



Adventure Learning Experiences Inc.

"Where Service and Leadership come together"

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Ghana Study and Leadership Program March 2017

1. INTRODUCTION

Rationale

The motivation for this proposal was derived from the personal and professional experiences of its authors in conjunction with the vision prescribed by the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB). The authors believe that Learning, Leadership, and Service within the context of Safe Adventure is a very powerful educational paradigm. This experience will enhance the historic links between Brebeuf College School and the Presentation Brothers and Jesuit Fathers and give students and teachers the chance to put faith into action for the common good.

Service Learning

A unique and distinguishing component of this program is the concept of "service learning". Service learning can be identified as experiential education when the learner adopts a life role that provides meaningful service to a community in order to learn about oneself and others. The pedagogical value of the service increases when the following are added to the learning: an academic component designed to prepare the learner in terms of content and competencies relevant to the service; an opportunity to reflect upon and think critically about the experience; an element of adventure and challenge; an international and cross-cultural context; and an alignment of individual, placement, and system goals.

Rationale

The Ghana Leadership Program provides a once in a lifetime experience to partake in service learning, volunteerism, and educational programs in one of the most beautiful places on earth. Participants will travel to Ghana and connect with the schools, missions, and parishes of the Presentation Brothers and Jesuit Fathers. Ghana is a stable democracy and a former member of the Commonwealth.

Participants will have the opportunity to explore and enhance their leadership through combining meaningful service learning and educational activities. Participants will spend the vast majority of their time volunteering at local schools, teaching, and helping in concrete ways to improve the local community, while having the opportunity to interact intensively with the local people. Moreover, hands on learning about development, world issues, leadership, environmental conservation and biodiversity through interactive seminars will engage individuals to consider the importance and challenges of much needed development, while ensuring the protection of the world's most wondrous flora and fauna. Students will also learn about the history of slavery.

Affiliation

The delivery of this program is in conjunction with Adventure Learning Experiences, the Toronto Catholic District School Board, Brebeuf College School, the Presentation Brothers, and the Jesuit Fathers. The two religious orders, which formerly administered Brebeuf College, have had an extensive presence in Ghana for over 40 years. Through dedicated service in their schools, parishes, and missions, they have helped to lift people out of poverty and give them skills to be able to help themselves. These connections ensure a warm welcome for us and active co-operation and advice throughout the trip.

2. PARTICIPANTS

Students

Approximately 20 students will be selected for admission to this program. This number has been governed by the practical exigencies of traveling to these areas of the world. Students will be selected according to the following criteria:

1. Trustworthiness and reliability
2. Respectfulness of other people and cultures
3. Adaptability to new experiences
4. Parental support for students

Interested students will be invited to submit an application (see Appendix) and two letters of reference. All participants will also be expected to complete a TCDSB Parent/Guardian Informed Consent Form For International Excursions. The limitations of TCDSB responsibilities with respect to this program are also indicated in a letter from Adventure Learning Experiences to Mr. Alex Mazzucco who is an officer with TCDSB.

Code of Conduct

Each student will be expected to pledge commitment to a Code of Conduct which will be designed to ensure that respect for each participant, his/her property, and well-being is safeguarded. This code will preclude harassment and abusiveness and will prohibit the use of alcohol and drugs. Above all, the rights and responsibilities of all participants will be clearly defined so that the objectives of this program may be achieved within a healthy and safe environment.

Adult Supervision

There will be 3 teacher supervisors who will be taking part in this program. They also see the experience as opportunities for their own personal and professional development. Instruction for the preparatory learning program will be led by these teachers, and all will be accompanying the students to Ghana.

Interviews

Each applicant and his/her parents will be invited to a private interview with the Directors to assess his/her suitability for the program. This will also give the applicant and parents the opportunity to determine if the program serves their needs and interests. Each applicant will be asked to bring their letters of reference to this meeting as well their most recent report card. Interviews will take place on October 16 at The Catholic Education Centre, 80 Sheppard Ave E. at 9:00 a.m. All deposits will be refundable in the event that the applicant is refused.

3. DESIGN

This learning program be offered as a one or two credit co-operative education model using the Interdisciplinary Studies curriculum document. The courses will be designated IDC 3O and IDC 4U and will derive learning expectations from a variety of courses.

