

GNS Round Square Ambassador Alert



Learn leadership skills, jump into service opportunities, be a global citizen!

2018/2019 Round Square Regional and International Conferences

This outline is designed to inform the Glenlyon Norfolk Senior School community of upcoming Round Square conference leadership opportunities for interested GNS students, as well as several possible service project possibilities, near and far.

2019 Regional Round Square Conference of the Americas



The 2019 Regional Round Square Conference of the Americas will take place from April 10 to 17, 2019, co-hosted by Markham College and San Silvestre School, both in Miraflores, Lima, Peru, with a pre-conference cultural tour to Cusco, the Sacred Valley and Machu Pichu from April 7 to 10, 2019. In total, we anticipate the delegation will be away from

April 6 to April 17, missing eight school days on this learning and service adventure. The conference theme is: Together into the Unknown, and more details can be found at: <https://www.rsrc2019.org/>.

For the pre-conference tour, we have been invited to join four other schools on an adventure to Cusco, the Sacred Valley and the wonder of the world, Machu Picchu. More information can be found here: <https://portal.envoys.com/program/Perucollaborative19/>

This conference is organized for students ages 15 to 17 and we have room for four delegates, but we hope the conference organizers let us bring more! This conference opportunity is open to all Senior School students, ages 15 to 17.

To apply, please write a short letter outlining why you want to represent the school at this student leadership and adventure conference, and what you can bring to the delegation. Once we have received the student applications, we will host short group interviews.

Application Deadline: Friday, November 2nd, 2018

Approximate Cost: \$4,500, including the pre-conference trip to Machu Picchu

Approximate Cost if the group chooses to only go to the Conference: \$3200

Please note that Round Square offers bursaries for students who could otherwise not afford this trip.



“From yesterday and today—service, adventure, baraza meetings and keynote speakers—I learned that team work is important and with my peers I can do things that I couldn’t have done by myself.”

– Christine Kim '19

2019 International Round Square Conference

The 2019 International Round Square Conference will be hosted by Emerald Heights International School Indore, India (<http://emeraldheights.edu.in/>) with the theme “Sarvodaya—the world we wish to see.”

Sarvodaya is a Sanskrit word—a combination of two terms, Sarva meaning one and all, and Uday meaning welfare or uplift—combined the one word signifies Universal uplift or equality of welfare for all.

The RSIC2019 will run from October 2 to 8, 2019, with a pre-conference cultural or service tour, to be confirmed.

We have room to take five student delegates (must be 16 years of age in the academic year of 2019/2020), led by two GNS trip Leaders.

The conference website is currently under construction, and we anticipate the application deadline for student ambassadors to take place in March-April 2019. We anticipate the approximate cost, depending on the pre-conference tour option, to be between \$3500 and \$4500 CDN.



Background Information on the Round Square Conference Program

The International and Regional Round Square Conferences are hosted at Round Square schools annually. To the International Round Square Conference, each Round Square School usually sends a delegation, including students, the Senior Round Square Coordinator, and the Head of School. To the Americas Regional Round Square Conference, all Round Square schools in the North and South Americas region send delegations.

Both conferences offer forums for these delegates to celebrate and discuss the pillars of the Round Square (the IDEALS). Most delegates are within the ages of 15 to 18, with a recent push in Round Square schools to send mature 16 year olds. These are intellectual and active conferences; all delegates need to be ready to listen to and to discuss ideas, and also to socialize and adventure with other delegates from around the world. Two years after the conference to Thailand in 2010 a GNS delegate wrote, “Looking back at my experience at the Round Square Conference, I know I can say that hearing the ideas/insights and stories of so many diverse youth and adults has changed me irrevocably for the better. The days were long and intense, but also incredibly enriching and powerful. The hardest part of the whole conference was leaving my new friends.” Reflecting on RS12 in Kenya, a student reported “These were the best three weeks of my life so far; I am so lucky to be able to travel the world safely and connect with so many amazing people.”

