cheyenne Children Services and making picnic tables for public spaces, to name a few. We also assist with activities for local youngsters during their day camp, including making fishing poles, doing crafts and maintaining a small organic garden.

Outings and excursions will include overnight backpacking, hiking, trips to the Medicine Wheel in the Big Horn Mountains and to the Little Big Horn Battlefield National Monument, site of Custer's Last Stand. We'll see the tribe's buffalo herd and go swimming in mountain lakes. We attend the Lame Deer pow wow, learn traditional beadwork from Florence Running Wolf, share a sweat lodge with her husband, Mike, and discover Cheyenne culture from our Cheyenne friends. We also take a trip into Billings, Montana's largest city, for a movie or stroll through the outdoor Farmers Market.





In concert with our partner organizations, VISIONS runs quality, customized service programs for educational groups, service clubs, language clubs and groups that want to travel in the spirit of community service, cultural immersion and adventure. Custom Programs are open to all ages and may be tailored to specific needs.

We invite you to plan a Custom Program with VISIONS. In doing so, you are assured of the highest quality volunteer travel experience. VISIONS will collaborate closely with you to create a program that meets your group's goals and desires, ensuring a rewarding experience for all.

Programs incorporate a successful framework that has been the core of VISIONS since our founding in 1989. Your experience will be intimate, dynamic and memorable. Your group will live for awhile, from 7 to 20 days or more, in a community well known to VISIONS and with which we have forged solid, trusting partnerships over time.

Almost immediately upon arrival, you will enter an "environment of flow," meaning that your group will be immersed in the community from the get-go, will mix and mingle with your hosts socially and while working on service projects. Woven into the days are ample opportunities to explore the surroundings in ways that are engaging, exciting and occasionally simply relaxing.



Open to all ages at all locations on a year-round basis
Community service always is a main component

CUSTOM PROGRAMS

As the world's communities become increasingly interdependent, the need for understanding and learning across cultures increases. By providing an engaging cross-cultural, experiential learning experience within the context of service work, exploration and community-building activities, a VISIONS Custom Program offers the opportunity to gain the confidence and capacity necessary to build the relationships and intercultural competencies that will strengthen local and global communities.

"Visions has great partners—they work with NGOs, making a difference and knowing the locals. We've gone to both Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic. We worked in a very integrated way with their leaders... We feel blessed in the partnership that we have created with Visions."

—Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein
B'nai Jeshurun, New York, NY

"I wanted you to know that things could not have been better with the trip. Visions leaders were attentive, energetic, intuitive, and kindly firm, just as I would have hoped. I felt that we worked well as a team and that the students rose to the challenges facing them. What I especially liked about the program was the full immersion—the after-work activities that pushed all of us to develop our language skills. Almost every parent, and all of the kids, have sought me out to tell me this was the best experience of their life!"

—Anne Weston
Heathwood Hall
Associate Head of School

F.A.Q.

“Who participates in VISIONS?”

VISIONS participants are motivated, curious, risk-taking teens (and middle schoolers) with an interest in service work in a new and different culture. An average of thirty-two US states and six countries are represented in VISIONS programs. Our participants choose cross-cultural service as the vehicle for learning about people and places beyond their own familiar communities. VISIONS is an immersion experience, not a tour, traditional residential camp, outdoor adventure or academic program. Programs are gender-balanced and maximum group size is 25 with six leaders—large enough to ensure a mix of personalities yet small enough to feel family-like.

“Do I need specific skills?”

The majority of VISIONS participants have no carpentry skills. VISIONS staff and local maestros teach you new skills. A willingness to learn is all that is expected. We have in-depth orientation to tool use, worksite protocol and safety procedures, and the chance to construct something modest before starting your major projects. Staff and local friends guide you throughout.

Activities such as backpacking, kayaking, climbing or diving are supervised by professionals who have experience teaching people of all levels of ability.

“What is expected of me?”

VISIONS is jam-packed. Safe, considerate conduct is essential, along with respect for the framework of the program. There is a lot to do and we have goals to meet. A mindset of teamwork and flexibility is a must. We expect participants to commit to the work goals, to be actively curious about the community and to come ready to invest in their and their peers' experience.

“Are there foreign language requirements?”


Spanish and French sites require a minimum two years classroom language study or the equivalent proficiency.

