

Costa Rica Trip - 2018



Earn 3 college Credits and receive a letter of recommendation for college while expanding learning from the classroom out into the field of college level scientific research! There are only sixteen spots for Wayzata High School students each summer. This year students will be swimming with sea turtles and sting rays helping research efforts for these animals. Please visit the Wayzata High School Costa Rica Research information [webpage](#) for more information.

The focus of this Research Experience is to get students involved in real world research in a location full of biodiversity. Student research is centered on the leaf cutter ant. Students experience the successes and failures normally associated with scientific research beyond the high school classroom. They go through the entire processes of problem formation, background research including reviewing research done by previous students, procedural revisions, lab tests, field tests, statistical analysis, peer review and presentation. They work under the guidance of top university professors. Students also learn about the expanding field of bioinformatics.

Students who complete their first year of this program have two other enrichment opportunities available to them. Students can return to Costa Rica to work with researchers and tag nesting sea turtles. Second year students can also return to Costa Rica where they learn how to use the tools and process the information of bioinformatics. They will work with University professors, design and perform a bioinformatics experiment. Bioinformatics is a new expanding field in biology and computer sciences.

The trip is organized through an educational non-profit: [“Seeds for Change”](#). “Seeds of Change” was started by John Doleman, a former NASA space station project manager invested in getting high school students interested in science. The trip is facilitated by two Wayzata High School teachers, Mrs. Toni Leland and another WHS biology teacher to be determined at a later date. The dates are June 15-25 (there might be a slight adjustment to the date depending on airfare) the cost is \$3,700 which is all inclusive (it includes, airfare, room and board, supplies, all activities including swimming with turtles and sting rays, and transportation. Students only need to bring money for souvenirs, purchase some rain forest gear and purchase a passport). Fundraising options and some scholarship money are available.

If interested/for additional information, please contact the leading teacher, Toni Leland. Students need to have finished at least 10th grade by the end of the school year.

Contact: Toni Leland, Biology Teacher at WHS, room A406, phone #763-745-6970 or [email](#).