



TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: STEVE LIDGARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – BUSINESS SERVICES
SUBJECT: SOLICITING STUDENTS FOR FIELD TRIP TO ALASKA
DATE: FEBRUARY 18, 2020
TYPE: ACTION NEEDED

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "SL", is written over the text "BUSINESS SERVICES".

John Swanson, Mathematics teacher at Stanwood High School, is requesting Board approval to solicit Stanwood High School students to participate in a STEM based educational trip to Alaska through World Strides in June 2021.

This is a non-district sponsored educational trip. Mr. Swanson, students or employees that participate will not be representatives of the school of district.

Recommendation: We recommend the board approve John Swanson's request to solicit students to participate in the World Strides STEM based Field Trip to Alaska in June 2021.

February 10th, 2020

RECEIVED

To: Stanwood-Camano School District School Board

FEB 10 2020

From: John Swanson, Stanwood High School

STANWOOD-CAMANO
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Board Members,

I am requesting permission to solicit students for an upcoming trip. I would be leading the fourth STEM based trip from Stanwood High School next summer. This trip would be to Alaska and would occur at the end of June 2021. While there we would learn directly about animal biology, glaciers and their surrounding ecosystem, whales and other marine life, earthquakes, and a variety of other STEM topics. In addition to that, we would learn about Alaskan history and culture. I have always believed that travel impacts students' growth and learning, but I was shocked to see the statistics and how much of an impact travel really does have. This would be our fourth STEM based trip, the second to Alaska, and my plan is to continue to develop it into a tradition so that the experiences can be shared with many Stanwood students over the years.

This would be my second trip to Alaska with students, I have taken them on many trips over the years. I have been leading the annual trip to the University of Washington for the past 10 or so years for Math Day. As a wrestling coach I have taken students to tournaments and camps for the past 13 years. I have previously travelled with students to both Iceland and Alaska. This summer I am taking another group internationally to Iceland.

I would like to be able to tell students and parents about the trip and the benefits of travel. This would include talking to the students outside of class time, putting up a couple posters, sharing printed information about the trip, and holding some informational parent meetings in my classroom outside of the school day.

Overview of Details

I have included some papers with information pertaining to our trip.

- I. An initial letter that will go home to parents giving details about the trip and in informational parent meeting. This includes a sample itinerary, the trip dates (6/22/21-6/27/21), the cost for each student and adult, information on financial aid, and registration information. Also included is a flyer to families briefly describing the trip, the tour company, and some statistics on the impact of travel.
- II. Student Rules and Regulations Personal Behavior Contract and Emergency Medical Release. This is the behavior contract that the tour company uses.
- III. Information about the tour company, World Strides. This company offers educational trips for many subjects both internationally and domestically. They are a full-service agency that will make our travel arrangements, lodging and meals, scheduled tours and transportation in Alaska, will provide us with a course leader, and provides the insurance, emergency support, and educational materials. World Strides has been in business for over 50 years and was founded by a teacher who took his middle school class to Washington, DC and thought that there should be an easier way for teachers to make educational trips with their students. They have an exemplary record and an amazing reputation. To my knowledge, this is the second time that Stanwood School District is using World Strides, so I have included some information about the company taken from their website.
 - a. Why World Strides? This is an overview of the company and the services that they offer.
 - b. Safety and Security. This gives some of the safety and security resources that they offer.
 - c. Educational Excellence. This details their focus on education, talks about their LEAP method, and gives their accrediting bodies.
 - d. Academic Credit. This outlines the process that the students can receive credit through the trip and on-line coursework following the trip. Also include are the course descriptions for the credit opportunities for this particular trip.

IV. Trip Finances and school district responsibility.

This trip is being financed by the students who are going, their families, and fundraising efforts. The students are responsible for any extra spending money that they want to bring with them and any other expenses incurred during the trip. The district will not be responsible for any of the finances for the trip. The travelers have medical coverage of their own and that provided through World Strides. We have our own travel arrangements to and from the airport. The trip is during the summer, so there will be not costs for class coverage or anything else that would be needed if it were during school.

Again, I am very excited about this trip and sharing this experience with more students. More than that, I am excited to work to make trips like this a part of the STEM educational experience that Stanwood High School can offer to our students.

Thank you for all the support that you offer to the students of our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Swanson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Swanson

Teacher

Stanwood High School



2021 Anchorage, AK Trip

Dear Parents and Students,

I am excited to announce that I will lead a group of students on a WorldStrides program to Anchorage, AK. On this once-in-a-lifetime adventure, students will explore the vast wilderness and natural beauty of Alaska, discover its rich culture and traditions, and experience incomparable learning moments. This will be a trip that your child will be talking about for years to come!

Your child will return home excited to tell you about:

- Exploring Denali National Park in search of grizzly bear, moose, and caribou
- Standing on the edge of the Exit Glacier or walking alongside the Harding Icefield
- Watching whales breach the surface of the water on a boat tour of Resurrection Bay

I have chosen to travel with WorldStrides because of their exceptional service, their 50 years of experience, their safety record, and their preventive measures that ensure learning occurs in a safe and fun environment. I have led this trip for many years now and look forward to leading it again. I will chaperone the program with other teachers as needed, and throughout the program our group will be guided by a WorldStrides-certified Course Leader 24 hours a day. **Since this is not a school sponsored trip, we will not be attending as representatives or employees of the school.**

There will be a trip information meeting to discuss this wonderful opportunity on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 6:30 PM in Mr. Swanson's Classroom #16 at the Church Creek Campus. All parents and students are invited to attend this brief 30-minute meeting where I'll share more information about WorldStrides, review some of the trip highlights, and explain some of the tools available to help pay for the trip. I strongly encourage you to attend this meeting. This program promises to be an inspiring experience that will stay with participants throughout their lives. I hope that you will join us in this fun and educational bonding experience. If you have any questions, you can contact me at (360)629-1300, or via jswanson@stanwood.wednet.edu.

