



Rainier School District #13

Board Recommendation Form

To: The Board of Directors of Rainier School District

From: Rainier School District

Date: December 11, 2023

Proposed Change: Science trip to Belize 2025

Effective Date: December 11, 2023

Reason for Recommendation: This is an amazing opportunity for multiple students to experience environmental science in its natural state while also providing interactions in a diverse culture.

Board comments or instructions:

I make a motion to approve the science trip to Belize provided they can raise the funds.

Board Approval: _____

Date: _____

Rainier School District 13

Code: IICA
Adopted: 12/09/19

Field Trips and Special Events**

The district recognizes the value of special activities to the total school program. Further, students need to be allowed to participate in and profit from carefully planned learning experiences which fall outside the normal school program/day.

Field trips and other curricular/cocurricular activities involving travel may be authorized by the superintendent or designee when such trips or activities contribute to the achievement of desirable educational/social/cultural goals.

In planning and authorizing such trips, primary consideration will be given to educational values derived, the safety and welfare of students involved, community standards of conduct and behavior on the part of all participants and the selection of appropriate adult supervision, either from within the school staff or from the parent and community volunteer pool.

Written parental permission must be obtained for each trip. The signed form showing parental approval and acknowledgment of student conduct guidelines will be maintained on file for a period of one year.

The administration will develop rules to ensure both students and adult supervisors are acquainted with the standards for conduct while representing the district. Such rules will reinforce district policy in areas such as alcohol, tobacco and unlawful drug use, procedure to be used in cases of illness or accident, and methods for communicating with administrators/parents in discipline and emergency situations.

All trips longer than 100 miles, one way, must have prior Board approval, except for regularly scheduled league and school activities.

Such approval is predicated on an acceptable plan for travel arrangements, parental involvement, orientation of students and supervisors and support of the appropriate administrator(s).

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

<u>ORS 332.107</u>	<u>ORS 339.155</u>
<u>ORS 336.014</u>	<u>ORS 339.240 to -339.250</u>

Cross Reference(s):

EEAD - Special Use of School Buses
EEAE - Student Transportation in Private Vehicle
KI - Public Solicitation in District Facilities
KK - Visitors to District Facilities



EDUCATIONAL
TOURS

International Travel Program Proposal

Ranier Jr Sr High School / Carrie Merino



Belize Conservation from Jungle to Reef - Summer 2025

eftours.com/STB

Your partner in travel-based learning

EF Education First is the world leader in international education. For over 55 years, we've partnered with educators around the world to help more than 15 million students gain new perspectives and build skills for the future through experiential learning.

Our mission is to empower educators to do their best work. At EF Educational Tours, we're working to define the modern educational tour experience. Our itineraries are more than places to go and things to see. We build programs that challenge assumptions, spark connections, and inspire curiosity in young students. Students will expand their knowledge of the world around them, discover more about themselves, grow more confident and independent, and understand new people, places, and cultures.

We take care of every last detail of the tour experience—transportation and lodging, meal reservations and menus, museum tickets and local tour guides, and much more. That also includes behind-the-scenes elements, like safety checks at hotels and background checks on adult travelers. With all that taken care of, educators and students can focus on the bigger picture.

You'll find all the details and more on the next few pages.

this document

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This proposal is property of EF Education First and the educator/school for which it was intended. Distributing, copying, and/or sharing it are prohibited. The proposal, including pricing, is valid for the educator, tour, and date(s) specifically mentioned herein. For additions, subtractions, or modifications, please contact your EF Tour Consultant.

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What's contained in

Safety

Your students' safety is our number one priority. We would never send a traveler to a location we believe to be unsafe—and with our extensive global presence, our best-in-the-industry experience, and our close working relationships with U.S. and international authorities, that's a statement we can back up with real insight. Whether it's a worldwide pandemic or a sprained ankle, a missed flight or confusing medical paperwork, we make sure every situation is taken care of.

***For specific information on EF's response to COVID-19, visit eftours.com/covid**

Worldwide presence

EF's global presence is truly unmatched. We have staff on the ground 365 days a year in over 50 countries. And we don't just work in those countries—we call them home. EF team members live in nearly every one of our tour destinations, meaning we have the local knowledge to help keep our groups safe. That presence allows us to be there to support you on the ground wherever and whenever you need us.

