



THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF BROOKLINE

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING
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Explorica Civil Rights in the South Trip
Overnight, Out-of-State Field Trip Application
Atlanta, GA; Montgomery, AL; Selma, AL; Birmingham, AL
New Date: April 17th, 2020 – April 22nd, 2020

For review and consideration by the
Brookline School Committee

Approval Route:	Approved	Denied	*Returned
Copies to:			
TEACHING & LEARNING			
SUPERINTENDENT			
SCHOOL COMMITTEE			
MEETING DATE			
*REASON RETURNED:			

*new
dates
on same
trip*

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

TRIP LOGISTICS:

1. **Name of Field Trip:** Explorica Civil Rights in the South Trip
2. **Educator Requesting Field Trip Approval:** Oye Carr, Gary Shiffman
3. **School:** Brookline High School Grade Level: 10th, 11th and 12th. 9th graders can be included if spots are still available
4. **Have you reviewed the *School Committee Policy I 3 a. for School Sponsored Field Trips*? Yes**
5. **Have you reviewed the document "*Administrative Procedures for School Sponsored Field Trips*"? Yes**
6. **Have you reviewed the document "*Field Trip Planning Guide*"? Yes**

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?** Atlanta, GA; Montgomery, AL; Selma, AL; Birmingham, AL
8. **What is the date and time you are leaving school?** April 17, 2020 time of departure: likely early morning
9. **What is the date and time you are returning to school?** Wednesday, 4/22/20 time of arrival TBD
10. **Do the dates of the trip conflict with any religious holidays or observances?** No
11. **How many days will students miss from school?** As the bulk of this trip falls over the April vacation, students will only miss 1 day of school.
12. **How are students being transported (school bus, chartered bus, plane, rail, etc)?** Students will travel by plane to Atlanta, GA.. A chartered bus will transport students to the other cities on the tour. The students will travel back to Boston by plane, departing from Atlanta.

If students are traveling via bus, please complete the Requirements for Field Trip Transportation via Bus form.

13. **How many students will be participating in the field trip?** We anticipate 15-20 students will participate in the trip. We will make a concerted effort to bring all students who show interest through the application process with us.
14. **What members of the student body are eligible for the trip?** All students at BHS are eligible to participate in the trip
15. **How are students selected to participate in this field trip?** We will ask teachers in the History department to announce the trip and recruit students. Students will be asked to attend an X-Block meeting early in October and submit an application by the end of October expressing why they want to attend the trip. If students attend meetings and express interest in the trip, they will be selected to participate.
16. **Where will students be staying?** Safe and secure hotel accommodations are arranged by Explorica, the student travel company providing the trip. A full list of hotel accommodations will be provided to the Office of Teaching and Learning as soon as the details are confirmed. Overnight security is hired at each hotel to ensure student safety.
17. **What are the names and cell phone numbers of the primary staff chaperones on the trip?**
Oye Carr (413) 854-1130

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Gary Shiffman (617)792-7878

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? If we have 20 students or fewer, Gary and Oye will be the only chaperones. If there are more than 20 students, Ann Collins or Lizzy Buhl will join as a chaperone.

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?

Brookline partnered with Sojourn to the Past to bring students on a Civil Rights trip during February break from 2011-2017. Unfortunately, Sojourn raised the price of the trip to \$3,200 in 2018, and we found this price to be prohibitive for our students, particularly given the lower costs of other trips offered by BHS. As a result, chaperones made the difficult decision to cancel the trip that year and end our relationship with Sojourn.

We recognized the incredible learning opportunity Sojourn offered to BHS students, many of whom reported it as a "life-changing" experience that spurred their interest in fighting for social justice. Beginning last year, a cohort of teachers who had previously supported and chaperoned Sojourn to the Past began meeting to discuss the possibility of a new Civil Rights trip to the South. After exploring options offered by Education First and Explorica, we decided Explorica would be the most cost-effective option.