Sign Up By Friday, March 27, 2020

John Swanson
Program Leader



Ultimate Alaska Sample Itinerary

DAY 1

Travel to **Anchorage, Alaska**

Meet your WorldStrides representative, participate and begin your once-in-a-lifetime experience!

Orientation tour of **Anchorage** (weather and time permitting)

Stop at **Potter Marsh**. Just outside Anchorage along the Seward Highway, you'll enjoy a stop at the southern most point in the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge. Walk the boardwalk that extends 1,500-feet into marsh, giving you easy access to a see a variety of birds including Canadian Geese, canvasback ducks, northern pintails, and even eagles nesting at the base of the bluffs. Students learn to properly use binoculars as you observe these birds in their natural habitat (weather and time permitting).

Dinner and hotel check in

Overnight in **Anchorage**

DAY 2

Breakfast and hotel check out

Transfer to the Anchorage Rail Depot to board a train for your journey north to **Wasilla**.

Happy Trail Kennels. Meet a local Musher and Iditarod Sled Dogs - meet dogs that have run the Last Great Race and future Iditarod dogs. Consider how the dogs, the sled and the musher must work together to create kinetic energy.

Lunch

Travel to **Denali National Park**, stopping in route for picturesque landscapes and incredible wildlife viewing.

Denali Presentation. Learn about the allure of this incredible mountain and hear real life stories from from one of Denali's famed park Rangers. Discover and consider the engineering challenges that climbers face.

Dinner and hotel check in. Overnight in **Healy**.

DAY 3

Breakfast

Murie Excursion in Denali National Park. Travel deep inside the park on a day-long journey.

You'll have access to both a driver guide and a naturalist, who will share stories about the influential figures and natural biologists who have helped to preserve this incredible landscape.

Lunch

Venture off the bus for a **hike on the tundra** and be sure to have your camera ready to take pictures of the *The Big Five* - caribou, grizzly bears, Dall sheep, moose, and wolves.

Denali Mountain. Weather permitting, you'll stop along to see Denali Mountain, the tallest peak in North America.

Dinner

Overnight in **Healy**

DAY 4

Breakfast and hotel check out

Travel from Denali to **Anchorage, Alaska**

Lunch

Visit the **Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center**, an organization dedicated to preserving Alaska's wildlife by taking in injured and orphaned animals. Watch animals display their natural behaviors in the center's spacious enclosures.

Depart for **Seward**

Dinner and hotel check in. Overnight in **Seward**

DAY 5

Breakfast

Hike to Exit Glacier. Take a hike to the tongue of Exit Glacier. See where the Harding Icefield meets the Resurrection River while considering glaciology, erosion, and the impact of katabatic winds.

Explore **Kenai Fjords National Park** by boat. See orcas, humpback whales, stellar sea lions, puffins, sea otters, and brown bears while in route to a tidewater glacier. As you see the glaciers and the landscape surrounding them, you'll gain a better understanding - and appreciation - of the impact of glacier erosion and glacial rebound. Lunch will be provided on the boat.

Dinner. Overnight in **Seward**

DAY 6

Breakfast. Hotel check-out

Depart **Seward** for **Anchorage**. En route, use time to learn how researchers study and measure glacial erosion.

Alaska Sealife Center. Built through funds from the 1989 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, this world-class marine research and rehabilitation center is the only cold water research facility in North America. Learn from scientists about the rich ecosystem of the Bering Sea, understand the work being done to protect the endangered sea lions, and discover the secrets of the harbor seals that call Resurrection Bay home. Afterwards, consider the engineering challenges resulting from oil spills and the technology required to mitigate these disasters.

Visit **Begich Boggs Visitor Center**, built on the terminal moraine left by Portage Glacier. Explore exhibits about the **Chugach National Forest**, America's second largest single national forest. (time permitting)

Lunch and **Downtown Anchorage** (time permitting)

Depart **Anchorage** on an overnight flight home



Anchorage, AK Details:

TRIP DATES

Trip ID#: 184879

Destination: Anchorage, AK

Departing: Tuesday, June 22, 2021

Returning: Sunday, June 27, 2021

TRIP MEETING

There will be a trip information meeting to discuss this wonderful opportunity on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 6:30 PM in Mr. Swanson's Classroom #18 at the Church Creek Campus.

TRIP PRICE

SIGN UP NOW to take advantage of our special early registration discount and Spring 2020 program price!

Prices are based on 35 full-paying participants.

Student: Your discounted price is \$2,841 quadruple occupancy, which reflects a \$150 discount off the Spring 2020 price for signing up prior to Friday, March 27, 2020.

Adult: Your discounted price is \$3,290 double occupancy, which reflects a \$150 discount off the Spring 2020 price for signing up prior to Friday, March 27, 2020.

Payment can be made in full or spread out into monthly installment payments* Select EZPay when choosing monthly installment payments and have your payments automatically deducted from your bank account saving you time and potential missed payments. There is a \$6 non-refundable handling fee on each installment payment following your registration if you do not select EZPay.