In-Class Component

These meetings will take place on the following dates:

Sunday, Oct. 16	9:00 - 2:00 p.m.	5 hours
Sunday, Oct. 30	9:00 - 2:00 p.m.	5 hours
Sunday, Nov.13	9:00 - 2:00 p.m.	5 hours
Sunday, Dec. 4	9:00 - 2:00 p.m.	5 hours
Sunday, Jan. 15	9:00 - 2:00 p.m.	5 hours
Friday- Sunday Feb 3-5	9:00- 5:00 p.m. x 3	24 hours
Sunday, Feb. 12	9:00 - 2:00 p.m.	5 hours
Sunday, Feb. 26	9:00 - 2:00 p.m.	5 hours
Sunday, Mar. 29	9:00 - 2:00 p.m.	5 hours
Sunday, Apr. 9	9:00 - 2:00 p.m.	5 hours
Sunday, Apr. 30	9:00 -2:00 p.m.	5 hours

There will be 7 additional meetings arranged during the experiential component (35 hours).

There will be one formal examination that will be scheduled following the group's return from Ghana. This date will be determined shortly.

The assignments in this program are designed to provide background to the course themes and to stimulate relevant learning and personal reflection. To this end required readings will be assigned and considerable options with respect to written assignments will be offered. There will be two types of written assignments:

1. **Research /Discovery Paper:** This is primarily intended for learning new information about a topic.
2. **Reaction Paper:** This is primarily intended for reflecting about a course theme that was previously reviewed in class, was part of one's experiences on the trip, or contained in one of the readings.

Learning Resources

Primary Resources

Lewis, S. (2005). Race Against Time. Toronto: House of Anansi Press. (232 pages)

Meredith, M. (2006). The Fate of Africa: Hopes of Freedom and Hearts of Despair.

Presentation Brothers (2009). At the Desert's Edge .

Wise, M. (2002). The Travel Doctor. Toronto: Firefly Books.

Secondary Resources

Dowden, Richard. Africa: Altered States, Ordinary Miracles. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall.

Mountjoy, A.B. & Hilling, D. (1988). Africa: Geography and Development. New Jersey: Barnes & Noble Books.

Experiential Component

This excursion to Ghana will serve as the Service Learning component of the programme.

There will be a variety of service learning opportunities distributed across a few locations. The primary focus will be to volunteer in various local settings. Formal classes will be conducted whereby teachers and students will be given opportunities to discuss their reactions to the learning experiences and which will offer support for their adjustment to the new environments. Upon returning to Canada, the students will meet to reflect and process their experiences, and will be given an opportunity to formally present their learning to colleagues, family and friends.

Topics for discussion during classes in Africa will be governed by the nature of the activities in which the students will be engaged. Daily journal writing will be an essential component of this time. A composite journal with representation from each participant will be compiled, edited, and published upon completion of the course.

Service and Leadership Opportunities

- **Community development:** Lend your hands to volunteer at schools and missions.
- **Cultural education:** Attend workshops, walk through traditional villages, and learn local languages.
- **Leadership training:** Experience intensive and interactive training.
- **Environmental education:** Learn about environmental challenges on a fieldtrip.
- **African adventures:** Visit Kakum National Park Rainforest and Elmina Slave Castle.

4. ITINERARY

Travel Dates: March 3rd to March 20th, 2017.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Itinerary</u>
1	Thursday March 2	Evening Departure Toronto to Accra
2	Friday March 3	Evening Arrival in Accra Stay in Catholic Guest House-Good Shepherd Evening meal and rest
3	Saturday March 4	Fly to Tamale, bus to Yendi Accommodations - St. Martin's Spiritual Centre Orientation Programme-local customs, language, culture
4	Sunday March 5	Mass Visit to Women's shelter
5	Monday March 6	Visit Presentation JHS with formal welcome, flag ceremonies. Singing, drumming and dancing

