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BHS Panama Floating Doctors: Medical/Cultural Experience
Overnight, Out-of-State Field Trip Application
Panama City, Republic of Panama; Bocas del Taro Archipelago,
Specifically Isla Bocas del Taro and Isla San Cristobal
April 18, 2020 – April 25, 2020

For review and consideration by the
Brookline School Committee

| Approval Route: | Approved | Denied | *Returned |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
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Brookline High School Field Trip Application

Brookline – Panama Floating Doctors:

Medical/ Cultural Experience Bocas Del Toro, April 2020

APPLICATION FOR ALL OUT-OF-STATE, OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIPS

TRIP LOGISTICS:

1. Name of Field Trip: Panama Floating Doctors: Medical/ Cultural Experience

Bocas Del Toro, April 2020

2. Educator Requesting Field Trip Approval: Andrew Kimball, Melanee Alexander

3. School: Brookline High School Grade Level: 10-12

4. Have you reviewed the *School Committee Policy I 3 a. for School Sponsored Field Trips*?
5. Have you reviewed the document “*Administrative Procedures for School Sponsored Field Trips*”?
6. Have you reviewed the document “*Field Trip Planning Guide*”?

These documents can be found in the Staff Portal of the district website (www.brookline.k12.ma.us) in the Office of Teaching and Learning link.

7. What is your destination? Panama City, Republic of Panama; Bocas del Toro archipelago, specifically Isla Bocas del Toro and Isla San Cristobal

8. What is the date and time you are leaving school? Morning of April 18, ²⁰²⁰2019. We will meet at Logan Airport

9. What is the date and time you are returning to school? Evening of April 25th, 2020.

10. Do the dates of the trip conflict with any religious holidays or observances? Both Easter and the second half of Passover are celebrated during this time.

11. How many days will students miss from school? None.

12. How are students being transported (school bus, chartered bus, plane, rail, etc)? We will travel by plane from Logan Airport to Panama City. We will travel by taxi around the city. Then, we will take a plane from the regional airport in Panama City to Isla Bocas del Toro, followed by a 10 minute boat ride to get to Isla San Cristobal. Travel to villages will be conducted both on foot and on the water by boat. Additionally, occasional trips will be taken in to Bocas del Toro, by boat.

13. How many students will be participating in the field trip? 12-18 students.

14. What members of the student body are eligible for the trip? Any 10-12 grade students.

15. How are students selected to participate in this field trip? Students will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Solid academic record (good study habits, participation, attendance)
- Interest global health, medicine, and global leadership ; Latin American culture ; anthropology
- Ability to speak Spanish is a significant plus but not required

- Willingness to be flexible in unpredictable and new situations
- Ability to serve as an ambassador from Brookline and the United States ; Sensitivity to other people and cultures
- Successful completion of the application
- Perceived potential for personal growth

16. Where will students be staying? Students will stay in a hotel when in Panama City and in a nine room dormitory on the island of San Cristobal.

17. What are the names and cell phone numbers of the primary staff chaperones on the trip?

Melanee Alexander 617-999-5805

Mayra Hernandez 857.234.1036

18. Other than those listed in #16 above, what are the names and roles (teacher, parent, etc) of other adult chaperones who will be on the trip?

EDUCATIONAL RELEVANCE

19. What is the purpose of the trip and how does it relate to Brookline's Learning Expectations (K-8) or BHS Course Syllabi?

In the Global Leadership program, students study the challenges of cross cultural understanding, economic development, and healthcare delivery. Students examine cross cultural work and become sensitive to different cultural practices and norms. Students observe economic development through multinational companies, government efforts (such as USAID), and smaller microloan organizations such as Grameen Bank. During the Global Health unit, students research a health challenge in a low-income country and propose an intervention. They are encouraged to make connections and talk to international health experts at international NGO's. In the remote villages surrounding Bocas del Toro, they will be able to see first hand some of the challenges and successes in providing healthcare to developing regions, as well as participate in the solution themselves.

20. Describe activities planned before the trip to prepare students:

Students admitted to the trip will meet twice a month, starting in January 2020. At these meetings, they will learn about the Panamanian culture and the Floating Doctor mission, as well as simple steps required for preparation (going over itinerary, packing, vaccinations, documents). Students will also participate in discussions and lessons on cultural leadership and global health. At a few of our meetings, students will have the opportunity to Skype / conference call with Doctor Ben LaBrot, the leader of the trip and founder of Floating Doctors. On these calls, Labrot and other members of the Floating Doctors team will share their experiences working in the field, and talk to students about preparation for the trip.

During these orientation meetings, students will hear from Ms. Alexander, who lived in the Bocas region for five years and met Dr. LaBrot in person this summer. She might cover topics such as cultural sensitivity, history of the people of Bocas, basic vocabulary, and safety.

21. Describe activities planned after the trip for students to wrap-up/reflect:

Floating Doctors recommends volunteers write a 1-2 page essay detailing the key experiences each person may have, and encourages self-insight. They suggest that participants focus on their

expectations or preconceived ideas prior to coming, their experience on-site, and any details about how the experience impacted them. They will also assemble a blog for the school that will include photos and possibly videos.

ACCESSIBILITY AND STUDENT SAFETY

22. To what extent does the field trip group reflect the diversity of the school population? What efforts will be undertaken to ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, the participants in this field trip reflect the diversity of the school population?

The group of students attending the trip will reflect the applicant pool. A special effort will be made to recruit from programs such as AALSP, Metco, Steps to Success, etc.

23. What measures are planned to ensure student safety on the trip, including chaperone coverage, student behavior contracts, etc? There will be two chaperones with students: Melanee Alexander and Mayra Hernandez, who are faculty members at Brookline High School. Each chaperone on the trip will have a cell phone that operates in Panama and can be used to call the United States. Students will be with chaperones at all times.