Full Refund Program: An additional \$289 covers cancellation (see Terms and Conditions at www.worldstrides.com/ms-terms-conditions).

FLAG financial assistance: FLAG financial assistance may be available for families with an adjusted gross income up to \$85,000. See reverse for details.

*Installment amounts may vary in price based on when you sign up and optional inclusions. Your last payment must be made by the final payment deadline and may be larger than your previous installment payments. Your final payment is due on 03/04/2021.

INCLUDES

- Round trip transportation
- Evening Activities
- Course Leader
- Quality hotel accommodations
- Accident/health insurance
- 24-Hour Emergency Support
- Opportunity to earn free school credit
- Online educational resources
- All Meals
- Field Journals
- Admission fees
- Sightseeing transportation

SIGN UP TODAY!

Sign Up By: 03/27/20 – register now and SAVE!

Deposit Amount: \$49 (non-refundable) – This is a special, reduced deposit amount for signing up prior to 03/27/20.

Sign Up:

- Online at www.worldstrides.com/signup (use Trip ID#184879 to sign up)
- By phone – call WorldStrides' Customer Service Team at 1-800-468-5899
- By mail – use the registration form on reverse

Sign up today for the trip of a lifetime!



ONLINE

worldstrides.com/signup



PHONE

800-468-5899



MAIL

Fill out the attached form
and return by mail

At WorldStrokes, our passion is student travel. We believe every student should have the opportunity for travel to change their lives and that's why we offer several tools to help make these experiences possible for each and every student.



with FLAG Future Leaders of
American Government

- WorldStrides provides over **\$2.5 million** in financial assistance each year to thousands of families
- Families with annual adjusted gross incomes of less than \$85,000 may qualify
- One simple call and you'll know how much may be available for your trip

Hurry, financial assistance is given on a first-come, first-served basis.

This trip will be an incredible experience for your child and their classmates!

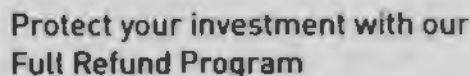
Don't delay - call WorldStrides
Customer Service at 800 458 5899
to sign up for your trip and to ask
any additional questions about
financial assistance, fundraising,
and payment plans.

with the Gift of Education

- Student-driven fundraising where 100% of the money raised goes to pay for your trip
 - Easy-to-use e-cards, letters, and shareable Facebook links students can send to friends and family
- Thousands of students pay for their entire trip each year through the *Gift of Education*.

that are easy & affordable

- Sign up for the trip with a small deposit
- Remaining payments are spread out into smaller amounts and paid monthly prior to travel
- Set up auto-deductions from your checking account to save time and money



Educational travel is an investment in your child's future. Our Full Refund Program protects that investment should you have to cancel your registration for any reason prior to departure. The program refunds all money paid (less the cost of the Full Refund Program and any merchandise purchased) and includes special Job Loss Protection. We strongly recommend that you add on our Full Refund Program when signing up for your trip.

Full Terms and Conditions are available at worldstrides.com/tripterms

Trip ID# 184879 - 06/22/21

Full legal name*

Additional registrant name*

*Federal mandate (TSA) requires that travelers provide their complete first, middle, and last names (as they appear on legal documents, not nicknames or initials) and date of birth.

Date of birth: / / ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Student ☐ Adult Additional registrant DOB: / / ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Student ☐ Adult

Email Address: ☐ I verify this is a valid email address. Sign me up for paper-free billing and notifications

Mailing Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Responsible Party name: _____ Mobile phone: _____

Home phone: _____ Mother's work phone: _____ Father's work phone: _____

Include a souvenir T-shirt and bill me \$19. My size is **S M L XL XXL** Amount I am paying today: _____

☐ I am paying by check There is a \$35 charge for returned checks

☐ I am paying by credit card ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover

Card Number:

Name as it appears on card: _____
Expiration Date: _____

Cardholder's signature:

☐ **Yes, enroll me in the Full Refund Program!**☐ **No, do not enroll me in the Full Refund Program**

Signature X:

I have reviewed and agree to the Terms and Conditions and confirm my Full Refund Program selection. Full Terms and Conditions can be found at www.worldsrides.com/tripterms

www.worldstrides.com/signup | 800-468-5899 | PO Box 9033, Charlottesville VA 22906-9033

Safety is our #1 priority

As teachers and parents, we know how important safety is. That's why we treat our travelers like they're part of our own families. The following are the key safety measures we provide:

Tour Central
Our support office, available to assist traveling groups 24 hours a day

Tour Leaders
Caring and dynamic individuals who are specially trained to guide your group through your trip and make learning come to life

Tutor Coach Drivers
With years of experience driving and working with student groups

Student Name Tags
Imprinted with Tour Central's toll-free number

Doctors on Call Program
An exclusive partnership with The George Washington University Department of Emergency Medicine, granting us access to doctors for phone consultations and treatment recommendations

Tools to help pay for your trip

At WorldStrides, our passion is student travel. We believe every student should have the opportunity for travel to change their lives and that's why we offer several tools to help make these experiences possible for each and every student.

- Financial Assistance:** over \$2.5 million in assistance is given out each year to families with annual adjusted gross incomes of \$85,000 or less.
 - Gift of Education:** an effective fundraising tool where 100% of the money raised goes to pay for your trip.
 - Payment Plans:** spread out payments and set-up auto-deductions to save time and money.
- Visit worldstridesfundraising.com for more details on financial assistance, the Gift of Education, and other scholarship programs that may be available for your trip.

