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Dear Fellow Educators:

As a faculty organizer and chaperone on two EPI trips (so far), I am writing to highly recommend their international science and conservation courses to you and your students.

Here are a few reasons why we have been so impressed with EPI's programs:

- *Pre-program preparation and logistics:* From initial contact to our arrival at the start of the course, their staff are actively engaged with preparing students, parents and leaders with all the information needed and requested to ensure all participants know what to expect, are safe, well taken care of, and excited about the trip.
- *Leadership:* The EPI leaders have all been excellent. Their knowledge of science and natural history, familiarity with the country and culture, bilingual fluency, safety and first-aid skills, and ability to work well with students and adult chaperones is extraordinary. Many of our students have remained in communication with our EPI instructors years after our trip.
- *Program:* The trips with EPI combine the adventure of international travel and cultural exchange with the experience of hands-on science that contributes towards important local environmental conservation efforts. Students are learning on so many levels throughout the program and are often inspired to pursue field science and conservation work afterwards either back here at school or beyond.
- *Community Service:* This is an integral part of our school's mission as it is with the EPI. The field data the student collect along with service project that is arranged with the local community that we visit promotes the value of a service ethic. Furthermore, we support the mission of EPI to educate youth in the local communities to learn about their environment towards becoming active stewards of its sustainable management and protection.

These are just some of the many reasons why The Athenian School continues to work with EPI. I would be happy to further discuss our experiences with this organization at any time.

Regards,

Jim Sternberg
Faculty