The Explorador Program

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

**Q1. Where in Canada will you be going?**

**A1.** Participants will decide our destination. During the month of September, participants will research and chose a place to visit in Canada. They will be asked to present their option to the group along with concrete examples of what we could explore and why it would be a fun and valuable place to experience. A final decision will be made based on group consensus.

**Q2. Why will you be staying in Canada and not traveling abroad?**

**A2.** I initially thought to travel abroad. However, given the growing pains with any new program combined with the issues of cost, passports, and jet lag, it seems prudent to have our first trip at home. Additionally, an increased awareness and understanding of our own history and country is beneficial for personal growth and confidence when traveling internationally. If the program proves successful, then we can build on what we have learned and plan a trip abroad next year.

**Q3. When will the trip take place?**

**A3.** Spring 2020. The exact dates will need to be determined after discussion with ALM teachers and parents to ensure minimal impact on participant scholastic responsibilities and to ensure all participants can attend the trip. Dates will be confirmed by the end of September.

**Q4. Will the trip be 2 or 3 weeks long?**

**A4.** As above, this will be determined after discussion with ALM teachers and parents.

**Q5. How will this trip be paid for?**

**A5.** I will determine appropriate grants to which we can apply. Starting in October, participants will start outlining a general itinerary of our trip along with estimated costs, ultimately establishing an overall trip budget. While I will ensure each grant is fully completed and submitted on time, participants will be responsible for writing individual sections of the grants. The goal is for every participant’s trip to be fully covered (along with my own and that of chaperones). However, participants will be made aware of the reality that if we do not raise enough funds, the trip may be cancelled.

**Q6. Does this program cost anything?**

**A6.** Yes. The cost of the September through December, 2019 term will be **$400** per participant.

Parents will be asked to pay the entire non-refundable fee upon registration for the fall term.

Depending on when the trip will take place, the spring term fee will be similar (that is, $100/month).

The program will be run in collaboration with Haida Gwaii Recreation (HGR). Parents will pay HGR directly. HGR will provide receipts, my wage, insurance coverage, and the facility.

**Q7. Does the $400 per term fee cover field trip costs?**

**A7.** No. Parents will be asked to cover the ferry, gas, and food costs for the field trips. In addition, the rental of a van will be divided equally among participants. However, it is my goal to keep this cost as minimal as possible.

**Q8. When will the two 2 hour sessions per week be held?**

**A8.** Ideally, these sessions will be held weekly on Monday and Wednesday nights from 3:30pm-5:30pm, beginning **Monday, September 9th.** The reason for these times is because I am guessing that participants will have more energy earlier in the week and before dinner time. However, I understand that these times may conflict with your children’s other activities and am open to discussion in order to accommodate as many people as possible.

**Q9. How many field trips will there be, when will they be, and what will they be?**

**A9.** Good question! I would like to run one field trip per month. These trips will have to take place on the weekends. The first trip will be a hiking trip up Sleeping Beauty on **Saturday, September 14th.** I also envision a visit to the Gwaii Trust office in October for participants to learn how to apply for grants. In subsequent months, we will go on overnight camping trips on Moresby and Graham Islands (exact locations to be determined). I will be sure to update you as soon as possible with final trip details. The focus of these field trips will not be to develop hiking and camping skills per se, but to develop the skills needed to be part of a functioning team while traveling. I have my Class 2 driver’s license and, depending on enrollment numbers, I will rent a 12 or 15 passenger van for these excursions.

**Q10. What do you mean by “fun and creative activities”? What do these sessions actually look like?**

**A10.** This is a difficult question to answer without writing a full length paper, so I would like to invite you to attend and participate in the first session on **September 9th** so you can experience for yourself some of the things we will be exploring. That said, each session will begin with a warm-up followed by games and activities designed to explore that day’s theme (e.g., comfort zones, building resilience, triggers and reactions, individual vs. group needs, gratitude, etc.). Music, movement, drama, and song will be used as the primary learning tools, along with group work, journaling, and meditation. Each session will end with debriefing the class, addressing any issues, and working on the next step in planning our trip.

**Q11. What will you provide for the participants?**

**A11.** My primary job will be to create an inclusive and trusting environment within which participants will feel safe to share and push themselves outside their comfort zones to explore new possibilities within themselves and their environments. In addition to running each session, I will facilitate the planning and execution of our trip at every stage. Finally, I will provide most materials needed during the sessions. Participants will need to bring a notebook and their own gear for field trips.

**Q12. What are the expectations for participant conduct?**

**A12.** Participants and I will develop a “Conduct Contract” early on in the program outlining the types of behavior expected from everyone involved in the program. These will be signed by all participants (including myself) and will be binding. A “Three strikes and you are out” policy will be in place throughout. Baseline behavioural expectations are as follows:

Participants will

* Be punctual (reasonable excuses for being late will be accepted);
* Show kind and respectful behavior;
* Be inclusive of, and patient with, others;
* Be open and willing to try new things;
* Complete trip assignments on time.

**Q13. Will participants have tasks to do outside program time?**

**A13.** Yes. Planning the trip will take a lot of work. This work will only get done if everyone participates and contributes fully. While I will facilitate the process, the hope is that participants will increasingly feel ownership of their trip and assume responsibility for making it a reality. As such, participants will periodically be given concrete tasks that need to be done at home.

**Q14. Can I come on the field trips and the Canada trip?**

**A14.** Yes! My only request is that parental input during these trips be held to a minimum. The only way participants will gain a sense of independence and competency is if they are provided with the space to practice being a leader, to be faced with a problem and having to figure out solutions on their own, and to fall down and get back up on their own. Unfortunately, I feel we will have enough on our plate raising the money for the participants so parents, other than chaperones, will need to pay their own way.

**Q15. What are your credentials and qualifications for running this program?**

**A15.** Please see the attached resume and feel free to ask me any questions you have.

**Q16. Why “Explorador”?**

**A16.** Spanish for “explorer,” it also implies a love of exploring, the curiosity and courage it takes to see new possibilities both within ourselves and beyond.