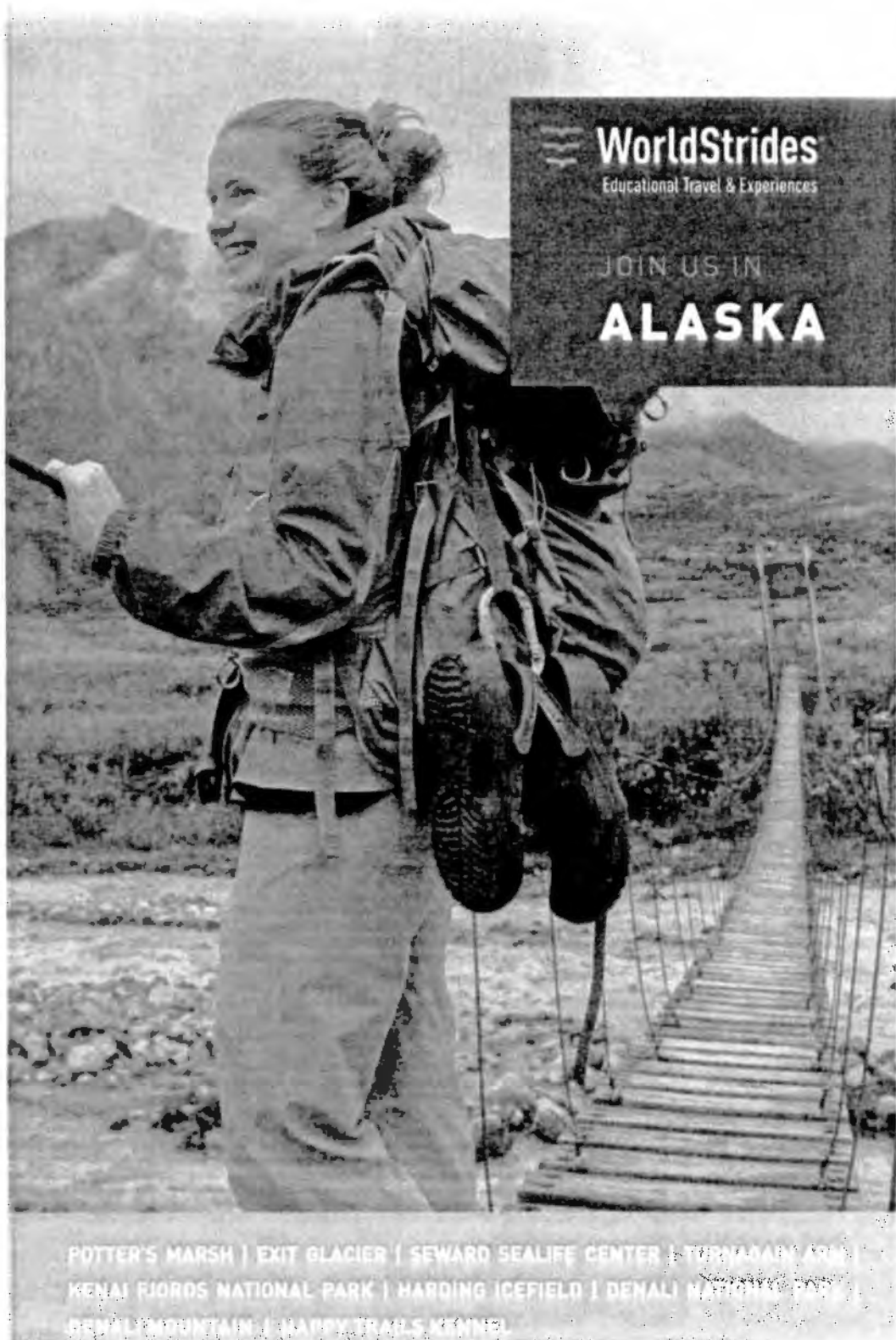
SIGN UP TODAY!

300-468-5899
worldstrides.com/signup

Customer Service hours
Monday through Friday
8:30 A.M. - 7:00 P.M. (Eastern)
customerservice@worldstrides.org

 Smithsonian

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WorldStrides
Educational Travel & Experiences

JOIN US IN
ALASKA

POTTER'S MARSH | EXIT GLACIER | SEWARD SEALIFE CENTER | THIMMADAN AREA
KENAI FJORDS NATIONAL PARK | HARDING ICEFIELD | DENALI NATIONAL PARK
DENALI MOUNTAIN | HAPPY TRAILS MOUNTAIN

Whether you are a seasoned traveler or this trip will mark the first time going outside of your hometown, traveling with your classmates will be an experience you'll remember for the rest of your life. Standing at the foot of Denali Mountain, coming face-to-face with some of Alaska's most famous wildlife, hiking the vast terrain of the Harding Icefield—this trip will no doubt be fun, but you'll be surprised at how much you'll come back changed! You'll develop a greater understanding and appreciation for science. You'll stretch what you think is possible. This trip will shape your mind for years to come, and we couldn't be more excited to offer this opportunity to you.

It's so much more than just a trip...