This field trip will provide students with a unique and hands-on opportunity to learn about and experience the Civil Rights Movement as well as the current battle for Social Justice. In Atlanta, students will visit the King Center and Historic Site. In Selma, students will walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge as part of their study of the Bloody Sunday encounter between civil rights activists and police. In Birmingham, students will visit the 16th Street Baptist Church, the site of the bombing that killed 4 young girls in religious school class in 1963. We are especially excited that students will visit the new Equal Justice Initiative Memorial and Museum in Montgomery, along with the Rosa Parks Museum and Civil Rights Memorial. These are just some of the highlights of the trip. During and between these stops, the students will be actively engaged in the study of the Civil Rights Movement in America and the modern fight for social justice. The content of the trip directly links to several courses at BHS, including: U.S. History (Junior year requirement), American Studies, the Senior Seminar in African American Studies; and the Senior elective American Government and Politics. This trip offers access to veterans of the movement whom students might not otherwise be able to meet.

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

Students will read excerpts from Bryan Stevenson's book *Just Mercy: a story of justice and redemption*.

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

Students will be expected to maintain a journal throughout the course of the trip. They will also be required to create a presentation of highlights of the trip to share with an elementary or high school classroom.

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? Please confirm in your answer that students are selected for the

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trip on a need-blind basis and that the trip will be advertised to students as need-blind, so that it is accessible to all students.

We are committed to working actively and closely with our colleagues throughout the high school to reach out to all students in the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades to encourage a diverse range of students to participate in this trip. The team of students who participated in the 2015, 2016, and 2017 Sojourn Trips were diverse, including students representing ACE, Steps to Success, African American and Latino Scholars Program, METCO, and SWS. We anticipate the same this year. Once, participants are confirmed and if the trip is approved, we will share that information with the Office of Teaching and Learning.

23. What measures are planned to ensure student safety on the trip, including chaperone coverage, student behavior contracts, etc.

All student medical forms will be completed in advance with families. We will have parent meetings to review logistical details and student behavior expectations, and will ask that all students and parents/guardians sign a behavior contract. Experienced veteran BHS teachers will be chaperoning the trip to ensure that the students are in good hands at all times. Explorica will provide overnight security at each hotel.

24. What is the name and location of the medical facility closest to your destination?

Explorica has identified the closest hospital in each city where we will be staying. All stops are near major metropolitan areas with access to first class medical care, if necessary. A complete list of hotels and nearest medical facilities will be supplied to the Office of Teaching and Learning as soon as the logistics are confirmed.

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) Students will not be swimming during any portion of this trip.

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.

FUNDING

27. What is the total cost of the trip per student? Please detail the major components of the trip below and provide a total. (add/edit headings as necessary)

Lodging	
Travel	
Meals	
Admissions/Tickets	
TOTAL per student:	\$1,463

The cost of the trip is determined by Explorica and may change to reflect chaperone costs and/or if we join with another school. This total amount includes round-trip transportation, 4 overnight stays in hotels, breakfast daily, dinner daily, profession Tour Director, guided sightseeing tours and city walk as per itinerary, overnight security, and tour diaries provided by Explorica.

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28. How will the field trip be funded?

Parents will be asked to pay for their child's participation in the trip. However, all trip participants will be actively involved in fundraising efforts to offset costs. If the trip is approved, we will reach out to individual donors and local nonprofits and distribute funds based on student-need..

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.

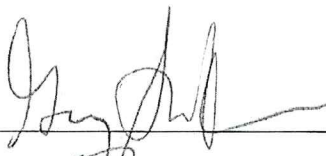
30. If fundraisers are planned to help lower the cost of the trip for all students, please describe those plans here:

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.

