WHERE YOU’LL FIND EPI

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STUDENTS IN YELLOWSTONE USE TELEMETRY TO TRACK COLLARED BISON, BIGHORN SHEEP, AND PRONGHORN

For detailed information on programs, visit www.ecologyproject.org
WHAT SETS US APART
EPI isn’t your typical travel company.

We invest deeply in the communities where we choose to work. Our in-country field offices, located at each of our program sites, allow us to form lasting partnerships with researchers, national parks, and local communities. For us, local connections foster larger strides toward our mission of strengthening conservation efforts around the world. For you, it means a deeper, richer experience than any other organization can provide.

We take care of ALL the details. From airfare to an in-country itinerary, we take on the daunting details so you don’t have to. As the first line of contact with your students, you’re in the best position to motivate and excite them about the possibilities of field science. The best way we can help you do that is by taking all the burdens of planning off your shoulders. At the same time, we’re here to help personalize your field experience as much as possible to meet your needs and those of your students. We’re available every step of the way, from planning to departure.

We hire the best. Our instructors are experts in biology, ecology, and the natural sciences, and they’re chosen for their experience teaching in field settings. They’re trained in leadership, group dynamics, and safety, and go out of their way each day to make science approachable and fun.

We’re a non-profit organization dedicated to science education. The tuition paid by our participants goes directly toward furthering our mission, allowing us to expand our work into the local communities that need us most. It also allows us to focus on what we know best - connecting you with critical science and research in some of the world’s most biodiverse ecosystems.

We were born in the field. On a Costa Rican beach in 2000 to be precise. That’s when EPI founders - a scientist and an educator - brought the first group of local students to a turtle reserve less than four miles from where the students lived. For the first time, these students witnessed the incredible sight of sea turtles coming ashore to lay their eggs. Nineteen years later, that kernel of an idea - to engage youth in conservation science - has grown to cross continents and includes more than 30,000 participants. Today, you and your students have the opportunity to feel that same awe of real-world scientific exploration.

So, to all those seeking a one-of-a-kind travel program rooted in science and discovery - teachers, students, and parents - we say, welcome! The field is waiting for you.

EPI’S MISSION
Improve and inspire science education and conservation efforts worldwide through field-based student-scientist partnerships

“EPI COURSES PROVIDE STUDENTS A BETTER IDEA OF WHAT SCIENCE IN ACTION LOOKS LIKE. THEY BROADEN THEIR PERSPECTIVES AND SEEK INFORMATION TO INFORM THEIR DECISIONS.”

- MIKALYNN AMOS, 2019 CHAPERONE

MANY COSTA RICANS GROW UP WITH ACCESS TO SEA TURTLE MEAT AND EGGS BUT NEVER GET THE CHANCE TO SEE THEM ALIVE AND IN PERSON. AN EXPERIENCE THAT CAN BE TRANSFORMATIVE.
Every EPI program provides a hands-on field experience. While each of our sites has a unique realm of study, they all share a common DNA: meaningful field science and a commitment to deep engagement with local issues. Look for these icons throughout the catalog for insight on what specialties each program site might offer.

**Service**
Participate in projects that improve the landscape

**Language & Culture**
Explore diverse cultures through language, food, crafts, and traditions

**Camping**
Connect with nature while sleeping under the stars

**Research**
Focus on hands-on data collection with scientific partners

**Snorkeling**
Experience the world under the waves

**Rainforest**
Explore the unique ecosystems of the tropics

**Restoration**
Lend a hand to repair vital habitats impacted by human activities

**Climate Change**
Witness and learn about its effects on fragile ecosystems

**Wildlife**
Experience flora and fauna in their natural habitats

EPI'S UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GALÁPAGOS NATIONAL PARK MEANS UNPARALLELED ACCESS TO RESEARCH AND WILDLIFE.
ECOLOGY PROJECT INTERNATIONAL is dedicated to creating travel experiences that engage, inspire, and educate youth in conservation science throughout the Americas. Our mission to create the next generation of conservation leaders inspired us to develop an Educational Framework from which to build our lessons and courses.

Our Educational Framework’s elemental concept is to raise “environmental literacy,” as defined by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the North American Association of Environmental Education (NAAEE). So, what is environmental literacy?