The benefits of travel extend far beyond the memories you'll make with your friends. Students who travel:



Have an increased GPA, higher SAT score, and are more likely to attend college



Report an increase in self-confidence and understanding of their own cultural values



Gain an increased acceptance of and respect for other cultures



A WorldStrides trip allows students to actively engage with places and landmarks they've only seen in textbooks. We call this LEAP—learning through exploration and active participation—and it's our trademarked approach to learning that creates the perfect balance of fun and education.



Kenai Fjords National Park –
Students discuss the impact of glacial erosion on the Alaskan landscape.



Smithsonian

ALASKA

All-Inclusive Experience



Round-trip transportation



Hotel accommodations



Three meals a day
(unless otherwise stated)



Ground transportation to and
from all activities



All admissions and fees for
scheduled activities



Expertly trained
course leaders



24-hour emergency support



Academic credit



Financial assistance



On-site support team

WORDS FROM A WORLDSTRIDES COURSE LEADER

"My favorite moment with the students...that's hard to pick just one thing. Maybe when they see a grizzly bear for the first time. Or, stand at the foot of a glacier. The light bulb goes off. It becomes real. It's a special moment when the students reflect on what they are seeing and realize how big and vast this world is and how they too can make a difference protecting our fragile environment. It's amazing—you can literally see them change before your eyes!"

MEET MAC, A RECENT WORLDSTRIDES TRAVELER



"Everyone in the whole Alaskan community is trying to preserve their parks, their wildlife, trying to keep human life from interfering with nature. It was incredible to see how they all worked together to balance their needs with those of their environment."

SIGN UP TODAY!

800-468-5899

worldstrides.com/signup



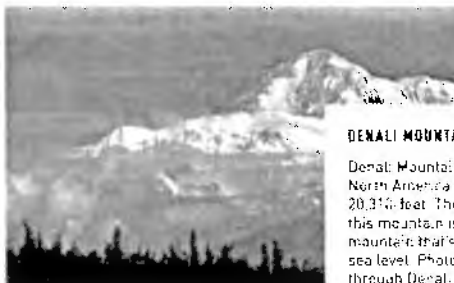
KENAI FJORDS NATIONAL PARK

Observe wildlife by boat in the Kenai Fjords National Park. Look for orcas, humpback whales, stellar sea lions, puffins, and otters as you make your way to a tidewater glacier. As the glaciers move toward the sea, you'll gain a better understanding of the impact of glacier erosion and glacial rebound.



HARDING ICEFIELD

Located in the Kenai Mountains and also within the Kenai Fjords National Park, the Harding Icefield is one of the largest in the world. Stretching over 350-square miles, the icefield includes up to 40 glaciers. A hiking trail provides above-the-tree-line access to breathtaking views of the icefield.



DENALI MOUNTAIN

Denali Mountain is the highest peak in North America with an elevation of 20,310 feet. The base to peak rise of this mountain is the largest of any mountain that's located entirely above sea level. Photograph it as you travel through Denali National Park.



EXIT GLACIER

Hike to one of the most accessible glaciers in Alaska and see where the Harding Icefield meets the Resurrection River. Stand beneath this massive wall of blue ice and hear the crackle of the ice moving and shilling. During the hike, discuss glaciology, erosion, and the impact of katabatic winds.



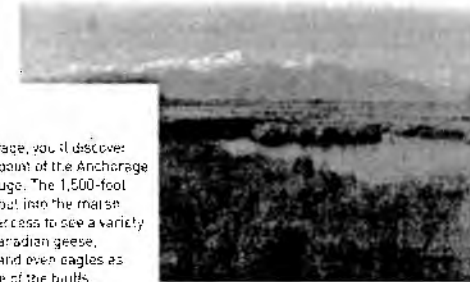
TURNAGAIN ARM

A bore tide occurs when seawater rushes into a shallow, narrow inlet from a broader bay and the tide at Turnagain Arm is one of the biggest in the world. As you watch the bore tide, keep an eye out for the harbor seals and beluga whales that ride the tide into Turnagain Arm.



POTTER'S MARSH

Just outside Anchorage, you'll discover the southernmost point of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge. The 1,500-foot boardwalk extends out into the marsh and gives you easy access to see a variety of birds including Canadian geese, canvasback ducks, and even eagles as they nest at the base of the bulfs.



DENALI NATIONAL PARK

Travel deep inside Denali National Park and seek the big five—caribou, grizzly bears, Dall sheep, moose, and wolves. Enjoy the breathtaking views of the Alaskan Range, including Denali Mountain. This six million acre wild-land is truly one of the most spectacular places on earth. You'll also enjoy a talk with a local Denali mountaineer.



ALASKA SEALIFE CENTER

Built through funds from the 1999 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, this marine research and rehabilitation center is one your students won't want to leave. They'll work with scientists to learn about the rich ecosystem of the Bering Sea, see the work being done to protect the endangered sea lions and discover the secrets of the harbor seals that call Resurrection Bay home.

Student Rules and Regulations Personal Behavior Contract

The WorldStrides tour you have elected to attend offers many unique opportunities and experiences. Beyond the educational benefits, the tour offers opportunities to form new friendships and to meet the challenges of independence.

We at WorldStrides promote a tour atmosphere where chaperones and students support one another with genuine respect. As a student participant, it is your responsibility to help make the tour a positive and enjoyable experience for yourself, fellow students, and chaperones. All participants are expected to demonstrate high standards of conduct and to accept personal responsibility and consequences for their actions. You are expected to exhibit honesty, courteousness and consideration toward others. This includes those in your group, as well as anyone else with whom you may come in contact, such as Motorcoach Drivers, guides and restaurant and hotel staff.