*If you need any assistance as you complete this application,
please contact the Office of Teaching and Learning at 617-730-2432.*

Signatures:

Educator Requesting Field Trip Approval:



Date: 11/26/19

Educator Requesting Field Trip Approval:



Date: 11/26/19

Principal:



Date: 11/26/19

Brookline High School Field Trip Application

Brookline – Panama Floating Doctors: Medical/ Cultural Experience

Bocas Del Toro, June-July 2020

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Additional Documents:

Forms to be completed by parents/students

Prepared by:

Melanee Alexander, Mayra Hernandez, Chaperones

Andrew Kimball, BHS Global Trips Coordinator

Chaperones:

Melanee Alexander, Associate Dean of Students, Brookline High School

Mayra Hernandez, Performing Arts teacher, Public Schools of Brookline

Statement of Purpose Brookline -

The purpose of this trip is to expose students to both a medical experience and a cultural exchange. Students will learn, first hand, the difficulties of providing medical care to those in remote areas, while immersing themselves in Panama's rich culture and environment.

Floating Doctors program information:

This trip will be run in partnership with the non-profit organization, Floating Doctors. (<http://floatingdoctors.com/>)¹ The mission of Floating Doctors is to reduce the present and future burden of disease in the developing world, and to promote improvements in health care delivery worldwide. Floating Doctors runs mobile clinics that provide healthcare to the villages of the Ngabe indigenous people, as well as other remote villages that otherwise would not have access medical care.

Run by the founder, Ben LaBrot, Floating Doctors invites those who apply to come to their base island, Isla San Cristobal (which is a 10 minute boat ride from Bocas Del Toro) and join the mission. For a week-long trip, Floating Doctors provides students and chaperones with lodging on the island in a 9 room dormitory, food, cultural excursions, and medical experience. More than 180 volunteers from nine different countries have participated in the volunteer program. Everyone from private citizens to medical students, and even high school students, are trained for a full day on basic medical care. The four areas covered during training are: effective communication skills with patients, proper utilization of translators, the reduction of medical error due to miscommunication, and the review of common cultural issues that arise during exchanges across cultural differences. During the three days following the training, the participants accompany the doctors and travel by boat to various villages. The skills learned by students in training are utilized during the mobile clinics. After setting up the materials for the clinics, students will be assigned to different stations (depending on age-appropriateness and language ability). Some tasks that students may perform include translation for the clinic, assisting doctors in consultations, ultrasounds, house calls or procedures. They may also staff the pharmacy station, administration station, clinic intake stations, and health screening stations. Floating Doctors staff will offer explanations and context for everything that the students encounter. Alongside the mobile clinic work, students will also have the opportunity to engage with the children in the village schools. They will help teach dental hygiene, handwashing, and other health promotion activities. At the end of each day, students return the Floating Doctors base to relax and enjoy the pleasures of living off the grid. They will experience the glowing bioluminescence and watch for the flocks of parrots flying overhead. The mangroves and the jungle are beautiful, and swimming or snorkeling off the dock at the base is a great way to cool off at the end of a day out in the field.

This trip provides students with the rare opportunity to do hands-on work, assisting the doctors in providing medical care while interacting with the native Panamanian population. Participants will gain experience in international humanitarian work, global health challenges, careers in health care, jungle ecology, as well as indigenous and Panamanian culture and history in a breathtakingly beautiful region. This is a chance not just to learn about international medicine or a different culture, or how to tie up a dugout canoe at the dock, or swimming in tropical water—this is really an opportunity to learn about ourselves, to grow, and to come away changed by what we have seen and accomplished. Attached in the following link <http://floatingdoctors.com/volunteer/high-school-students/> is a detailed explanation and background for the High School student volunteer program.

¹ The website has a longer explanation of the organization and its mission. It also has some videos as well that help in this explanation.

Connection to mission statement:

The Brookline Schools' mission states: "To ensure that every student develops the skills and knowledge to pursue a productive and fulfilling life, to participate thoughtfully in a democracy, and to succeed in a diverse and evolving global society." This experience will not only encourage global thinking, international cultural, travel competence and a deeper understanding and appreciation of other cultures and environments, but also reinforces the value of service not only for others but for ourselves.