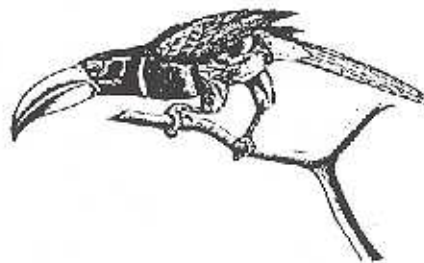


Join us for Spring Break in the Rainforest Costa Rica 2006

March 17-27, 2006



1. Background and Credentials:

The CR2006 trip will be organized and planned by Save The Rainforest, a nonprofit environmental organization licensed by the Federal Government. The group was started in 1988 by Bruce Calhoun, a biology teacher from Wisconsin, who now directs the program full time. Save The Rainforest is governed by a Board of Directors made up of 16 teachers from all over the United States. Since 1990 over 6,000 teachers and students have visited the tropics with Save The Rainforest, most taking two-week ecology trips. Save The Rainforest conducts courses in Belize, Ecuador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, and the Olympic Peninsula. This will be our sixth trip with Save The Rainforest (2 to Belize, 2 to Costa Rica, and 1 to Panama). We have always been delighted with the trips, which they design especially for us.

In Costa Rica the trip will be conducted by Save The Rainforest's partner-in-conservation, Fundacion Neotropica, a nonprofit Costa Rican corporation. Most of our time in Costa Rica will be spent at Neotropica's Tropical Youth Center, a beautiful sanctuary purchased in 1993 by donations from school children in Denmark. It is a marvelous, modern facility located on the Osa Peninsula in southwestern Costa Rica. The Tropical Youth Center provides opportunities for young people to experience a personal encounter with the forest and people of Osa, one of the most biologically diverse regions on the planet.

The Osa Peninsula offers heavy precipitation and high temperatures making ideal conditions for tropical rainforest with a great diversity of plant and animal species. 1,513 species of plants have been identified in Osa, along with 124 species of mammals, 375 species of birds, 71 species of reptiles and 48 species of amphibians. The Costa Rican Government has established an extensive system of protected areas to conserve this wealth of biodiversity, including Corcovado National Park, which we will visit.

2. Objectives & Approximate Itinerary (subject to modification)

The objective of the trip is to give students an integrated ecologically, socially, and culturally based vision of conservation and sustainable development on the Osa Peninsula. By comparing the situation of the Osa Peninsula with their own experiences, students will be encouraged to take a more active role in conservation and sustainable development in their home communities.

Day 1 Evening flight from Miami to San Jose, Costa Rica. Dinner at a typical Costa Rican restaurant in downtown San Jose; overnight at Hotel Aranjuez, a genuine Costa Rican home.

Day 2 San Jose to Osa Peninsula by bus down the Pan American Highway. The trip will take 6 to 8 hours and includes several fascinating stops (The Paramo, Plantations, etc.) and lunch along the way. First of five nights at the Tropical Youth Center.

Days 3 - 6 Tropical Youth Center. Activities include night walks, forest laboratories, waterfall visits, environmental education program at a local elementary school, a, many hikes, visit to Corcovado National Park, rainforest explorations, presentations on Costa Rica natural history, neotropical bats, protected areas of CR, education in CR, forest insects, conservation issues, and much more.

One day will be spent at La Gamba Project, a community education effort of the Neotropica Foundation fostering sustainable ways for local people to coexist with rainforest habitats. Equitable, organizational, productive processes and community actions are employed to help the community reach their own self-development toward better social and economic conditions. Students will learn about the history of the community, visit their school, integral farm, iguana and badger breeding, biogestors, medicinal plants, and ecotourism attractions the community has developed.

Another day involves a visit to the Guayami Indian Reserve where students will be introduced to the indigenous way of living, traditional foods and textiles, medicinal plants used, & other cultural topics.

Days 7 - 8 The group will transfer to the Dante Corcovada Lodge for two nights, with days spent in explorations of Corcovado National Park, the last remnant of tropical rainforest on the Pacific coast of Central America. Access to the national park will be by tractor-pulled wagon, crossing the Rincon River several times en route to Los Patos ranger station inside the park. Hikes in this primary rainforest will culminate with lunch and bathing at a waterfall.

Day 9 Travel back toward San Jose, with an overnight at La Cusinga Lodge and a visit to Ballena Marine National Park. Shopping, touring and lunch along the way.

Day 10 Off to Parque National Volcan Poas. Breakfast en route. Visit at the Park and Volcano. Lunch en route back to San Jose. Return to Alajuela for shopping, touring and over night.

Day 11 Travel from San Jose to Miami. Bus back to JHS.

3. Travel Plans:

Transportation to and from Miami Airport by JHS Activity Bus driven by Mr. White. Flight will be from Miami International to San Juan International.

Travel within Costa Rica will be by bus driven by guides and/or instructors from Fundacion Neotropica.

4. Safety Precautions:

The country of Costa Rica has a long tradition of stable, peaceful government. Health problems are minimal. No special immunizations are required. Because we will be visiting a rural area, it would be wise to take the recommended malaria pills (check with your doctor.) It is also recommended that you be current with your tetanus shots. For those with fragile digestive systems, being prepared with "stop" and "go" medications is helpful.

All the facilities we stay in are modern with indoor plumbing and electricity. Safe drinking water and juices are always available and we refill our water bottles from these sources. Medical clinics and facilities are nearby and instructors and guides are equipped to do basic first aid and are trained in CPR.

5. Special Travel Issues:

All travelers will be required to have a Passport. Applications may be obtained at the Passport Office in the County Courthouse on PGA. **Note: this takes some time... DO NOT DELAY!**

6. Eligibility for Trip:

All Seniors and Juniors in JERFSA with solid academic standing and outstanding conduct will be eligible for the trip. It should be noted that any student who owes money to the Academy must repay that money before they will be eligible for the CR2006 trip. Students are encouraged to participate in the Academy fund-raisers (car washes, T-Shirt sales, Calendar sales, etc.) to help with the cost of the trip. We must have twenty (20) students for the trip and could accommodate more.

7. Costs:

The cost of the trip will be \$1875, which covers transportation, accommodations, food, instruction, and fees. A \$300 deposit must be paid by **October 14** to reserve a spot on the trip. The remaining amount may be paid in installments in December and January. **The balance must be paid by February 1, 2006.**

8. Chaperones:

Phil and Ann Weinrich, who have chaperoned the previous 5 Central America trips for JERFSA, will be there, assisted by Mrs. Jessie Ramsey and her husband Todd.

9. Special Concerns:

If you have special concerns about safety or financing for the trip, do not hesitate to call Mr. Weinrich at JERFSA. 743-6005.