Environmental literacy is the ability to fuse an understanding of earth’s complex ecosystems with an understanding of society’s effects upon those ecosystems – and as a result, to actualize a conservation mindset. Environmental literacy has four key elements, each of which EPI brings to life in our courses:

- **Competencies** Skills that students need to evaluate environmental issues, like critical thinking and data analysis
- **Knowledge** Knowledge and understanding of the complex processes of the environment and society’s impacts upon them
- **Dispositions** Interest, sensitivity, and intention to act for sustainable use of natural resources
- **Behavior** Individual and collective action toward addressing environmental challenges

EPI’s curricula capture the best practices available to educators in order to build environmental literacy. Each lesson is taught with these powerful practices in mind:

**THE FIVE E’S & INQUIRY-BASED LEARNING**

Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, and Evaluate. We use the Five E’s to unearth students’ previous connections to our topics and engage students to come up with questions they are driven to answer. It’s the opposite of a stand-and-lecture class, as it puts the focus on the student, not the teacher – where it should be.

**OUTDOOR & EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING**

Simply put, this means “learning from experience.” Would you rather learn how to identify a scarlet macaw from a bird book, or by actually spotting a scarlet macaw in the rainforest? What does that experience offer that a book cannot? Context, behavior, ecology – so much more.

**SERVICE LEARNING & CITIZEN SCIENCE**

Modern research shows that we are more likely to care about what we are learning if it is shown to be meaningful and relevant to us – of course! By contributing data to local scientific projects, students not only grow their understanding of the scientific process, but become empowered to be part of it. And by including service learning in our programs, we help students become invested and give back to the places, people, and ecosystems that we are visiting.

For the larger education picture, EPI’s curriculum is aligned with one of the key frameworks in progressive science education – the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)*.

**NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS (NGSS)**

Many states have already adopted the NGSS in their schools, recognizing the value of 3-D learning, or learning in three dimensions. Core Ideas (subject matter), Crosscutting Concepts (the underlying principles that connect core concepts to each other), and Science and Engineering Practices weave together to form the NGSS’ performance expectations. EPI’s immersive, student-centered educational experiences allow all our courses to work consistently in all three dimensions, deepening student understanding of content, and providing rich opportunities for application of science knowledge.

EPI MEANS ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

Education and conservation are at the heart of all EPI courses. Explore how our Educational Framework strengthens our mission and how our courses align with science teaching standards.

*NGSS is a registered trademark of Achieve. Neither Achieve nor the lead states and partners that developed the NGSS were involved in the production of this product and do not endorse it.
Winter is a quiet season in the park but only from a human perspective. For the massive wildlife population, it’s a time for survival, migration, and renewal.

Yellowstone National Park is larger than Delaware and Rhode Island combined. In the winter, many iconic Yellowstone species like bison and wolves don’t hibernate. Instead, bison and other ungulates congregate in large groups in the thinner snow of the valleys, and at this time of year, there are few visitors to crowd either them or you.

Our course opens in Gardiner, Montana, the northern gateway to the park. We’ll return here nightly to our cozy private lodge, following days filled with stunning wildlife encounters. Inside the park, National Park Service teams need our assistance with wildlife research projects. On snowshoes or on foot, we’ll learn wildlife tracking techniques, from the ancient (identifying tracks by sight), to the modern (telemetry and GPS collaring). These skills will help us locate the park’s ungulate herds – bison, elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, and pronghorn – so we can collect samples and record data.

No visit to Yellowstone is complete without two things: hot springs and wolves. In addition to our primary ungulate research, we’ll meet with wolf researchers in the famed Lamar Valley (read more about the Yellowstone wolves on page 11). And we’ll finish the course with a steaming soak in a developed thermal spring, surrounded by the snow-capped mountains of the Paradise Valley.
Everyone has heard something about Yellowstone, but few have the opportunity to learn deeply about its sweeping history, wild creatures, and ongoing controversies.

**WOLVES WERE HUNTED OUT OF THE PARK AND ITS SURROUNDINGS FOR 70 YEARS**, but in 1995, after a twenty-year campaign, park biologists returned fourteen wolves to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Today, hundreds of wolves once again roam the landscape, shaping it in countless ways, subtle and profound: from altering flora and fauna populations to beckoning the throngs of tourists that come to glimpse the species.

