PARTNERS *of the* AMERICAS
Connect • Serve • Change Lives

LEADERSHIP & LANGUAGE EXCHANGE

SUMMER 2027 • GUATEMALA

More Than a Trip.
A Transformative
Learning Experience.

Program Itinerary



TABLE OF CONTENTS



01 Welcome

02 Our Experience in Global Exchange

03 Who This Experience Is For

04 Before We Depart

05 The 12-Day Experience

10 What Students Take Home

11 The Reflection Journal

12 From Experience to Story

13 Questions You May Be Asking

14 Stay Connected

WELCOME

WHY THIS EXPERIENCE MATTERS

This 12-day journey brings high school students together for two days in Washington, DC, nine days in Guatemala, and a return through DC.

Through Spanish, leadership, service, and reflection, students return home more confident, curious, and ready to make a difference.



12
DAYS

12 - 16
STUDENTS

SPANISH + LEADERSHIP

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PARTNERS *of the* AMERICAS



OUR EXPERIENCE IN GLOBAL EXCHANGE

Connecting people across the Americas through education, service, and exchange.

For more than 60 years, Partners of the Americas has connected communities across the hemisphere through educational exchange, leadership development, volunteer engagement, and people-to-people connection.

Our programs foster meaningful learning, strengthen global understanding, and create experiences that stay with participants long after they return home.

EXPERIENCE YOU CAN TRUST

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

Decades of exchange programming across the Americas.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Programs that support growth, reflection, and confidence.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Local partnerships that promote cultural understanding.

GUIDED LEARNING

Thoughtful preparation, support, and reflection before, during, and after travel.



60+
YEARS
of building partnerships and strengthening communities.

THOUSANDS
OF PARTICIPANTS
have joined our leadership exchange programs.

ACROSS
THE AMERICAS
Working together for a more connected, equitable world.

More than destinations. Experiences that stay with you.

WHO THIS EXPERIENCE IS FOR



LEARNING TOGETHER. LEADING TOGETHER.

This program is designed for students ages 15–18 from across the United States and the educator mentors who accompany them on a shared journey of Spanish practice, leadership growth, cultural exploration, service, and reflection.

Educator mentors serve as chaperones, support student learning, and reflect alongside the group before, during, and after the journey.

OUR APPROACH

LANGUAGE THROUGH EXPERIENCE

No prior Spanish proficiency or international travel experience is required for students.

LEADERSHIP THROUGH REFLECTION

Students build confidence, reflect on identity, and grow as leaders.

LEARNING THROUGH CONNECTION

A small cohort of 12–16 students supports connection and shared learning.

BELONGING THROUGH COMMUNITY

Students and educator mentors participate in reflection and shared learning.

Every element of the experience is designed to support meaningful engagement **before, during, and after travel.**

BEFORE WE DEPART

PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION SERIES



The experience begins before departure. Students and educator mentors prepare through interactive sessions that build confidence, connection, cultural awareness, and travel readiness.

PROGRAM ORIENTATION

Meet the group, review the program, and set shared expectations.

LANGUAGE & CULTURAL PREPARATION

Build practical Spanish skills and cultural awareness through interactive activities.

HEALTH, SAFETY & LOGISTICS

Review health and safety practices, travel requirements, and logistics.

REFLECTION & GOAL SETTING

Explore personal goals and what it means to lead, learn, and grow together.



> *We do more than visit communities. We build relationships, learn from local leaders, and return home with purpose.*

PREPARE → EXPERIENCE → REFLECT → BRING LEARNING HOME

THE 12-DAY EXPERIENCE



WASHINGTON, DC | DAYS 1–2

Orientation + Leadership

Meet the cohort, build community, and prepare together before international departure.



ANTIGUA | GUATEMALA DAYS 1–3

Culture + Connection

Explore Antigua, practice Spanish, and learn through history, culture, and connection.



LAKE ATITLÁN | DAYS 4–6

Service + Reflection

Engage with local partners and learn from community and Indigenous perspectives.



GUATEMALA | DAYS 7–9

Growth + Celebration

Complete the journey through continued service, challenge, reflection, and celebration.

WASHINGTON, DC DAYS 1–2

The DC opening creates a shared foundation for learning, leadership, and international travel.

CONNECT

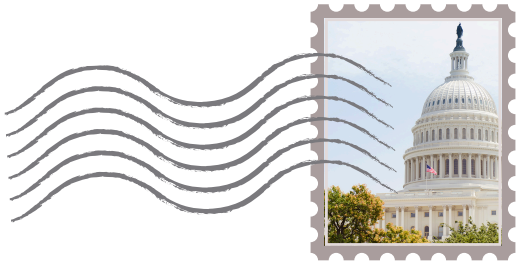
Students arrive in Washington, DC, meet the cohort, and begin building community.

PREPARE

Leadership activities and a college visit prepare students for the journey.

ORIENT

The group reviews travel expectations, safety, and goals before departure.





GUATEMALA DAYS 1–3

CONNECT. EXPLORE. ORIENT.



Arrive in Guatemala, build community, and begin learning through language and culture.



ARRIVE & ORIENT

Settle in, connect with the group, and get to know Antigua.

CULTURE & HISTORY

Explore colonial landmarks, local markets, Guatemalan history, and culture.

BUILD COMMUNITY

Practice Spanish in real settings and reflect on personal goals.

LEADERSHIP LENS

Strong communities begin by choosing connection, curiosity, and openness.

REFLECTION PROMPT

What do I hope to learn about myself and others during this journey?