24/7 emergency support

In the event that anything on tour goes wrong, EF staff is always available to help. Your Tour Director is your group's constant companion and first point of contact in an emergency. Additionally, our fully trained support teams are on hand 24/7 to walk teachers through any issues and provide the resources necessary to get things back on track. Our Safety and Incident Response Team—comprised of industry experts, healthcare experts, and even former FBI personnel—is ready to spring into action 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. And when they aren't directly helping EF travelers, they're actively innovating on and shaping the new worldwide standards for cleanliness and safety.

Your team

This group is fully committed to your school's trip and the safety of every traveler.

Operations Safety & Incident Response Team – This team is strategically based in our Boston, Panama, Tokyo, and Zurich offices to accommodate for all time zones. Available 24 hours a day, every day of the year, they are trained to react quickly if travelers need help. The team uses a combination of extensive training, simulations, incident response planning, and previous experience to manage emergencies. As needed, they can facilitate additional support for groups on tour, solve operational issues, arrange assistance from outside specialists, and liaise with local and international authorities.

Emergency Services & Support Team – Our support team is available 24/7 to help resolve any issue, from a missed flight to a lost passport to more serious on-tour incidents. They also facilitate communication between travelers and families in the event of an emergency at home. The team is made up of highly trained and dedicated EF staff in our Boston and Denver offices who are equipped to solve problems and answer questions that may come up, even outside of regular business hours.

Tour Director – Assigned exclusively to your tour for the length of the stay at your destination, your Tour Director meets your group at the airport and travels with you until your departure. All Tour Directors undergo a background check as permissible by local law every two years and are required to participate in ongoing EF safety trainings. They're the first point of contact in an emergency and also communicate information to help travelers stay safe in a foreign destination. Tour Directors assist Group Leaders with hotel check-ins, coordinate meals, facilitate excursions with local guides, and much more. They're also culturally connected and expertly trained to support impactful learning experiences.

EF Travel Team – This team is your point of contact at EF. This team is a dynamic duo, made up of a Tour Consultant and an

Experience Specialist. Your Tour Consultant is an itinerary whiz & is devoted to the growth of your students. They are your school's partner, working with you on everything from finding the perfect tour and enrolling students to creating long-term travel programs for your school community. Your Experience Specialist is here to dive into all the little details that make your experience with EF special. They will work directly alongside the Group Leader (a.k.a. local teacher), right up until the moment of departure to make sure everything goes smoothly.

Traveler Support – Our team of support specialists are readily available to walk families through insurance inquiries, payment plans, food allergy issues, and any other topics that arise.

Chaperones – For every six travelers who enroll on your school's tour, your group is eligible to bring along a chaperone for free (the first spot goes to the Group Leader). This allows for a 6:1 ratio of students to chaperones, who assist Group Leaders with supervision of students to help keep them safe

Protection for travelers, schools, and districts

We understand that unpredictable things can happen, either on tour or before departure. We offer a variety of protections, programs, and policies to make sure that, no matter what happens, travelers, schools, and districts are covered. We're doing everything we can to make planning for the future as flexible as possible.

General liability insurance

All Group Leaders, schools, and districts who travel with EF are automatically added as additional insureds under our **\$50 million General Liability Policy**, regardless of whether or not the tour is affiliated with the school. EF's liability coverage is primary and non-contributory for covered third-party claims. The policy helps safeguard Group Leaders and their schools for covered third-party claims related to bodily injury or property damage, which includes providing a legal defense and covering legal costs for such claims. In addition, all travelers are required to sign EF's Release and Agreement, which includes a release of liability of their Group Leader, school, and school board.

Flexibility to change tours

The world is always changing. And while our belief in the positive impact of travel is unwavering, it can feel hard to predict what life, here in the U.S. and abroad, will look like several months, a year, or even two years from now. When you decide to travel with EF, we want you to feel secure in that decision. That's why these benefits are built into every EF program.

Peace of Mind

Provided to all groups

We understand that plans can change due to unforeseen circumstances. EF provides this exclusive program to account for such situations. It provides groups with flexibility to change the dates and destination of their tours in uncertain times. This program accounts for such circumstances and can be enacted up to 45 days prior to departure at the group level for any reason, including terrorism or other world events.

Protection for individual travelers

Travelers can help protect their investment and themselves from certain unexpected events and expenses while on tour with the Global Travel Protection Plan and Global Travel Protection Plan Plus.

Global Travel Protection Plan

Available to all travelers

Designed specifically with EF travelers in mind, this plan provides both pre-departure and post-departure benefits, including medical expense coverage that may apply on tour and tour cancellation for specified reasons.

Global Travel Protection Plan Plus

Available to all travelers

To further protect your investment from the unexpected, this plan provides all of the benefits included in the Global Travel Protection Plan as well as expanded cancellation protection.