**PREPARE TO BE IMMERSED** in all that makes Yellowstone unique. Shapeshifting, rainbow-hued thermal springs, stately bison herds, golden grasslands, and hissing geysers.

**BISON MIGRATION HAS A PROFOUND IMPACT** on the landscape, shaping the plant growth in Yellowstone’s grasslands and valleys. Along with National Park biologists, we’ll examine bison movement patterns and their effect on the park’s other mammal species, gaining insight into the interconnected nature of the ecosystem. To celebrate, we’ll embark on a rafting trip down the storied Yellowstone River.

“EPI WAS AN UNBELIEVABLE EXPERIENCE THAT OPENED ME UP TO A SIDE OF YELLOWSTONE I’VE NEVER EXPERIENCED. IT MADE ME REALIZE HOW PASSIONATE THE PEOPLE WORKING IN THE PARK ARE, AND IT INSPIRED ME TO DO THE SAME.”

- 2018 PARK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT
EPI’s Baja Coastal Ecology program offers a vibrant opportunity for place-based exploration and marine studies. We’ll see and feel the forces that shape ecosystems and stitch them together.

THE WHITE SANDS OF BALANDRA beckon. Here, we’ll set up camp in a secluded alcove for the week. Each day, we’ll prepare locally-sourced meals together, learning how to craft local traditions like ceviche, and fall asleep to the soft sounds of the water lapping just meters from our camp.

CASTING OFF FROM SHORE, a boat will carry us over the shallow, turquoise water for multiple excursions to Espiritu Santo Island, part of a UNESCO biosphere reserve (read more about Espiritu Santo on page 15). There, we’ll snorkel while we conduct marine invertebrate diversity studies, discovering rainbow-hued sea cucumbers and sea stars. Sea lions are often known to join us in the water here.

OPTIONS AWAITS BACK AT EPI’S CAMPUS in La Paz for your remaining days: swimming with whale sharks, visiting the desert oases of the Sierras, or exploring the sustainable initiatives of La Paz with members of EPI’s local ecoclub.

KERRY WONG
EPI Leadership Award Winner

Since 2009, Ecology Project International has provided funding to students who show special aptitude for conservation leadership. One of this year’s winners, Kerry Wong, is working on a plan to eliminate plastic straws in her hometown—and one day, the state.
The Sea of Cortez is the aquarium of the world, and we'll explore it from a desert isle.

**MAGICAL ESPRITU SANTO ISLAND** will be our home for a week on EPI's Baja Island Ecology course. Espiritu Santo is part of a 240-island UNESCO biosphere reserve and is known not only for its dramatic red cliffs and glowing cerulean water, but also its incredible biodiversity. The reserve contains more than 800 species of fish and more than a third of the world’s marine mammal species.

**FROM OUR WARM AND SANDY CAMP** on Espiritu Santo, we will explore both the unique terrestrial ecology of this desert island and the marine ecology beneath the surface of the gentle waves of the Sea of Cortez. We’ll take water samples and conduct marine invertebrate diversity studies while snorkeling in the shallow water, measuring tape and identification sheets in hand.

**OUR LAST DAY IN BAJA** will be spent in La Paz, in a cultural exchange with EPI’s local ecoclub, learning about local sustainability initiatives. We’ll also snorkel with whale sharks and dive into the complex economics, policies, tourism issues, and solutions surrounding the gentle giants.
BELIZE

THE SMALL COUNTRY OF BELIZE HAS CRYSTAL BLUE OCEAN VIEWS AND DEEP ROOTS IN MAYAN CULTURE

From the Mayan temples of the highlands to the coral reef ecosystems, this is a country of profound beauty. We’ll help protect it all for the next generation.

SETTLE INTO THE SWAYING RHYTHM OF SOUTHERN BELIZE. By boat, we’ll glide onto the placid waters of the Port Honduras Marine Reserve to gather data on manatees - graceful but vulnerable creatures in need of our help.

WITH ITS REEF AND RINGS OF MANGROVE ISLANDS, Belize is brimming with sea life. Along with its research partners, EPI is monitoring the health of the marine ecosystem, whose fishery is essential to the region. Join us in protecting the area against rising tides of environmental degradation from climate change to plastics pollution.