Student Responsibilities

Before even applying to attend, students need to reflect on their school responsibilities. Both conferences take place at busy times of the year, when many school activities are getting started (October) or are wrapping up (late April). Missing classes and co-curricular activities for an average time of two weeks, comes with some concern at the senior level, especially for IB students. This concern has developed from watching students return from the conference with great ideas and plans, but due to over-commitment, be unable to implement them or share them with the larger school community. It is the hope of the school administration and Round Square Coordinators that the student delegates come home from the conference with a project plan that encourages the IDEALS in the GNS community. An example could be learning about a local service project at another school, and implementing, with help, a similarly inspired project here.

Financially, students and their families are responsible to pay for airfare, a possible post or pre-trip excursion and pocket money. GNS is responsible to pay for the conference fees. Students are encouraged to fundraise in their community to help offset the cost. For example, to go to Australia for the Round Square Conference in 2011, a student delegate raised \$1000 by hosting a series of dinners to offset the \$3000 total personal cost.

“The Mexico Service Project and the 2011 Round Square Conference were two of the best experiences of my life so far! Thank you!”

– Elspeth McGillivray ’12



Other Travel and Service Opportunities

Round Square International Service Projects

Round Square International Service Projects are for students ages 16 and up. Round Square has been running International Service Projects since 1953. Since then, Round Square Schools have worked on projects in Ladakh, Kenya, Romania, Guatemala and Cambodia helping communities in need and allowing young people from around the globe to grow and develop important life-long skills.

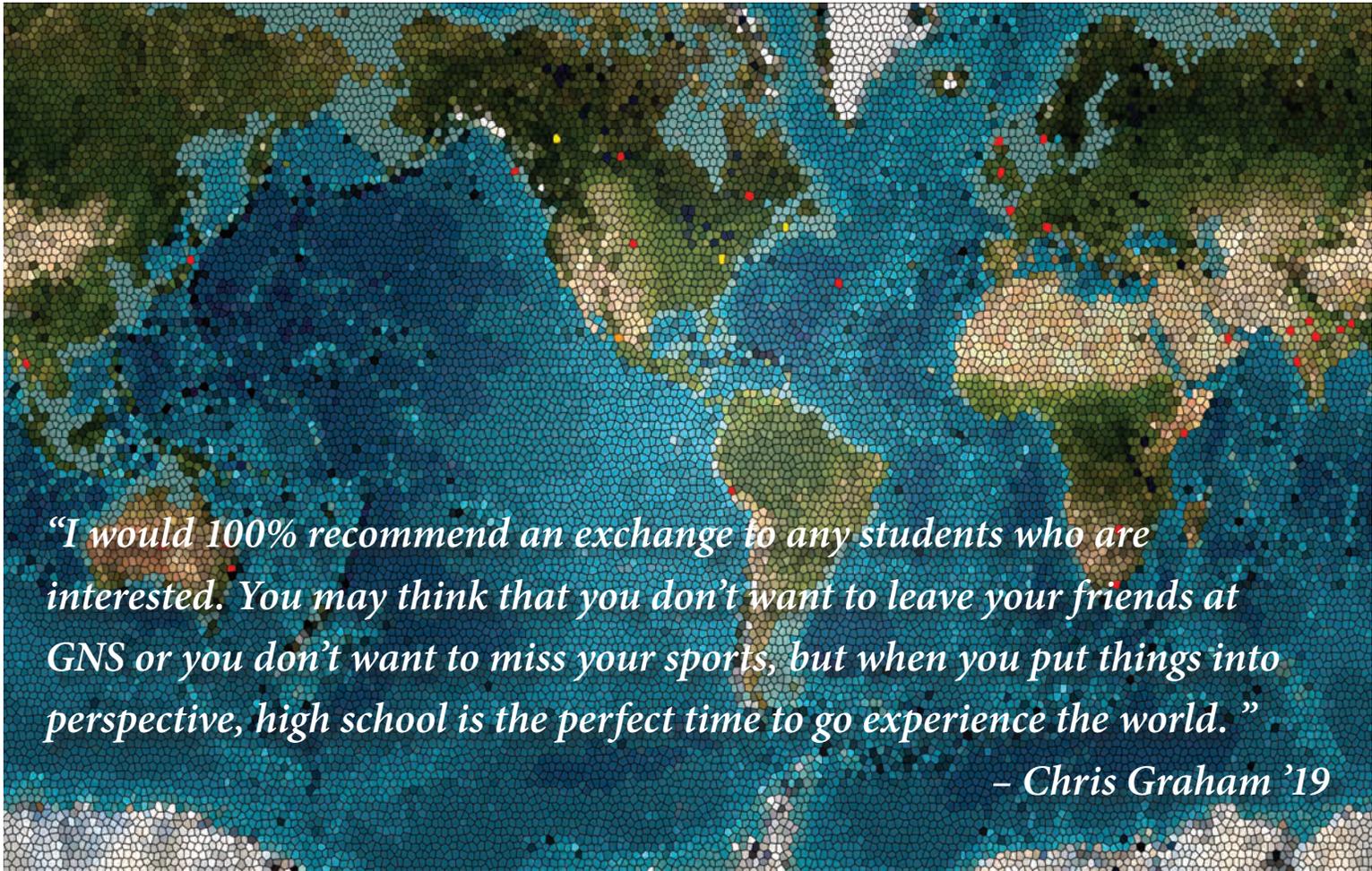
Each year Round Square hosts two unique RSIS Big Build service projects for 50 students from Round Square Schools. The projects take place every year in July and December and run (on average) for two weeks. GNS can send up to two ambassadors to each project; they fill up fast!