“Do participants come with friends?”

We prefer that VISIONS participants attend solo and believe participating without a friend offers the greatest personal gain. And while almost all participants come on their own, we do allow two friends to attend the same program on the condition that both make conscious efforts to be part of the whole group. To encourage spontaneity and cohesiveness, we do not allow more than two friends on the same program.

“How old are the kids?”

On high school programs, kids are 14 through 18 years old. There always is a range of ages in VISIONS programs; a few 14-year-olds, a fair showing of 15-year-olds, and mostly 16, 17 and even 18 years old. Because our goals of community service and team-building are so focused, age on a VISIONS program is less relevant than it may be during the regular course of the school year.



Middle school programs are for 11- to 14-year-olds, with most participants aged 13 and 14. *Note that 14-year-olds may choose a high school or middle school program, and each age is represented on all programs with great success.*

“What is the policy on cell phones and tech gadgets?”

Cell phones and gadgets are permitted for travel days but they are not part of the day to day of a program. On the whole, local residents have far fewer material resources than we, a contrast that is dramatic. We are a largely affluent group living and working in small communities—hi-tech items serve to accentuate our differences. Also, a reality of living in any developing country or depressed community is petty theft. We keep cell phones, valuables and money locked away in secure places.

Perhaps most important, our goal is for you to be engaged in the here and now of your experience. Programs offer personal connections, sights, sensations and sounds that are unique. VISIONS is an opportunity to forsake distractions of regular routines at home for awhile and to focus on an experience that has the potential to be one of the most powerful of your life.

“Where will I live?”

While accommodations vary, none of our living spaces is luxurious. We reside in a community building, school or large rented home, which becomes our base for the program. All are neat, clean and sanitary. Boys and girls are separated into their own spaces, staff live with the participants. We may take overnight trips on weekends. Your bed is an inflated or foam mattress on bunks or on the floor. You will have a shelf or cubby for storing personal items, and there are private changing areas and indoor plumbing at all our sites.

Resources available are oftentimes unsophisticated compared to home. The very nature of what we do puts us in communities with rudimentary infrastructures. Water may be scarce, so full-blast showers every day would be wasteful. Electricity may be inconsistent. We make every effort to create a comfortable and welcoming environment, and we do so within the framework of the surrounding community.

“How will I spend my time?”

About half of the program is service work. Count on working five days a week, usually until mid-afternoon. You choose from among several projects that include a central construction project and a few smaller initiatives.

After work and many evenings are a mix of close-to-home excursions, internships with artisans, sports with local friends, downtime and other activities that take advantage of our surroundings. Weekends are carved out for travel, full-day recreational and cultural activities, and pure fun.

Evening meetings are three to four nights a week, lasting an hour or so. After that you can relax with friends from the program or community. On the nights we are not meeting, we often plan an outing or invite visitors to our home base.



Noteworthy Information



Application Procedure

To apply, complete our online application or contact us to receive a copy. A deposit of \$600 (or full payment if after April 1) and a signed enrollment agreement are required along with the application. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and are subject to availability. At VISIONS' sole discretion, we reserve the right to refuse and/or rescind acceptance to a student who we believe is unsuitable for our programs for health, physical ability or reasons of behavioral history, or who subjects the program to any risk of harm or disrespect. Failure to disclose fully any information regarding the participant that results in an inappropriate placement in a program is cause for dismissal without refund.

Families receive program and health information, travel details, packing list, medical and health insurance forms, and liability releases for activities. If the participant is not a U.S. citizen, it is the participant / parent / guardian's sole responsibility to obtain, in advance, visas and other documents required to enter an overseas program.

Tuition

The \$600 deposit includes a \$300 non-refundable processing fee. The remaining \$300 and other funds paid toward tuition are refundable until March 15 and non-refundable thereafter. Full tuition balance is due April 1. Applications submitted after April 1 must include payment in full. Listed prices are for cash/check payment. Notify us if you prefer to pay with credit card, for which there is a 3% convenience fee. Tuition does not include airfare, personal spending money, or departure/entry taxes. For your convenience, VISIONS sells or rents some of the items on the packing list. VISIONS' insurance does not cover and VISIONS is not responsible for theft or loss of personal property or equipment of participants.