24. What is the name and location of the medical facility closest to your destination? We will be traveling with trained medical professionals from Floating Doctors for the majority of the trip. The closest hospitals to Panama City are Bay Medical Center, located in the heart of the city, as well as Bay Medical Sacred Heart. Hospitals within Bocas del Toro include Isla Colon Regional Hospital, Hospital del Almirante, and Hospital Regional de Chiriquí Grande. Private clinics in Changuinola are also accessible on a non-emergency basis.

25. Will students be swimming? (please note: if swimming is planned, parents must give explicit written permission for their child to swim; students who do not have this express written permission will not be allowed to swim)

Yes, we will include a permission slip specific to swimming in the packet of forms students must submit. We will be snorkeling in Cayo Coral reef, and will have the opportunity to swim in the waters surrounding Isla San Cristobal.

26. If travelling outside of the United States, please attach the appropriate Department of State Advisory Review and Notification and a copy of Consular statement. U.S. Embassy information concerning travel in Panama -

U.S. State Department Information about travel in Panama

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Panama.html>

U.S. State Department webpage with information about Panama

<https://www.state.gov/p/wha/ci/pm/>

History of U.S. relations with Panama <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2030.htm>

FUNDING - Projected Costs

27. What is the total cost of the trip? Please detail the major components of the trip below and provide a total. These costs are based on 2 chaperones and 16 students.

| | |
|--|---------|
| Room and Board: Floating Doctors (one week) Chaperones free | 1,150 |
| R/t airfare Boston to Panama City | 1,100 |
| Bus from David to Bocas City | 60 |
| Hotel for two nights in Panama City | 120 |
| Activities (museums, snorkel, bike, etc.) | 50 |
| Food in Panama City, David, Bocas del Toro | 100 |
| Cost to cover 2 chaperones, items #2-7 | 250 |
| | \$2,830 |

28. How will the field trip be funded? Students will fund the cost of the trip themselves.

29. What accommodations are made for students who cannot afford the expenses of this trip? Are partial and/or full scholarships available?

Students will apply for this trip on a needs-blind admission process. We will work hard to secure funding for those students demonstrating need. Any students in 10th grade AALSP will be able to access the Bob Kraft money, and similarly, money will not be an impediment for any student in the METCO program.

30. If fundraisers are planned to help lower the cost of the trip for all students, please describe those plans here:

Ideas for fundraising have in the past included t-shirt sales, a yard sale, bake sales and a dance-a-thon. Further ideas will be discussed once the group is determined.

Sample Itinerary

Day 1 (Saturday 4/18): Fly in and explore Panama City

- Fly from Logan Airport to Tocumen International airport
- Night in Panama City

Day 2 (Sunday 4/19): Arrival in Bocas del Toro

- Visit the Biomuseo (biodiversity museum)
- Explore Casco Viejo (historic Panama City), UNESCO World Heritage site, shopping and lunch
- Arrive in Albrook Airport for afternoon flight to Bocas del Toro
- 6:00 pm: travel with Floating Doctors staff from Bocas del Toro to base on Isla San Cristobal
- 6:30-7:30: dinner
- 7:30-8:30: "Cultural Competency" training lecture by Dr. Benjamin La Brot

Day 3 (Monday 4/20): Training

- 7:30-8:30: breakfast
- 9:00-12:00: volunteer orientation and training
- 12:00-1:00: lunch
- 1:00-3:00: volunteer orientation and training
- 3:00-6:30: trip to town to get snacks; free time at Floating Doctors base
- 6:30: dinner

Day 4 (Tuesday 4/21) and day 5 (Wednesday 4/22): Clinic and cacao tour

- 6:30-7:30: breakfast
- 8:00: depart by boat for clinic deployment
- 9:00: arrive at destination and unload boat
- 10:00-5:00: clinic is underway
 - Visit Oreba Chocolate Farm
- 5:00-6:00: travel back to base
- 6:30: dinner

Day 6 (Thursday 4/23): Nursing home services and free time

- 7:30-8:30: breakfast
- 9:00-12:00: visit Casa Asilo nursing home
- 12:00-1:30: lunch in Bocas del Toro
- 1:30-5:30: free time to enjoy the town 6:30: dinner
- 7:30: participate in weekly Floating Doctors discussion

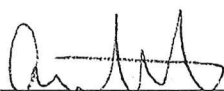
Day 7 (Friday 4/24): Guided jungle walk and coral snorkeling:

- 7:30-8:30: breakfast
- 9:00-1:00: Dolphin Bay Preserve guided jungle ecology tour
- 1:00-2:00: lunch
- 2:00-5:00: snorkeling at Cayo Coral Reef (plus a visit to Sloth Island)
- 6:30: dinner

Day 8 (Saturday 4/25): Departure day

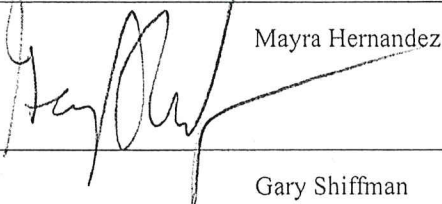
- Travel back home, from Bocas del Toro to Boston via Panama City and other connecting hub airport

Signatures:

Educator Requesting Field Trip Approval:  Date: 10/2/19
Andrew Kimball

Educator Chaperone:  Date: 10/2/19
Melanee Alexander

Educator Chaperone:  Date: 10/2/19
Mayra Hernandez

Social Studies Coordinator:  Date: 10/2/19
Gary Shiffman

Principal:  Date: 10/2/19
Anthony Meyer