RSIS Big Build Projects

Under the banner of “The Round Square Big Build,” these International Service Projects, which take place annually in July and December, see 50 students from diverse Round Square Schools working with local communities around the world. This year, RSIS Big Build Ecuador took place in July 2018, and RSIS Big Build Sri Lanka is set to take place in December 2018. Both projects are full at this time with three GNS students able to participate in each.

For your consideration of future Big Builds, these projects are suitable for students ages 16 to 19, and very much focus on leadership skill building. Participants take it in turns to be Student Leaders during the project, taking responsibility for the organization of the day, briefing their peers, giving an overview of safety and risk management, and organizing a student rota to help with different chores at camp. Students are given feedback by their peers and the adult leaders, and all receive a personal report after the trip.

More information can be found here: <https://www.roundsquare.org/connect/international-service-projects/about/>



“I would 100% recommend an exchange to any students who are interested. You may think that you don’t want to leave your friends at GNS or you don’t want to miss your sports, but when you put things into perspective, high school is the perfect time to go experience the world.”

– Chris Graham ’19

Application Process and Timeline

To apply to the International Round Square Conference in Ontario, please read carefully the above section on “Student Responsibilities,” and write a 200 to 300-word letter (to be submitted electronically please) to Sarah McKerlich, Director of Senior School Round Square Program, explaining why you would like to attend and what you hope to learn and bring back to GNS with you.

There will be interviews for a final selection of delegates. A strong applicant is someone who can effectively demonstrate their understanding of the IDEALS, and who can show how he/she has been involved in activities at either GNS and/or in the wider community that connect to Internationalism, Democracy, the Environment, Adventure, Leadership and Service. No Round Square experience is required. (This opportunity is open to application by all students who will be 16 in the 2018/2019 academic year.)

Please note that in the case of all international conferences, students are required to have an up-to-date passport, which is valid for at least six months after our return. If your passport is from another country, you may also need a tourist visa and a Canadian re-entry visa.

For more information about the Round Square opportunities at Glenlyon Norfolk School, please contact:

Ms. Sarah McKerlich

Director of Senior School Round Square Program

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e: smckerlich@mygns.ca

<http://www.mygns.ca/gryphon-life/round-square>



“The Round Square of the Americas Conference was the right size, in an inspiring place, where I learned a great deal about myself and the world.”

– Julian Butterfield ’12