			Interaction with staff and students
			interactive games and activities
6	Tuesday	March 7	Teaching Classes – Arts and Drama Service Activities
7	Wednesday	March 8	Service Activities / interaction with various classes – arts and academics Olympics /Closing ceremonies
8	Thursday	March 9	Farewell to Logre Depart to Logre, Comsi Comsa Hotel ,Bolgatanga – Cultural Orientation,
9	Friday	March 10	Formal welcome and ceremonies Meet with Logre student leaders, plan classes
10	Saturday	March 11	Paga Crocodile Pond, Sirigue Orphange
11	Sunday	March 12	Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral Service Activities
12	Monday	March 13	Classes- Art/Drama Olympics Closing Ceremonies
13	Tuesday	March 14	Depart to Accra, Cape Coast
14	Wednesday	March 15	Visit Slave Castle
15	Thursday	March 16	Visit Kakum National Park
16	Friday	March 17	Cape Coast- depart for Accra- stay at Catholic Guest House
17	Saturday	March 18	Market souvenirs Depart for Toronto
18	Sunday	March 19	Arrive in Toronto

5. TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Transportation

Local transportation will be organized and provided by local professionals as recommended by our hosts. International air travel will be provided by a reputable national carrier.

Accommodation

In Ghana, the accommodations will be retreat centers or hotels recommended by the Presentation Brothers and Jesuit Fathers. The adult supervisors will always reside in close proximity to the student residences. Appropriate separation between genders will always be ensured in these residences.

out-of-country health insurance and cancellation insurance (assistance available upon request)
textbook (\$20), retreat (\$30), and closing banquet in Accra (\$30 US))
private expenses

Fundraising

There are two fundraising activities designed to help students offset their trip expenses.

Sponsor Booklet: This is intended to provide an overview of the program and will feature the participants. Students are invited to sell advertising for the booklet and these funds will be directly applied to their trip fee, except for a nominal fee for the printing of the booklets. Please be aware that advertisements that are purchased by companies in support of a student will not be eligible for a refund in the event that the particular participant being supported withdraws from the program.

Raffle: Students will be invited to proportionally share in the proceeds of a raffle. This optional activity is available to all participants who donate a raffle prize worth \$75.

Financial Plan

Students are expected to take responsibility in planning to meet the financial commitment involved in this program. To assist in this, the participants will be expected to formulate a plan to achieve this goal.

Refund Policy

For withdrawal before December 12, 2016 full refund minus 50% of deposit,
For withdrawal between December 12, 2016 and January 30, 2017 full refund minus deposit
For withdrawal after January 30, 2017 no refund except through cancellation insurance (if purchased).

9. HEALTH AND SAFETY

Careful attention to sound health and safety practices will be an important part of the preparation for this programme. This will involve mandatory immunizations, learning healthy eating and drinking habits, and understanding effective illness prevention practices. For maximum benefit it is recommended that participants, in general, be in good health and achieve a sufficient level of fitness prior to the trip. Physical and dental check-ups are highly recommended prior to the departure date.

Immunization

- a) The following are ordinarily administered through one's family doctor in the course of normal Ontario health care. All participants are asked to ensure their protection with inoculations against the following diseases:

Tetanus-Diphtheria-Polio
Measles-Mumps-Rubella

- b) Protection against malaria is by tablet and is taken on a regular basis prior, during, and following the trip. The exact regimen will be prescribed by a travel clinic.
It is expected that all participants will be expected to bring a mosquito net and should bring protective skin lotions.
- c) Inoculations against the following may be required:

Typhoid
Meningococcal meningitis
Hepatitis A
Hepatitis B
TB skin test

Yellow fever (mandatory to apply for visa to Ghana)

The cost of these inoculations are not covered by OHIP but may be included in private health plans.

Precautions

As indicated above, careful preparation prior to departure about safe eating and drinking habits and illness prevention practices will be undertaken. Participants are expected to consult “The Travel Doctor” by Dr. Mark Wise (Firefly Books, 2002) as part of this preparation. A close working relationship has been developed by the authors with **Dr. Mark Wise**. Dr. Wise is a family physician in North York whose medical practice includes a travel clinic. He is considered a leading authority in tropical and parasitic diseases. Dr. Wise will conduct a 90 minute training workshop about preventative health practices for our students and parents in mid-February and will make recommendations about appropriate inoculations.