Rebates, Withdrawals, Trip Insurance

The seasonal nature of summer programming precludes rebate of tuition fees for cancellation after March 15, or for late arrival to, early withdrawal from, or missed days during the program due to a medical emergency, injury or other crisis. Our costs are determined on a group basis, not a per-student/per-day basis. We strongly recommend tuition protection coverage, which may be purchased through our website or by calling our office, or through a provider of your choosing.

Program Alterations

It is VISIONS' intention to conduct programs and projects at sites described in the brochure and website. Projects or sites may be altered due to any act of God, including weather or other condition affecting the safety of participants, cultural sensitivities, and circumstances beyond VISIONS' control. When possible, families will be notified in advance of such changes. If a program is cancelled by VISIONS for any reason prior to its starting date, VISIONS will place the applicant on another program of his/her choice depending on availability or will refund full tuition paid. VISIONS is not responsible for other costs incurred preparing for a trip that has been cancelled.

Terms of Participation - Conduct

Participants may not use, pursue the use of, or possess tobacco products, alcohol, illegal drugs/substances, nor abuse over-the-counter drugs. Exclusivity, sexual activity, intimate involvement is not allowed due to the emotional impact upon individuals and on the dynamic of

the group. Program policies are established with safety, health and welfare, common sense and local laws in mind. Chronic defiance of rules and procedures set forth, disrespectful, abusive, unsafe or illegal conduct and ongoing profanity will not be tolerated. We reserve the right to remove participants from the program who VISIONS ascertains have violated the conditions for participation or whose behaviors are counterproductive to community-building, offensive to or disrespectful of our host community or otherwise detrimental to maintaining standards or successful operation of the program. Participants who are dismissed will be flown home at the expense of parent/guardian who will be responsible for making timely changes in airline reservations. No tuition or other fees will be reimbursed and additional costs incurred by VISIONS will be charged to and paid for by parent/guardian.

Safety and Health

Safety is our premier consideration, and we are proud of our exceptional safety record. There are risks inherent to programs of this nature, both foreseeable and unforeseeable. Participants and their families must understand the nature of our programs and accept the risks involved. These risks include but are not limited to: the risks of air, foot and motor travel; unfamiliar diet and diarrhea; civil unrest, war, terrorist activity. It is imperative that students follow the rules, policies and protocols established by VISIONS and any adventure services contracted by VISIONS. Any disability arising during the program must and will be examined and verified by a physician of VISIONS' choosing. Certain adventure activities require additional liability releases signed by parent/guardian and will be included with our materials. All participants must have health insurance coverage, valid passports and, in most locations, emergency evacuation insurance. Participants will receive health insurance and medical forms to be completed and signed by a physician and parent/guardian. Participants must come with and wear appropriate gear and modest clothing, as outlined in the packing list.

Flights

VISIONS organizes group flights from select U.S. airports, where we greet participants, help them check in and see them through security. Families also are free to make individual travel arrangements but must confirm itineraries with VISIONS before final booking. Summer program leaders meet each participant, regardless of group or individual flight, at the program site's receiving airport, and also see all participants off at the conclusion of the program. VISIONS has no control over the airlines and is not responsible for cancellations or other disruptions in travel to/from our sites. Complete travel information is provided after enrollment or sooner upon request. Extra transportation expenses for some overseas programs may include entry/exit taxes. Group flights are not chaperoned by VISIONS' representatives. VISIONS offers overnight hotel chaperon service for a fee to participants traveling on the group flight, and arriving the evening in advance.

Communication

After greeting flights on the day of arrival, parents/guardians receive a safe arrival notice by phone or email. We carve out time once a week for participants to contact home. All sites have phones for

business, messages or emergency calls only, and are not for regular use by participants. VISIONS' headquarter office can be reached 24 hours a day, and messages also may be left at the program site.

Food

Menus on all programs include meat and vegetarian dishes, pasta, vegetables, fruits and fresh foods. Food is nutritionally balanced and plentiful. We practice strict health protocols, especially in the choice and preparation of foods at our overseas sites. VISIONS hires dinner cooks who prepare a blend of Western and local fare. Everyone helps prepare breakfasts and lunches, helps set up and clean up after all meals. Participants with exceptional dietary restrictions should let us know well in advance so that we can plan to accommodate these needs, if feasible.