Our goal at WorldStrides is to make this trip an educational, safe, and enjoyable experience for everyone. We require your cooperation and commitment to the following behavior standards to help us meet this goal.

We expect the student/participant to obey the following rules of behavior:

- ❖ The student is to follow the directions and the rules and regulations established by the chaperones both prior to and during the tour.
- ❖ The student shall not be involved in any way with smoking, alcohol, illegal drugs, vandalism, theft, or any other type of behavior that is judged by the chaperones to be detrimental to the health, well-being, safety, or reputation of him/herself or anyone else in the group including the chaperones or WorldStrides.
- ❖ The student shall comply with all rules and regulations of the various governmental and vendor agencies (such as airlines, hotels, motorcoach companies, etc.).
- ❖ The student shall remain with the group at all times unless, and only if and when, the chaperones specifically allow you free time.
- ❖ The student shall follow the directions of the Program Leader, chaperones, and WorldStrides staff.
- ❖ The use of hotel facilities carries with it the responsibility of leaving them in the same conditions in which they were found. The student is responsible for any damage.
- ❖ Quiet hours at the hotel will be observed from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. At 10:30 p.m. students must be in their own rooms. Students must remain quietly in their rooms until awakened by chaperones.
- ❖ The student may never leave the hotel unless accompanied by a chaperone.
- ❖ The student must sleep in his/her assigned hotel room each night.
- ❖ Good common sense, respect and consideration for others and their property should be practiced daily.

If the student should violate any of these rules, he/she may be sent home at the sole discretion of the chaperones. In such cases, the parent/guardian will be contacted and the student sent home at the parent's expense.

Student Contract

I have read, and I understand the behavior rules and regulations of WorldStrides. I agree to comply with all of these rules and regulations.

Student signature _____ Date _____

Parent Contract

I have read, and I understand and support the rules and regulations of the WorldStrides tour. I represent that my child or ward has read the rules and regulations and has agreed to comply with all of them. It is understood that the signature on this behavior contract of one parent or guardian implies the consent of the other.

Parent signature _____ Date _____

PLEASE DO NOT SEND TO WORLDSTRIDES. RETURN TO YOUR PROGRAM LEADER.



WorldStrides®

Emergency Medical Release

THIS FORM SHOULD BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO YOUR TEACHER

Participant's Name _____ Birthdate _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Father's Name _____ Home Phone (____) _____ Bus Phone (____) _____

Cell Phone (____) _____

Mother's Name _____ Home Phone (____) _____ Bus Phone (____) _____

Cell Phone (____) _____

Allergies _____ Last Tetanus _____

Other medical conditions _____

Medication being used (include dosage/frequency) _____

Present state of health _____

Family Physician _____ Phone (____) _____

Medical/Hospital Insurance Company _____ Phone (____) _____

Policy Holder's Name _____ Policy Number _____

AUTHORIZATION FOR TREATMENT OF MINOR

I, the undersigned, understand and acknowledge that every effort will be made to contact the parents in case of an emergency, and, if possible, before any medical treatment is administered. In the event of an emergency or if the parents cannot be notified, I hereby give permission to the Program Leader or the WorldStrides staff to secure proper treatment for my child. If necessary, this includes selection of physicians and medical treatment facility who are then authorized to perform such medical treatments as deemed necessary to protect the health of my child. I further give my permission for WorldStrides staff to have access to medical records relating to any treatment contemplated or received by my child and to provide such information, as necessary, to health insurance carriers.

WorldStrides cannot be responsible for accommodating any food allergies, requirements or restrictions and is not responsible for any problems associated with the same. All issues with regard to food and drink, including allergies, requirements and restrictions are the sole responsibility of the participant.

In the event of any emergencies during the trip, the undersigned hereby grants authority to be exercised at the discretion of the Program Leader or chaperone to dispense over-the-counter medication.

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Please return this form to ~ no later than ~ .
PLEASE DO NOT RETURN THIS FORM TO WORLDSTRIDES.

WHY WORLDSTRIDES?

Trust

We've been a leader in educational travel for the past 50 years—taking students of all ages around the globe and into some of the most important learning adventures of their lives. Our teachers, professors, parents, and college administrators give us consistently high ratings for our proven safety process and policies. And we back our travelers with the best insurance coverage in the business.

Strength in numbers

With 50 years of experience, we've taken over 7 million students on educational trips - over 400,000 students traveled with us last year alone! We partner with more than 10,000 K-12 schools and 500 colleges and universities, including the top 30 MBA programs.

We're on it.

When it comes to student travel, we've seen it all (and handled it all). We'll carefully manage every detail of your trip with efficiency and diplomacy—whether you're going to Washington D.C. or southern Africa!

We've got your back

Our Tour Central office gives you "always there" support—24/7—and our proven contingency plan process gives you peace of mind. We also offer comprehensive liability coverage for teachers and schools, and medical coverage for students.

We've got connections.

We have long-standing relationships with the best vendors, venues, and transportation providers, as well as access to global leaders and innovators in 100+ countries around the world.

World-class service

We place a top priority on personal attention and thoughtful service as a key part of our partnership with you. That means we give you a dedicated team to handle all your trip details, from start to finish. It also means we make your trip planning easy with our proven strategies and support for signing up students and getting your trip off the ground. The main thing you have to do is relax and enjoy the ride!

A well-oiled machine

Our customers give us rave reviews for our top-notch trip planning. We handle every detail for you, with particular focus on safety and security.