Background checks for adult travelers

EF requires all adults (20 years and older) to pass a criminal background check before traveling on our student tours. This provides a safer tour experience for all travelers and aligns with the process and expectations of many school districts for adults who volunteer in schools or chaperone school activities. The secure process, provided by a leading professional provider, only identifies those individuals who could present a risk to student travelers while on tour.

Affordability

We believe every student should have the opportunity to travel. That's why we're dedicated to providing the lowest prices possible and giving travelers multiple resources for managing payments.

Tour Consultants work closely with teachers to build a tour that's exactly right for your students. Through discussions with your teacher, they take into account learning objectives, cost, timing considerations, and any other factors to craft a tour that's accessible to as many students as possible.

Resources for managing cost and payments

Automatic Payment Plan – Our recommended payment plan offers the ability to break the tour fee into smaller installments. With most tours planned well in advance, travelers can enroll for only \$95, then pay over a long period of time—often up to 18 months or two years—with final payment due 30 days before departure. Families make payments directly to EF, with no payments going through the school.

Fundraising pages – Each student has access to their own unique and customizable fundraising page. The easy-to-share page makes it simple for friends and family to contribute a little something that is automatically applied to the balance of the tour, with no fees whatsoever.

Global Citizen Scholarship Fund – EF Educational Tours provides \$100,000 worth of scholarships to students across the country every year. Any student is able to apply for the Global Citizen Scholarship, which is awarded on both a merit and need basis.

Risk-free enrollment period - New travelers who enroll by their Early Enrollment Discount Deadline can cancel for any reason up to 14 days after enrollment for a full refund of 100% of the money paid to EF. Travelers must pay in full or enroll in our Automatic Payment Plan at the time of program enrollment and must remain either paid in full or enrolled in our Automatic Payment Plan and in good financial standing at the time of cancellation to remain eligible. To be eligible, the traveler must enroll on a tour at least 110 days prior to the scheduled departure date.

Educational value

Our tours help prepare students for the future by teaching them more about the world, themselves, and the impact they can have on the world. Combining the power of experiential learning with the thrill of global travel, our tours help students:

- **Expand their knowledge of the world around them**
- **Grow more confident and independent**
- **Understand new people, places, and cultures**
- **Discover more about themselves**

To learn more about EF's educational philosophy, visit
<https://www.eftours.com/our-story/educational-approach>

EF is an accredited institution

We echo your commitment to education. Our travel-based learning approach is designed to blend classroom and experiential learning. This allows us to meet the same rigorous standards as schools like yours, ensuring students gain valuable experiences that transform the way they look at the world.



Earning credit for new experiences

EF makes it easy for students to turn their tour experience into high school credit, college credit, or to get a head start on their college essays—all while making their travel experience even more engaging.

- Students in grades 6 - 12 can earn .5 elective high school credit by successfully completing the final project as part of EF's Personalized Learning Guide. Tuition is free.
- Students in grades 9 - 12 can earn 3.0 undergraduate credits, along with the confidence that comes with taking a college course, by completing a series of assignments and a final research project with our partner, Southern New Hampshire University—all for just \$360.
- Educators traveling on student tours may earn up to 45 free hours toward relicensure OR 3 or 6 graduate level credits (\$360/\$720) through Southern New Hampshire University.

Itinerary specifics

For more robust details, the complete itinerary is attached to this document. It includes specific locations, each day's activities, travel plans, and more.

Price of the proposed tour

The tour program price covers a wide range of services that ensure students have an incredible experience. It includes all the planning and preparation that leads up to departure, travel and accommodations, plus logistical support and details once the group reaches their destination.

Full flexible travel window: June 15-28, 2025

Requested travel dates: June 18-25

Include price details from tour enrollment page; Delete placeholder; Include a sample DBD itinerary (example) as attachment for your Group Leader

Price details

Grecian Odyssey

Program Price* 1 **\$3,565**

Includes:

- Round-trip airfare and on tour transportation
- Hotels with private bathrooms
- Breakfast and dinner (see your itinerary for meal details)
- Full-time Tour Director
- Daily activities, tours and entrances to attractions

Quote created on 8/25/2020

* Program price valid for today. Change and cancellation fees of up to the total price will apply. Applicable airline baggage fees are not included and can be found at efcours.com/baggage. All prices subject to verification by an EF Tour Consultant. To view EF's Booking Conditions, visit efcours.com/bc. Some destinations may require aircraft insecticide treatment for in-bound foreign flights. Such destinations can be found at efcours.com/insecticide.