Community Service Credits

All participants who complete a VISIONS' program successfully receive a Certificate of Service recognizing between 65 and 100 hours and detailing the projects accomplished.

Financial Aid

VISIONS offers a limited number of scholarships to attend our programs based on need and demonstrated initiative. Information and an application are available on our website or by contacting our office.

July Programs	4 Weeks	Tuition
Alaska	6/28 - 7/26	\$5,050
British Virgin Islands	6/28 - 7/25	\$5,050
Cambodia	6/28 - 7/26	\$5,050
Dominica	7/9 - 8/5	\$5,050
Dominican Republic	6/28 - 7/25	\$5,050
Ecuador & Galapagos	6/28 - 7/25	\$5,600*
Ghana	6/28 - 7/25	\$5,050
Guadeloupe	6/28 - 7/25	\$5,450*
Mississippi	6/28 - 7/25	\$5,050
Montana	6/28 - 7/25	\$5,050
Nicaragua	6/28 - 7/25	\$5,050
Peru	6/28 - 7/26	\$5,050
August Programs	3 Weeks	
British Virgin Islands	8/2 - 8/22	\$4,050
Montana	8/2 - 8/22	\$4,050
Nicaragua	8/2 - 8/22	\$4,050
Peru	8/1 - 8/22	\$4,050
Middle School Programs	3 Weeks	
Island Passage	7/5 - 7/26	\$4,100*
Northern Passage	6/28 - 7/18	\$4,050

*Ecuador - includes flight to Galapagos

*Guadeloupe & Island Passage - includes ferry fees

Leaders

The backbone of a safe, high-quality program is its leaders. VISIONS programs are jam-packed and multi-layered, carefully planned and thoughtfully crafted. *Much depends on the adults who lead our trips.*

We work hard to assemble staff teams from an annual application pool of impressively qualified young adults. We select leaders for their maturity, experience, character, carefully referenced skills, and for an enthusiastic commitment to our mission. Flexibility and a sense of humor are indispensable. Coming to us from diverse backgrounds and varied experiences, they are returned Peace Corps volunteers, teachers, graduate students and Ph.D. candidates, wilderness instructors, and professionals from our host communities.

VISIONS staffers strive for balance between structure and enough personal freedom for participants to facilitate their own learning and growth. Leaders are patient mentors who make the valuable assumption that teens are responsible and capable. At the same time, our staff adheres to clear, purposeful protocols that keep participants safe and healthy.

VISIONS leaders know the bottom line: safety is the paramount consideration in providing an engaging, well-rounded experience.

The staff to student ratio on a program is 1 to 4 or 5. Most leaders range in age from mid- to late-20s to mid-30s. All hold First Aid or Wilderness First Aid and CPR certification; many have advanced medical training.

Our leaders are well prepared for their critical responsibilities. After three full days of comprehensive staff orientation at our home office, leaders travel to their program sites where hands-on orientation continues for another 8 to 10 days before participants arrive.

A full week before the three-day orientation, program directors—the designated leaders of the staff team—come to our home office to start methodical preparations, review policies and protocols, share information and hone leadership skills. This investment pays off with a grounded staff team and an annual return rate averaging 40 to 55%.

The team program director is almost always a veteran of at least two VISIONS programs. Directors earn this role, having demonstrated acute judgment and genuine interest in the work and in working with teens. **One of the greatest strengths of our leadership is longevity of commitment. Most directors have from three to as many as ten or more seasons under their belts.** Past program directors who are now full-time professionals often return to help train and mentor new directors and staff; some assist with year-round program development.

Through the year, program directors are active partners in planning. They stay in touch with communities and local partners and travel to program sites to confirm logistics for the summer ahead.