We make promotion simple.

Our classroom-ready trip promotion tools give teachers all they'll need to publicize their trip and make it happen—free and simple.

Smooth sailing

Our trips run like clockwork because we actively support you during your experience, from flight arrangements to hotel amenities to our expert tour leaders—even visas when needed.

Worry-free payment options

Our online payment portal for many of our programs gives lots of options and makes it easy and convenient to pay for travel.

Quality with a purpose

We focus relentlessly on the details that make the biggest difference—superior educational content, logistics, where you stay, what you have for dinner, how easy we are to work with—both before and during your trip. We make quality our top priority, so you and your group can sit back and let this travel experience become the best one of your lives.

VIP access

From unique performance opportunities to visits with experts in the field, our established connections open the doors for your students in mind-expanding ways.

Travel with your taste buds.

We carefully select where our travelers dine, making sure it's authentic local cuisine, served in local restaurants.

In the heart of the action

Centrally located hotels in our international destinations free up extra hours for spontaneous exploration and fun.

Rock star tour guides

Our certified on-tour leaders speak the local language, have encyclopedic knowledge, and thrive on making the journey fun. They're also pros at tuning their content to the right education level.

Educational excellence

We believe it's not just the exposure to new places that changes students' lives, but also the kind of experience they have during that exposure. That's why we work with you to build program content that meets your travel/learning goals. We also embed interactive learning activities into each tour, so students genuinely connect with their experiences and retain them. Through our school accreditation, we offer free credit for students and professional development for teachers.

We're accredited like a school

WorldStrides has a dedicated Curriculum and Academics department, and we're officially accredited by educational bodies across North America. We offer academic credit to student travelers and professional development for educators.

We find the perfect balance.

Our itineraries are designed to ensure each travel program is aligned with your curriculum and balances learning with enjoyment, fun, and relaxation.

Free credit for the taking

Through our Discovery for Credit program, we're extremely proud to offer our student travelers free high school credit. We even offer high school students three free college preparatory credits on most of our international travel programs. This type of credential offers students a competitive advantage on college applications. [Click here](#) to learn more.

By educators for educators

We educate students through authentic travel encounters with the world beyond the classroom. For all ages and interests, our experiential content meets students where they are on their educational journey. Our powerful, trademarked learning tool (L.E.A.P.) helps us bring this mission to life.

Priorities

How do you put your finger on a company's essence? It's DNA? At WorldStrides we're so much more than a student travel company. In fact, you might say that we are passionately by, for, and about empowering students to grow and change. To explore every corner of the world and their personal reflections so they can become all they can be. Educational travel?—Yes. Dream makers?—Absolutely

Our Mission

WorldStrides' mission is to ignite personal growth for students through travel and study abroad at every stage of development.

Our Vision

To be the superior choice in educational travel for teachers, administrators, students and parents.

Safety and Security

Your safety is our top priority

When you travel with WorldStrides, you can rest assured knowing that we have taken every precaution to ensure the safety of your group. With more than 50 years experience, we've literally seen it all and have designed our programs to match the age and stage of life for all of our students. Our resources are deep and we're ready to troubleshoot any situation. This painstaking work behind the scenes lets educators and students focus on what's most important—learning and enjoying the experience at hand!

An arsenal of emergency support

Here's what really sets WorldStrides apart. Ask anyone who's had an unexpected emergency while traveling with us and they'll tell you – we have your back every day, every hour...24/7, no matter what!

- **Tour Central:** Our safety and security command center! This office is staffed 24/7 by WorldStrides employees who are specially trained to handle any situation—no matter how big or how small.
- **Doctors on Call:** Here's a precaution we hope you never have to use! It's our exclusive partnership with the George Washington University Department of Emergency Medicine. Your group will have access to doctors for phone consultations should the need arise. And for groups traveling to Washington D.C., with this partnership, a doctor will even make a house call to your group.
- **Adult Supervision:** We'll provide supervision that's perfectly tuned to your groups needs. For younger travelers, that's 24/7 support, including Night Chaperones who'll watch the hallway at your hotel. For older students, we'll be there to recommend a coffee shop or spring into action in an emergency – whatever you need, we're there.

It's all in the planning

Our 50-year safety record is unmatched in the world of educational travel. We use our experience to plan for every contingency, and we have partnerships that help us make sure we're ready for whatever the world hands out.

- **Dedicated in-house team:** Our Safety and Health Department is solely focused on the job of keeping our students safe, and is ready to spring into action with plans for situations large and small.
- **Partnerships:** We work closely with organizations like iJet and OSAC to stay up-to-the-minute on world events, and we can work with those partners to respond in a serious situation. Dr. Sikka, Chief of Innovative Practice at the George Washington University

Department of Medicine, is part of our team as Medical Director. And we have worked for many decades with the same reliable partners; our airlines, our hotel networks, and our overseas and domestic vendors are vetted and typically very experienced in working with our team.

- **Worldwide network:** We have more than 45 operation centers worldwide to further enhance our safety capabilities. Our local staff and local partnerships help to get real-time information that's key to our planning and response.
- **Insurance:** We set the standards for medical, evacuation, and liability insurance with support that provides an extra layer of coverage for our travelers, our program leaders, and the schools with which we partner.

Emergency Contact Numbers

Our Tour Central offices is available 24 hours a day to alert us about an emergency or to find out more information about an emergency with a current traveling program. Please call these numbers only in regard to an emergency on a program that is currently traveling.