BELIZE’S RAINFOREST reveals another facet of this exceptional country - intact Mayan cultural practices and pre-Columbian ruins. We’ll explore the incredible biodiversity of a remote wildlife sanctuary, and to close our time together, we’ll take a taste of local traditions at a Mayan cultural center, learning how to make tortillas and chocolate using ancient methods.

“THIS COURSE CHANGED MY POINT OF VIEW ABOUT THE CONSERVATION OF OUR ANIMALS, PLANTS, AND RESOURCES. THE EXPERIENCE ALSO CAUGHT MY ATTENTION ABOUT POTENTIAL OCCUPATIONS I WOULD LIKE TO PURSUE IN THE FUTURE- MAYBE I’LL BE A SCIENTIST, OR AN EPI INSTRUCTOR!”
- LOCAL BELIZEAN PARTICIPANT, 2018

Spring Tuition: $3,895
Winter/Summer Tuition: $3,695
Airfare included

9 days January - July

THE SMALL COUNTRY OF BELIZE HAS CRYSTAL BLUE OCEAN VIEWS AND DEEP ROOTS IN MAYAN CULTURE.
Pacuare Reserve, EPI’s primary field site in Costa Rica, is celebrating its 30-year anniversary in 2019. Nestled on the Caribbean Coast, Pacuare Reserve is a 2,000-acre beachfront rainforest reserve and science station dedicated to protecting the hundreds of species that call it home. Pacuare’s beach is one of the most important nesting grounds for three of the seven species of sea turtles: the green turtle, hawksbill turtle, and the leatherback. Its forest is a haven for hundreds of other species—two and three-toed sloths, ocelots and jaguars, and a colony of rare Agami herons. But Pacuare was not always such a paradise.

In the late 1980s, a British conservationist named John Denham traveled to Costa Rica to see the nesting sea turtles. What he saw changed his life. He witnessed the turtles coming ashore to lay their eggs but also the people that came to harvest them, illegally, and he felt compelled to get involved. In 1989, he purchased 2,000 acres of degraded land, used for growing coconuts and grazing cattle. The plan was to turn it into a reserve for wildlife, a haven for the turtles that nested on its shores.

With a little time and care, Pacuare was soon a thriving reserve that attracted a huge range of wildlife. In 2000, EPI’s co-founders, Scott Pankratz and Julie Osborn, a teacher and a scientist, decided to bring a group of 61 Costa Rican students to the Reserve. They wanted to connect the students to the local environment and hoped ultimately to inspire and empower community members to become part of the leadership for conservation. Those first students assisted with nighttime censuses of nesting leatherback sea turtles—just like EPI students do now, twenty years later.

Like the first hatchlings the students protected, our partnership with John Denham grew stronger over the years. In 2016, Denham and the Endangered Wildlife Trust entrusted Pacuare Reserve to EPI, with the shared vision of safeguarding the Reserve in perpetuity. EPI has been gifted a unique platform to develop our vision of integrated resource management, education, research, and community-engagement in a stunning setting of unique ecological importance. We continue to grow and strengthen our field science education programs, engaging Costa Rican and U.S. students in hands-on conservation efforts.

Pacuare Reserve is already a success story in the world of conservation and sea turtle protection, but its legacy is even wider, touching the lives of local community members, donors, teachers, and students like yours.

This year, join us in celebrating 30 years of conservation at Pacuare Reserve.
On a moonlit beach, waiting for a creature with a 100-million-year history to emerge from the pitch-black sea, it’s easy to forget what epoch we’re in.

**FOR EPI, IT ALL BEGAN HERE WITH A GIANT SEA TURTLE.** The leatherback sea turtle has traveled the earth’s oceans for 100 million years. Specialized adaptations, like its leathery carapace, have allowed it to survive for eons. But even the leatherback is now imperiled, due to a host of new threats – from poaching to habitat loss and beach development.

**WE WILL BE AT THE CENTER** of leatherback conservation efforts. We’ll spend much of our time at EPI’s Pacuare Reserve, conducting nesting leatherback censuses each night. Along with collecting data on leatherback populations, we’ll work to improve nesting habitat and restoration of beaches. During hatchling season (beginning in May), we’ll witness scores of tiny hatchlings making their perilous way from nest to ocean.