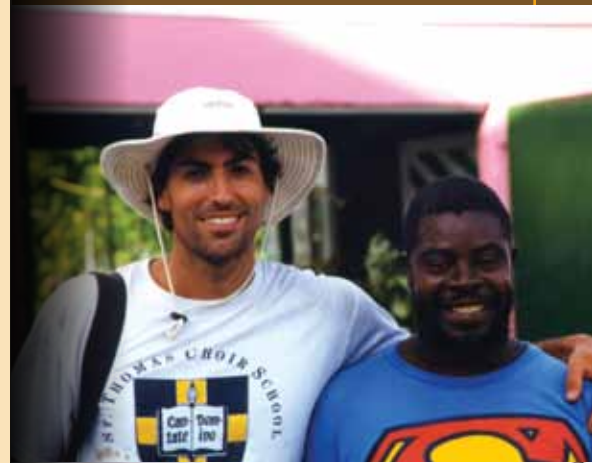
Broad-minded, intelligent, highly skilled, committed, diverse, careful, adaptable—these are qualities of the adults who are given the opportunity to work with us.

“So much experience and personal growth can be packed into 3 or 4 weeks when the staff, the sites, and program structures are as wisely crafted, tried and true, as VISIONS. As a past VISIONS summer program director, I know that VISIONS combines high ideals with high standards. The result is an extraordinary program.”

—Joby Taylor, Ph. D.
Director, Shriver Peaceworker Program
The Shriver Center, University of Maryland

“The staffers were unbelievable and should be credited. All were great, and should be credited for being honorary parents and best friends at the same time. It was a great trip.”

—Robert Persons, Westwood, PA



2011 Participants

Alaska

Aleksandr Bachinskiy
Cecilia June Boyers
Andrew Busch
Alexander Chaballier
Sara Diamond
Daniel Erichson
Andrew Gazin
Sam Hain
Harry Heiberger
Chris Henderson
Hans-Peter Herrmann
Colleen Higgins
Dylan Klein
Alex Monaco
Rebecca Mosner
Kira Murphy
Karen Niremberg
Clara Rose Olshansky
Chelsie Ostrzega
Gideon Potok
Jacob Smith
Bridget Stanton
Russell Waxman
Rachel Weinstein
Timothy Zhon

Portland, OR
St. Louis, MO
New York, NY
France
Canada
Montclair, NJ
Switzerland
Palo Alto, CA
Boulder, CO
Rancho Santa Fe, CA
Germany
Old Field, NY
Westport, NY
North Salem, NY
Nanuet, NY
Irvington, NY
New York, NY
Brooklyn, NY
Canada
Mamaroneck, NY
Columbia, MD
Valrico, FL
Arlington, VA
Millersville, MD
San Fran, CA

British Virgin Islands*

Yejide Bunche
Lily Cantral
Alana Canty-Samuel
Lesley Chen-Young
Madeleine Colbert
Connor Davey
Lydia Davis
Phoebe Gallo
Zack Honiberg
Natalie Jones
Tiffany Kim
Lee Klein
Kaia Kolodgie
Mimi Le
Evan Lynch
Henry Magun
Ruby Miller-Gootnick
Elizabeth Milton
Shira Pomerantz
Jack Sears
Tyler Smallwood
Alexis Snider
Zachary Zona
Eleni Alafouzou
Lauren Cataldi
Brittney Coniglione
Sarah Cornelius
George Dendrinos
Kelseigh Dyer
Anisse Elias
Claudia Huerta
Julia Huerta
Omar Jimenez Orozco
Emma Kandrac
Sofie Klapow
Rosa Lechartier
Tara Mulcahy
Francisco Narvaez
Katherine Pitman
Dionte Shears
Emily Wilken

Bronx, NY
Washington, DC
New York, NY
Bethesda, MD
Montclair, NJ
North Andover, MA
Lexington, MA
Sudbury, MA
Oakton, VA
Hong Kong
Los Angeles, CA
Croton-on-Hudson, NY
Baltimore, MD
Oakland, CA
Orchard Park, NY
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY
Washington, DC
Arlington, VA
Sharon, MA
Potomac, MD
Arlington, VA
Granada Hills, CA
Franklin Lakes, NJ
Greece
Great Neck, NY
Cranbury, NJ
Philadelphia, PA
Towson, MD
Hanover, MA
New York, NY
Spain
Spain
Geyserville, CA
Wayland, MA
Great Neck, NY
France
Summit, NJ
Riverside, CT
Swampscott, MA
Chicago, IL
New Albany, OH