EF's Peace of Mind Program 2 **Free**

2 Adult supplement required for travelers age 20 and older at the time of travel.

Total for Students (under 20) **\$3,565**
9 monthly payments **\$386/mo**

3 We understand that plans sometimes change due to unforeseen circumstances. EF's Peace of Mind Program allows your entire group to change your tour or departure date. Your group can feel secure planning your trip, knowing that your plans are flexible.

Adult Supplement 2 **\$450**

Total for Adults **\$4,015**
9 monthly payments **\$436/mo**

Itinerary shown is for 2021 travel. Itineraries are subject to change biannually, please call for more details.

Quote created on 8/25/2020

Sample hotels

Every hotel we work with must meet our high standards for safety, quality, and cleanliness. Hotels are vetted by our team to make sure they meet our requirements and are subsequently inspected regularly

to ensure they continue to satisfy those parameters. Please note that hotels abroad may have different amenities than travelers are accustomed to in the United States.

Here are some examples of hotels students might stay in on tour:

Caribbean Villas Hotel| Ambergris Caye

https://caribbeanvillashotel.com/?avia_forced_reroute=1

Escape to the beach at the Caribbean Villas and soak in the sun and beautiful waterfront views. Guests may decide to relax in one of the property's freshwater swimming pools, walk the gardens along the beach, or take a stroll through the quaint beach town just a 10-minute walk away. Rooms are equipped with air conditioning, ceiling fans, small appliances, and flat screen TVs.

Bird's Eye View Lodge | Belize City

<http://www.birdseyeviewbelize.com>

Set on a quiet lagoon in the center of the Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary just north of Belize City, the Bird's Eye View Lodge features 20 refurbished rooms spread out over two floors. Each air-conditioned room includes a telephone, battery chargers, a ceiling fan, and a private bathroom. Wi-Fi and cable TV are available in the lounge. Guests can enjoy meals in the lodge's dining room and relax outside with an opportunity to observe wildlife.

Sample meals

Meals are selected to establish a more immersive cultural experience and give students an idea of how locals eat. Below are some examples of local dishes travelers may try at the destination that your teacher has chosen, but please note that meals can vary from tour to tour.

On tour, breakfast generally is simple and will be at the hotel; it could be plated or buffet-style. **Lunch** typically is your chance to make culinary discoveries of your own. **Dinners** will be a mix of familiar dishes and local specialties. All meals will be a mix of familiar dishes and local specialties all served from a pre-set group menu.

Belize: Sample Meals

Beef fajitas, chicken/beef tacos, stewed chicken with rice and beans

How I can help with next steps

My name is Allyson White and I am Ranier Jr Sr High School's dedicated Tour Consultant. That means I'll be working with Carrie Merino every step of the way to make sure everything is perfectly planned.

As we move forward in this process, the next step will be hosting a meeting with parents to share the trip information and invite them to sign up.

In order to host the meeting, we will need to invite parents to come using an invite link. In order to make sure that everyone has an equal opportunity to sign up on the trip, we will want to invite every family from the school to attend the meeting. In order to do this, we are hoping to send out a mass email with the invite link so people have the chance to come.

I hope this overview has given you the information you need to feel confident in EF as an educational travel provider. Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly. EF is excited to partner with your school to bring this life-changing experiential learning opportunity to your students.

Sincerely,
Allyson White
Tour Consultant
allyson.white@ef.com

[ADD ANY ADDITIONAL NOTES IN THIS SECTION]

"I am now more confident than ever in the safety and experiences of my students after working with EF on this trip. As a leader, I am committed to ensuring a global mindset throughout my district and student/teacher travel."

Angela M., Administrator, Brunswick, ME

"I advocate for travel because the world is vast and diverse. If we want to truly understand our neighbors in other states or countries, we must reach out and meet them where they live. Travel provides a glimpse into another world that our students may have Googled or watched on a device, but living it with the smells, food, smiles, and various challenges teaches flexibility, tolerance, understanding, and empathy."

- Chuck C., Group Leader, Central, SC

From a single tour to a whole program

A single tour can open up endless possibilities for a small group of students. Our goal at EF is to bring that experience to as many students as possible, including the broadest collection of students at your school. By progressing from a single tour to a consistent travel program, you'll not only build a culture of exploration, but you'll provide the opportunity of travel to even more students. We can work directly with you and your staff to establish a framework for your travel program that's tailored specifically to your school's needs and goals.