**IMAGINE STUDYING TROPICAL ECOLOGY** at a research facility deep in the rainforest, full of strikingly-colored birds and unusual mammals. Depending on the researchers’ schedules, we may participate in bat ecology or Lepidopteran (butterfly) research. We’ll also explore the wild diversity of the rainforest at night by going on a guided walk under the canopy, and we’ll celebrate it all with a white water rafting trip.
The Osa Peninsula is a jewel of biodiversity in a country already known for its riches.

SEA TURTLES, SLOTHS, SQUIRREL MONKEYS, AND JAGUARS are just the beginning of the creatures we may see in the lush oasis known as The Osa. EPI will guide your time between marine and terrestrial studies to experience as much of this awe-inspiring area as possible.

PROTECTED FROM DEVELOPMENT by its remoteness and inaccessibility, the Osa Peninsula is a biodiversity hot spot and a center for ecological research. We’ll fly into Puerto Jimenez and spend our first days in a forest reserve, exploring rainforest ecology in the brilliant green understory. Later, a canopy tour and zipline will give a firsthand glimpse of life in the trees.

ON THE COAST OF GOLFO DULCE, we’ll dive into sea turtle ecology with a catch-and-release project lead by local scientists. Wading out from shore through the warm coastal waters, we’ll assist in netting and capturing green and olive ridley sea turtles, taking important biometric data, tagging, and then gently releasing them. Our last activity in the Osa Peninsula will be to help renew this precious ecosystem by working to restore mangroves with a local conservation group.

CATCH A GLIMPSE OF SOME OF THE OSA’S MORE ELUSIVE SPECIES DURING A RAINFOREST CANOPY TOUR

COSTA RICA • THE OSA
9 days | January - August
Spring Tuition: $3,895
Winter/Summer Tuition: $3,695
Airfare Included

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Pacuare Reserve isn’t just a haven for nesting leatherback sea turtles. It’s also home to healthy populations of unique primates and some of the highest concentrations of felines in Costa Rica.

**EPI’s Emerald Pacuare Reserve Stretches** across 2,000 acres of rainforest and nearly three miles of Caribbean coastline. Inside, there is much to explore – from the sandy intertidal zone beloved of nesting leatherback sea turtles, to the deepest and wildest reaches of rainforest where spider monkeys and jaguars retreat.

**Primates Have Strong and Specific Social Systems** and our research focus will be the tribal structures of howler, spider, and white-faced capuchin monkeys. We will spend several days walking the reserve trails seeking troops of primates to observe and document, while taking time to examine the rich multitude of other species along the way.

**Researchers Capture the Behaviors of Jaguars** and other felines through a system of camera traps. We’ll work with them to determine new locations for camera traps and examine what this technology has to teach us about feline migrations. On the last day, the beaches of Cahuita beckon for some snorkeling in the teal Caribbean Sea. Here, we’ll discuss how climate change may affect this bastion of biodiversity – and what we can do to help.

**Recent Research Uncovered Pacuare Reserve’s Unique Abundance of Jaguars**
Have you ever heard a giant tortoise breathe? Crossed paths with a marine iguana? If you are going to make the once-in-a-lifetime trip to these far away islands, EPI’s unique partnership with the Galapagos National Park will make it unforgettable.

As we touch down on the black volcanic expanse of Baltra Island, the Galapagos Islands may at first look uninhabitable. But within moments, a land iguana will muscle its way across the tarmac and you’ll have your first glimpse of the sheer abundance of life in these famous islands. Each contains a unique combination of soils, wind, and topography that lay the groundwork for the diversity of biological expression.

The Highlands of Santa Cruz Island are where we will begin our journey. Just twenty miles from the desolate flats of Baltra, we’ll enter a cloud forest of daisy trees and giant tortoises. Our unique partnership with Galapagos National Park gives us exclusive access to researchers, and we’ll assist them in locating giant tortoises and collecting data on their habitat uses. We’ll also give back by spending one morning removing invasive plant species—helping to maintain the natural balance of the incomparable Galapagos Islands.

A short boat ride takes us to the island of Isabela, the largest in the archipelago. The lava flows on Isabela are younger than on other islands, which means different habitat and ecosystems. Here, we may see penguins, Darwin’s finches, and Galapagos hawks. We’ll visit the National Park’s tortoise breeding center and snorkel the waters of the Galapagos Marine Reserve.