Dominica

Oliver Banton
Danielle Bordelon
Corinne Callahan
Sydney Chandler
Sydney Cho
Joel Denicoff
Ariel Gershon
Helene Girard
Derek Kincade
Edwige Leroy
Patrick Madden
Elizabeth McAneny
Meredith McAneny
Patrick Meigher
Gina Perier
Ian Plotnick
Grace Purdy
Camille Rogers
Juliana Ross
Elizabeth Schear
Alex Shimmel
Tijan Sow
Sabrina Swoger
Nina Waskiewicz

Brookline, MA
Dallas, TX
Moorestown, NJ
Cary, NC
Austin, TX
Potomac, MD
Stamford, CT
France
Brier, WA
France
Yountville, CA
Chesapeake Beach, MD
Chesapeake Beach, MD
Potomac, MD
France
Potomac, MD
Bainbridge Island, WA
Ithaca, NY
New York, NY
Dayton, OH
Roslyn Heights, NY
United Arab Emirates
Statenline, NY
Orange, CT

Dominican Republic

Nicholas Alameda
Roxane Barbera
Rose Brown
Eli Cherry
Allie Delgado
Seong Youn Han
Tamara Hofer
Danielle Joseph
Christine Kimball
Lillian Kravitz
Christopher Landes
Ethan Leigner
Amy Livingston
Teodora Lupu
Georga Morgan-Fleming
Fatima Pacheco
Rachel Stein
Bianca Tomero
Carlo Veconi
Denzel Winfield

Forest Hills, NY
West Hartford, CT
Madison, WI
Brookline, MA
Oak Hill, VA
New York, NY
Ann Arbor, MI
New York, NY
Washington, DC
Montclair, NJ
Centennial, CO
Northbrook, IL
Owning Mills, MD
Sammamish, WA
Belmont, MA
Framingham, MA
Portola Valley, CA
Berkeley, CA
Arlington, VA
Sharon, MA
Chicago, IL

Ecuador & Galapagos

Alex Boyko
Anna Devon-Sand
Madison Klimczak
Winston Kortenhorst
Meryl Kravitz
Luke Kuehling
Caroline Martignetti
Katherine McVey
Sydney Mills
Taylor Mustapich
Jack Niemann
Ian O'Connor
Adam Palayew
Noah Piwonka
Payton Poliakoff
Benjamin Robbins
Madeleine Rose
Natalie Schultz-Henry
McKenzie Tavoda
Liam Woolley-MacMath
Ariana Zetlin

Greensboro, NC
Ardmore, PA
Houston, TX
Netherlands
Rockville, MD
Madison, WI
Palo Alto, CA
Centennial, CO
Annandale, VA
Old Brookville, NY
Acton, MA
Wilmot, NH
Canada
Beaverton, OR
Miami, FL
Little Rock, AK
Wynnewood, PA
Los Angeles, CA
Corona, CA
Austin, TX
Roslyn Heights, NY

Ghana

Jovanna Fazzini
Kade Hanson
Amanda McAneny
Hannah Peters
Nick Salinger
Elena Snow
Nathaniel Spilka
Avinash Tamby

Great Neck, NY
Belgrade, MT
Chesapeake Beach, MD
Chicago, IL
Newtonville, MA
Boise, ID
Stamford, CT
Basking Ridge, NJ

Guadeloupe

Elizabeth Bainbridge
Olivier Barnard
Dylan Barrett-Smith
Hannah Brandt
Sophia Gant
Leland Garrahan
Melissa Gitlin
Cheryl Gordon
Ida Rose Levenson
Claire Lilienfeld
Ross Lilienfeld
Juliet Mallouk
Jessica Margolis
Moss McLaughlin
Ora Navarro
Michaela Novakovic
Jeffrey Pildes
Aidan Pomper
Cameron Robertson
Naomi Roswell
Andrew Russell
Matthew Slonim
Mary Taylor
Cassandra Wanna
Erica Warfield
Megan Wylie

San Francisco, CA
Maitland, FL
Arlington, MA
Salt Lake City, UT
Chestnut Hill, MA
Arlington, MA
West Hartford, CT
Brooklyn, NY
Lemoynne, PA
Irvington, NY
Irvington, NY
State College, PA
Bala Cynwyd, PA
Boulder, CO
Anacortes, WA
Amber, PA
Highland Park, IL
South Orange, NJ
Acton, MA
Baltimore, MD
Appomattox, VA
New York, NY
Ann Arbor, MI
Macon, GA
Syosset, NY
Forest Hills, NY