GUATEMALA DAYS 4–6

SERVE. LEARN. GROW.



The journey deepens through service, Spanish immersion, and learning with local leaders.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Work alongside local partners on meaningful community priorities.

LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

Learn from community and Indigenous leaders around Lake Atitlán.

LANGUAGE IN REAL LIFE

Practice Spanish through daily conversation and collaboration.

LEADERSHIP LENS

Moving beyond observation and participating with curiosity and humility.

REFLECTION PROMPT

How am I growing through service, connection, and reflection?



GUATEMALA DAYS 7–9

LEAD. EMPOWER. INSPIRE.

Students step into leadership through continued service, challenge, reflection, and celebration.





REFLECT & PREPARE TO SHARE

Reflect on learning and prepare to share the experience.

PRESENT & CELEBRATE

Share takeaways with the group and community partners.

CELEBRATE & CARRY FORWARD

Celebrate growth and consider how to lead beyond the journey.

LEADERSHIP LENS

Leadership is not about being in charge. It's about helping others feel seen, heard, and inspired to grow.

REFLECTION PROMPT

How has this experience changed the way I see myself, others, and the world?

WHAT STUDENTS TAKE HOME

Beyond the places visited, students carry forward new perspectives, skills, and connections.

LEADERSHIP GROWTH

Greater confidence, empathy, teamwork, and the ability to lead with integrity.

SPANISH CONFIDENCE

More confidence using Spanish in real-life situations.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

A deeper understanding of culture, community, and our shared world.

MEMORIES & CONNECTIONS

Meaningful relationships and stories that continue shaping students after they return home.

The journey continues....



REFLECT. CONNECT.

Carry it Forward.

More than memories—
reflection that supports future growth.

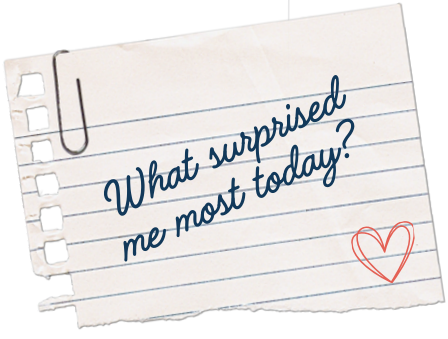


THE REFLECTION JOURNAL

Throughout the experience, students use guided prompts to pause, observe, ask questions, and make meaning of what they are learning.

Topics explored throughout the journal include:

- **Leadership**
- **Identity**
- **Language Growth**
- **Cultural Understanding**
- **Personal Goals**



FROM EXPERIENCE TO STORY

Reflection helps students translate experiences into stories they can carry into future opportunities.

STUDENTS PRACTICE:

- **Meaning Making**
- **Personal Storytelling**
- **Self Awareness**
- **Goal Setting**
- **Communication Skills**

PREPARING FOR WHAT COMES NEXT

Reflection can help students begin thinking about:

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Sharing meaningful experiences that show growth, initiative, and global perspective.

PERSONAL STATEMENTS

Developing authentic stories that reflect who they are and what matters to them.

SCHOLARSHIP ESSAYS

Highlighting their impact, leadership, and commitment to their community.

INTERVIEWS

Building confidence by articulating their experiences and goals.

FUTURE LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Using their reflections to set goals and take the next step.



The stories we write today shape the future we imagine.

QUESTIONS YOU MAY BE ASKING

HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND EDUCATOR MENTORS.

DO STUDENTS NEED TO SPEAK SPANISH?

No. Students with a wide range of Spanish experience are welcome. Activities support different comfort levels while encouraging authentic practice and growth.

The goal is confidence, curiosity, and meaningful communication—not perfection.

DO EDUCATOR MENTORS PAY TUITION?

No. Selected educator mentors participate at no cost while serving as chaperones, supporting student learning, and experiencing Guatemala alongside the student cohort.

HOW ARE STUDENTS SUPERVISED?

Students are accompanied by educator mentors, program staff, and local partners. The small cohort model supports a student-to-staff supervision ratio of approximately 6:1.



HOW MUCH DOES THE PROGRAM COST AND WHAT IS INCLUDED?

SUMMER 2027 STUDENT TUITION

Program Tuition: $3,850
Includes round-trip international airfare between Washington, DC and Guatemala.

INCLUDED:

- ✓ Program lodging
- ✓ Designated meals
- ✓ Ground transportation
- ✓ Scheduled activities
- ✓ Program materials
- ✓ Program support

NOT INCLUDED:

- ✗ Domestic travel to Washington, DC
- ✗ Travel and medical insurance
- ✗ Passport and personal expenses
- ✗ Select meals

WHAT DOES THE APPLICATION PROCESS LOOK LIKE?

APPLY ONLINE → STUDENT INTERVIEW → RECOMMENDATION → SELECTION DECISION

Selected participants then begin orientation and pre-departure preparation.

HOW DOES THIS SUPPORT COLLEGE PREPARATION?

Students strengthen leadership, communication, reflection, and cross-cultural skills while documenting experiences they can draw on for future applications and opportunities.

- College essays
- Interviews
- Scholarship applications
- Future leadership opportunities

Still Curious?

STAY CONNECTED
Scan to receive updates about future opportunities

We're here to help you answer any questions.

STAY CONNECTED

Ready to learn more?

Scan to explore the Summer 2027 program, express interest, and access application information.

PARTNERS *of the* AMERICAS

LEADERSHIP & LANGUAGE EXCHANGE

SUMMER 2027