Land iguanas are larger than their marine relatives and their leathery mouths make them perfectly suited to snack on prickly pear cacti.
Teachers travel free.
Sure, it’s not a free iPad, but we prefer a different kind of connection: one with scientists, nature, and local cultures. That’s why, when you bring six students, one teacher-chaperone travels for free. With twelve, make it two chaperones (even with the ease that EPI builds in, you’ll appreciate that extra set of hands).

We focus on inquiry.
Every EPI course is built around our students asking and answering the questions that interest them. This is our framework and our belief: when students take ownership of their own education, the results are life-changing.

Our goal: environmental literacy.
We want students to demonstrate the knowledge, dispositions, competencies, and behaviors necessary to actively engage, individually or as a group, in the task of addressing environmental challenges.

Field experiences are the key to achieving that goal.
When have you felt most connected to the natural world? Step back into that feeling with an EPI field program, and watch the ripple effects reach your students and beyond. EPI experiences lead to inspiration and classroom impacts for students and teachers alike.

Service learning enhances the field experience.
Our programs incorporate service projects as a key component of the field experience. Students carry a sense of accomplishment home with them after they’ve helped restore tropical forests, removed invasive plants, or improved endangered wildlife habitat.

Online resources add value and save you time.
Our staff knows and appreciates the time-sensitive realities of life as a classroom teacher. We’ve streamlined our planning, paperwork, and payment processes, and we’ve made all our pre-course resources and additional curriculum pieces for your classroom available online.

Chance of making a difference: 100%.
EPI’s student-conducted research directly benefits endangered species and threatened ecosystems. You’ll be contributing to a body of knowledge that helps scientists, policy-makers, and the public make informed decisions to positively impact the world.

SO, WHY EPI?
Still on the fence about an EPI program? We have more to share with you! Read on for information on scholarships, teacher and chaperone incentives, and our ultimate goal of environmental literacy.

We’ll back it up with data. Read more and access additional resources at ecologyproject.org/about/our-educational-approach
COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

In 2020, EPI has a new scientific partner in Belize, the Toledo Institute for Development and Environment, or TIDE.

HISTORY With the assistance of the Nature Conservancy and Belizean conservationists, TIDE was established in 1997 to conduct ecological studies that would inform management of important marine and terrestrial ecosystems in the Toledo District of Southern Belize.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT In its conservation efforts and training programs, TIDE engages stakeholders from across the community: fishermen, indigenous peoples, farmers, logging concessionaires, and ecotourism groups, in order to foster environmental stewardship.

CONSERVATION SUCCESS TIDE and its communities successfully lobbied the government to establish the Port Honduras Marine Reserve and Payne’s Creek National Park. Along with the Belizean government, TIDE manages these reserves using an “integrated land and seascape” model that protects the environment from ridge to reef.

OUR PARTNERSHIP Through cooperation, EPI and its participants get to contribute to essential, long-term ecological studies in TIDE’s managed areas; and TIDE benefits from the expansion of its data collection capabilities. EPI also broadens TIDE’s reach to Belizean schools, where EPI has longstanding relationships. It’s a model for sustainability, responsible resource management, and a brighter future for Belize.

NEXT STEPS TOWARD 2020

Get in Touch With Us
This catalog is just the beginning. We have research outlines, detailed brochures, and all the logistical information you could ever want (and more) just an email or a phone call away. Now’s your chance! 800-721-8784 - info@ecologyproject.org

Select Site & Dates
A dedicated Field Experience Coordinator will help you choose the right time and program location depending on your interests, school schedule, and our field site availability. Our Field Experience Coordinators are well-traveled, wonderfully helpful, and they’ll be with you for every step in the process.

Spread the Word
Share the opportunity with your students. We have posters, videos, pre-departure curriculum pieces, and many other outreach materials available, and we can provide suggestions for after-school and parent meetings. Enrollment is easy through our website, and if six or more of your students enroll before our June 15 deadline, group scholarship funds are available to first-time schools.

YOU MIGHT BE WONDERING

When should schools sign up?
Reserve early! For 2020, many of our sites will book up by summer 2019. If you’re nervous about timing, a $1,500 deposit reserves your course dates. Contact us for specific info based on your unique situation.