Mississippi

Barbara Cerinza
Ella Cobleigh
Portia Hood
Alex Huang
Anna Kelley
Welles Mathison
Peter Mitropolous
Ricardo Pagulayan
Akilah Ransom
Mollie Rayner-Haselkorn
Deanna Ross

Boston, MA
Ardley, NY
Dorchester, MA
Boston, MA
Fairmont, WV
Plymouth, NH
Greece
Arlington, VA
Brooklyn, NY
New York, NY
Smyrna, GA

Montana

Carly Avezzano
Lisa Blechschmidt
Benjamin Brown
Brooklyn, NY
Sabrina Herrmann
Samuel Jackson
Sarah Jen
Anna Lampe
Robert Mahoney
Vanessa McCusker
Henry Pronovost
Ayzhamal Sayakbaeva
Nicholas Tan
Russell Tan
Sarah Thompson
Adira Baum
Annie Beresheim
Katie Blumenfeld
Piera Bochner
Chih-Yang Chang
Eli Corcos
Catherine Crosby
Stephanie Deschamps
Lucy Fishell
Laura Head
Colleen Jennings

Montvale, NJ
Bellevue, WA
Marietta, GA
Cary, NC
Germany
Westford, MA
Chappaqua, NY
Glenshaw, PA
Weslaco, TX
New York, NY
Easton, CT
Newton, MA
Houston, TX
Houston, TX
La Grange, IL
Woodstock, NY
Manhasset, NY
Westport, CT
New York, NY
Taiwan
Pittsburgh, PA
North Andover, MA
Newtown, PA
Larchmont, NY
South Riding, VA
Mendham, NJ

Lori Koenick
Kimberly Lampkin
Claire McAndrews
Theodore Naylor
Angel Pagan
Opal Ratanayaratnam
Zachary Silverman
Rachel Sullivan
Zuoyang Xu
Elaina Yu
Haixin Zeng

Potomac, MD
Philadelphia, PA
Baltimore, MD
New York, NY
Seattle, WA
Woodside, NY
Chicago, IL
Pleasant Hill, OR
China
Belle Mead, NJ
Boston, MA

Nicaragua*

Tyler Bolander
Kristopher Cody
Hunter Davis
Marin Day
Sabina Diaz-Rimal
Jake Glaser
Ilan Goldberg
Ryan Hatano
Timothy Kirk
Kelly Miszner
Susan Paiz
Patric Perez
Shian Phillips
Alexander Smith
Michael Leong Tong
Kaitlyn Webster
Alexandra Yauch
Jin Yun
Jesse Abelson
Krista Brockman
John Carrick
Adrien Detchmendy
Allegra Dobson
Francesco Ferran
Alison Fisher
Catarinya Galan
Carly O'Rourke
Austin Pruitt
Paige Robinson
Isabel Rubinstein
Maggie Shields
Camila Woodmansee
Rebecca Zeuner

New York, NY
Yarmouth, ME
Los Angeles, CA
Montclair, NJ
Baltimore, MD
Brooklyn, NY
Tenafly, NJ
Fremont, CA
Haddonfield, NJ
Port Washington, NY
Framingham, MA
Boca Raton, FL
Framingham, MA
Medfield, MA
Oakland, CA
Belews Creek, NC
Grapevine, TX
Aberdeen, WA
St. Louis Park, MN
Aptos, CA
Seattle, WA
Studio City, CA
Princeton, NJ
New York, NY
Westborough, MA
Houston, TX
Larchmont, NY
Seattle, WA
Bozeman, MT
Larchmont, NY
Northborough, MA
San Dimas, CA
New York, NY

Peru*

Jake Barzilay
Rachel Berner-Hays
Louise Boudreau
Rachel Calnek-Sugin
Dustin Cohen
John Dewey
William Foster
Kelsey Freeman
Hailey Goldberg
Samuel Hart
Megan Inwood
Crystal Kim
Malinda Labriola
Vivian Lee
Megan Mahoney
Katie Nadeau
Rodrigo Noble
Madeline Scher
Gabriel Schmid
Noah Selter
Zoe Senise
Jared Soffer