D.C. Tour Central Headquarters

1-800-999-4542

D.C. (if calling internationally)

1-703-933-6143

New York City Tour Central Office

1-800-727-8692

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Our Educational Mission

Educators are becoming increasingly mindful of the role that hands-on learning and experiential opportunities play in knowledge acquisition. We see this philosophical shift in the way schools, administrators, teachers, and families look to interdisciplinary options, project-based learning, international exposure, and other endeavors beyond classroom walls to complete the educational experience.

Today's students engage in a world of advancing complexity. Our mission and vision support these students in preparing for that challenge. We seek to stimulate thinking, challenge complacency, inspire creativity, and nurture stewardship.



Wendy W. Amato, Ph.D., Chief Academic Officer

Our Accrediting Bodies

In 1996, WorldStrides became the first student travel company to be accredited as an actual school. This means that we're accredited by the same regional and national accrediting bodies (see below) as your school—and that we're held to the same strict academic standards as schools all across the country.

- [AdvancED](#)
The parent organization for the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement, and the Northwest Accreditation Commission.
- [Western Association of Schools and Colleges](#)
A world-renowned independent accrediting association working with schools primarily in the western United States, including the California Department of Education.
- [Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools](#)
One of six accrediting bodies in the country, working primarily in Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Washington D.C. [Click here](#) to provide feedback to MSA on WorldStrides's ability to meet Standards for Accreditation.

This commitment to education is evident in every facet of our business—course leaders are specially trained in the [LEAP philosophy](#), and make learning moments come to life

throughout all our programs. Students are empowered with Discovery Journals prior to their trip—these journals are great tools for students to use before, during, and after their travels to help cement the learning. Teachers receive countless opportunities to enhance their in-the-classroom teaching through educational webinars and other teaching tools.

Most importantly, our commitment to education makes it possible for us to offer our Discovery for Credit program. Through this WorldStrides exclusive, we can offer high school academic credit to students and continuing education credit to teachers. And through our partnership with the University of California – San Diego Extension, we are able to offer high school students traveling on our Perspectives programs three free college preparatory credits.

LEAP: Learning through Exploration and Active Participation

WorldStrides approach to learning sets us apart! We believe that it's not just about seeing amazing destinations, but instead getting students and teachers interacting with the people, the culture, and the actual places these incredible locations have to offer. We call this interactive focus LEAP—Learning through Exploration and Active Participation.

The academic basis for LEAP is based on Howard Gardener's theory of multiple intelligences, the philosophy of constructivism, and the synthesis of the transmission, transaction, and transformational approaches to learning.

LEAP is designed so your students:

- Are engaged and active learners.
- Are challenged to think critically.
- Grow personally and intellectually.

LEAP is the entire relationship between each student, the places they encounter, and their Tour Directors acting as a cultural mediator, not just a series of activities. Course Leaders and Tour Directors have developed their exceptional leadership and educational skills as a result of extensive LEAP training, which includes cultivating an understanding of how all students – and all people – learn.

Students learn best when they are engaged and challenged, and, in any group, a wide variety of learning styles and social skills will be represented, each deserving an opportunity to shine. LEAP was designed specifically to replace the old-fashioned lecturing style of traditional tour guides, with a dynamic, inclusive, and constructivist approach...and is just one of the many things that sets WorldStrides apart from other travel provider.

Education

Earning Academic Credit

Students can register for coursework before, during, or after the travel portion of the program. Most assignments are designed to be completed after travel, since they ask that students incorporate much of what they learned during the field experience. We encourage students to log on before travel, if time permits, to get a feel for the course and explore its components. Students have six months from the return date of travel to complete all online assignments.

Upon successful completion of both the travel program and the paired online coursework, students will receive an official transcript mailed directly to their home address. Transcripts can be submitted to school registrars for consideration or attached separately to college applications or résumés. Students and educators should check with receiving institutions with regard to credit transfer policies. Since WorldStrides is accredited by several bodies, our credits are widely accepted by schools across the country as elective credit.

High School Credit

Students in grades 6-12 at the time of travel on WorldStrides programs are eligible to participate for high school credit at no additional cost and with no fees. Courses differ according to content, theme, destination, and length. For in-depth descriptions of courses applicable to your program and to register, visit <https://worldstrides.com/academic-credit/>.

College Preparatory Credit

Students in grades 9-12 at the time of travel on WorldStrides programs are eligible to participate for college preparatory credit in conjunction with our university partnership with The University of California, San Diego-Extension. Some travel programs include the opportunity to take college preparatory credit at no additional cost. If not included, the cost is \$159 for a 1.0 credit course or \$299 for a 3.0 credit course. Courses differ according to content, theme, destination, and length. For in-depth descriptions of courses applicable to your program and to register, visit <https://worldstrides.com/academic-credit/>.

Accreditation

In 1996, WorldStrides became the first student travel company to be accredited as a school. We are currently accredited by three national organizations: AdvancED, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

This means that we're accredited by the same regional and national accrediting bodies as your school—and that we're held to the same strict academic standards as schools all across the country. Our accreditation enables us to offer academic credit and professional development.

AdvancED

The parent organization for the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement, and the Northwest Accreditation Commission.

Western Association of Schools and Colleges

A world-renowned independent accrediting association working with schools primarily in the western United States, including the California Department of Education.

Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools

One of six accrediting bodies in the country, working primarily in Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Washington D.C.