Is airfare included?
Yes, on all international programs, but not for Yellowstone.

Can I recommend this to individual students?
Yes! Many courses are open to individual students. Get in touch with us for details.

Do participants prepare their own meals?
In Yellowstone and Baja Coastal, part of the fun is helping with meal prep. On other international programs, EPI works with local chefs and restaurants to prepare all food.

How do I get my administration on board?
Our Field Experience Coordinators can assist you with putting together a proposal for approval. We have risk management details, safety record stats, and curriculum information that can support the process.

Can individuals and groups outside the US participate?
Certainly! We’ve welcomed groups from around the world to our field sites. If you’re in Canada, contact us for prices in $C.
SCHOLARSHIPS
FINANCIAL AID
FUNDRAISING

Want to know what our dream is? To offer our programs to each and every student and teacher who hopes to participate. Here’s how we can help:

Financial aid. Awards offered to enrolled participants each spring and fall. Eligible students can receive $300-$600.

In-house fundraising platform. Every student receives access to their own crowdfunding platform hosted by EPI.

Scholarships. Thanks to funding from alumni and supporting foundations, a number of scholarships are available each year for groups and individual students.

Off-season travel grants. Groups with flexibility to travel outside our typical field season are eligible for travel grants of up to $8,000.

For more information on scholarships, grants, & aid, visit www.ecologyproject.org/scholarships

“THIS EXPERIENCE MADE ME MORE WILLING TO STEP OUT OF MY COMFORT ZONE AND TRY SOMETHING NEW. IT MADE ME CONSIDER OTHER CAREER OPTIONS TOO AFTER SEEING ALL THE AMAZING WORK THE RESEARCHERS DO.”

- 2018 GALAPAGOS PARTICIPANT

GIVE STUDENTS THE SKILLS TO EMBRACE THE CONSERVATION CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE
IN THIS SHORT TIME, I RECONNECTED TO THE SEA. I PLAN TO BE MUCH MORE ACTIVE IN THE PROJECTS WHERE I LIVE BECAUSE THERE IS SO MUCH TO DO! I FEEL THE NEED TO CONTRIBUTE AND SPREAD MY NEW KNOWLEDGE.

- ALEXIA, 2018 BAJA PARTICIPANT

“PLAYFULNESS IS THE KEY TO A CURIOUS MIND — AND TO EPI’S PROGRAMS.”

MORE PATHS TO THE FIELD

Programs catered to individual students and teachers seeking professional development.

Open Enrollment
EPI offers science-focused travel programs for individual students that are not traveling with an organized school group. From studies in marine biology to tropical forest restoration, our Open Enrollment courses are a perfect spring or summer opportunity for high school students interested in field science. Find available open enrollment dates on our website: ecologyproject.org/travel

Teacher Fellowships
EPI’s Fellowship program began in 2013, with 13 exceptional science teachers. We’ve now worked with more than 275 inspiring educators for this unique professional development experience. Participating Fellows receive more than 40 hours of instructional time on curriculum development, research methodology, and field science, all while actively participating in EPI research projects at our remarkable program sites.

Dates to Remember
June 15th: EPI’s Fellowship dates and locations announced
July 1st – September 1st: Fellowship application period open
October: Fellows selected

Join the interest list at ecologyproject.org/fellowship

Training in the NGSS?
EPI runs 9-day professional development courses focused on developing teachers’ ability to create and deliver authentic science lessons aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards. You’ll learn strategies for helping your students conduct independent scientific research and for further integrating the NGSS into your lesson planning. By working alongside researchers at our field sites, you’ll develop the skills to be both a better science teacher and a better scientist.

Learn more at ecologyproject.org/ngss

PLAYFULNESS IS THE KEY TO A CURIOUS MIND — AND TO EPI’S PROGRAMS.
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<td>Yellowstone Winter Ecology Program</td>
<td>9 days</td>
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<td>$2,395</td>
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Long term datasets, like the ones EPI and its partners steward, are rare and difficult to maintain but crucial to understanding environmental change. Data collected by EPI students provides valuable information that benefits studies of biodiversity, climate change, and vulnerable species, and the process allows young people to contribute meaningfully to conservation research.

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