Jericho, NY
Seattle, WA
Annapolis, MD
New York, NY
Tucson, AZ
Boulder, CO
Burlingame, CA
Carbondale, CO
Montclair, NJ
Jericho, NY
Roswell, GA
Warrington, PA
Garrison, NY
Acton, MA
Weston, FL
Durham, NH
Larchmont, NY
Pleasantville, NY
Philippines
New York, NY
Brooklyn, NY
Belle Mead, NJ

Benjamin Steiger
Michael von Tsurikov
Erika Wang
Abigail Zislis
Payton Anderson
Minymoh Anelone
Jackson Brouger
Matthew Campbell
Nicole Capobianco
Joanna Cherches
Jaclyn Cotter
Kathryn Davis
Isabel Di Rosa
Hailey Fedoruk-Corless
Gabrielle Forman
Maddy Gould
Joseph Hickey
Allison Langer
Zachary Lieberman
Kiyoko Nakamura-Koyama
Anne Pham
Steven Ross
Olivia Rothseid
Luke Sandbank
Aaron Sege
Zachary Smith
Hunter Stahl
Christopher Stern
Sam Wander

Hastings-on-Hudson, NY
Cooperstown, NY
Hillsborough, CA
Greenwood Village, CO
Marietta, GA
Mercer Island, WA
Georgetown, TX
Westport, CT
Port Jefferson, NY
Port Jefferson, NY
Canandaigua, NY
Rochester, NH
Washington, DC
Canada
Oakton, VA
Alameda, CA
Newton Centre, MA
Villanova, PA
Sudbury, MA
Bend, OR
Seattle, WA
New Canaan, CT
Gladwyne, PA
North Salem, NY
Brookline, MA
Columbia, MD
Medfield, MA
Litchfield, CT
Slingerlands, NY

Vietnam

Raina Bigham
Eliana Blum
Amna Elnour
Gerrit Fleischer
Madeline Fraser
Melanie Freeman
Natasha Gelman
David Monat
Daniel Moreno
Jonathan Mustacchi

Seattle, WA
Brooklyn, NY
Camp Hill, PA
Winston-Salem, NC
Portland, OR
Scottsdale, AZ
Rockville Centre, NY
Stow, MA
San Jose, CA
Scarsdale, NY

Middle School - Island Passage

Elizabeth Benkart
Ivan Boyers
Cecilia Crews
Amelia Friedman
Sophie Higgs
Muriel Horvath
Noa Lipsky
Natalie Meigher
Wyatt Seig
Rachel Stein
Allison Steinberg
Paige Steinberg
Dana Weinberg

Silver Spring, MD
St. Louis, MO
New Haven, CT
Acton, MA
New York, NY
Hanover, NH
Pittsburgh, PA
Potomac, MD
Mechanicsburg, PA
Coral Gables, FL
Weston, CT
Weston, CT
Chappaqua, NY

Middle School - Northern Passage

Mitchell Fellows
Se'Ann Hill
Crystal Kim
Tinea Joyner
Felix Lang
Steffen Lang
Maya Mastin
Callaway McCarren
Hayley Nagelberg
Jessica Niemann
Olivia Schoenig

Austin, TX
Schwenksville, PA
Omaha, NE
Amarillo, TX
Amarillo, TX
Prairie Village, KS
Chevy Chase, MD
East Brunswick, NJ
Acton, MA
Little Silver, NJ

To receive a list of parent and participant references' contact information, please contact the VISIONS office. Our references will be happy to communicate with you.





VISIONS Service Adventures
321 East Main Street, Suite 426
Bozeman, MT 59715

www.Visions-Service.com



Code of Ethics

Travel with a spirit of humility and a genuine desire to meet and talk with local people.

Be aware of the feelings of others. Act respectfully and avoid offensive behavior.

Cultivate the habit of actively listening and observing rather than merely hearing and seeing.

Avoid the temptation to "know all the answers."

Realize that others may have concepts of time and attitudes, which are different — not inferior — to those you inherited from your own culture.

Instead of looking only for the exotic, discover the richness of another culture and way of life.

Learn local customs and respect them.

Spend time each day reflecting on your experiences in order to deepen your understanding.

Is your enrichment beneficial for all involved?

Be aware of why you are traveling in the first place. If you truly want a "home away from home," why travel?

Thanks to the North American Center for Responsible Tourism