It is expected that our groups will greatly benefit from the local contacts which the authors have established in Ghana through the Presentation Brothers and Jesuit Fathers in the event that medical care is required. Each participant will be expected to purchase out-of-country health insurance. In addition, Dr. Lato and Mr. Greg Rogers are both members of the International Association for Medical Assistance to Travellers (IAMAT).

Each participant will be expected to complete the Consent to Medical Treatment Form in the event that urgent emergency medical care is required.

NOTE: It is most strongly recommended that each participant seek proper medical advice for all potential health concerns at a travel health clinic prior to departure.

10. CONTACT INFORMATION

Mr. Michael Rogers
Guidance Counsellor
Brebeuf College School, 211 Steeles Ave E. M2M 3Y6

michael.rogers@tcdsb.org

416-393-5508

416-819-6101

11. APPLICATION PROCESS

Completed applications and deposit may be mailed to Jennifer Wilson. Jennifer is the Office Administrator for Adventure Learning Experiences Inc.

Ms. Jennifer Wilson
Adventure Learning Experiences Inc.
41 Kimbourne Ave
Toronto ON M4J 4J1

Application Form
Ghana Study and Leadership Program
Travel Dates: March 3-20, 2017

1) Personal Information:

Name: _____ Birthdate: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone #: _____ Health Card #: _____

Email (student): _____

School: _____ Email (parent): _____

2) Health and Safety: To derive maximum benefit from this program it would be in the best interest of each participant to be in good health and proper fitness.

- a) Are you willing to commit yourself to a pre-trip fitness program? _____
- b) Are there any health issues that you would like to discuss with the directors relative to your participation in this program? _____
- c) Are you willing to commit to a **Code of Behaviour**? _____

3) Community: The mutual support and co-operation between participants will be vitally necessary in dealing with the challenges presented in this experience. What strengths will you be able to contribute to the group?

4) Service: Service to others is a very meaningful component of our programs.

- a) Could you identify any volunteer activities in which you have been involved?

b) For one of these activities, describe how it benefits others:

c) Its value to you:

5) Conditions: Adapting to the travel, climate, and culture in this part of the world may be difficult.

a) What will be your greatest challenge?

b) How will you prepare for it?

6) Education (for student applicants only):

a) What program are you currently studying in school? _____

b) What level (year) are you currently enrolled in? _____

c) What are your future educational goals? _____

7) Motivation: This experience has the potential for extraordinary learning, growth, and personal fulfillment.

a) In one paragraph describe what attracts you to this program.

c) In one paragraph describe what you hope to gain from this program.

8) Finances

Cost \$4,295 includes all taxes and service charges, fees and gratuities
no price increases permitted

Payments	\$ 695	Deposit accompanying application
	\$1,200	December 4, 2016
	\$1,200	January 15, 2017
	\$1,200	February 26, 2017

Payments Options a) personal cheques: payable to **Adventure Learning Experiences Inc.**
b) e-transfer (through Jennifer Wilson)
c) credit card (Visa, Mastercard, 2% surcharge on cc payments)

Inclusions economy return airfare: Toronto to Accra return
2 regional flights: Accra-Tamale return
all ground transportation, all meals and accommodations
preparatory learning program

Exclusions cost of passport and Ghana visa (\$65 US)
any medical costs and inoculations
out-of-country health insurance and cancellation insurance (assistance available upon request)
textbook (\$20), retreat (\$30), and closing banquet in Accra (\$30 US))
private expenses

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Refund Policy

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For withdrawal between December 12, 2016 and January 30, 2017 full refund minus deposit
For withdrawal after January 30, 2017 no refund except through cancellation insurance (if purchased).

- 9) Passport:** Please include a copy of the informational page in your passport. If your passport expires within 6 months of travel, then you will be required to apply for a new passport. It is recommended that this be done immediately.
- 10) Interviews:** Each applicant will be invited to a private interview with the Directors to assess his/her suitability for the program. Parents are also invited and encouraged to attend this meeting. This is intended to give each applicant the opportunity to determine the appropriateness of the program for their purpose. Each applicant will be asked to bring to the meeting two letters of reference. Interviews will take place in the fall. All deposits are fully refundable until this meeting.

- 11) Applications:** Completed applications and deposit may be mailed to:

Adventure Learning Experiences Inc.
c/o Jen Wilson
41 Kimbourne Ave
Toronto ON M4J 4J1