

2017 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for a National Geographic Student Expeditions scholarship, your completed application must be received by mail at the addressed specified below no later than March 1, 2017. Applications will not be accepted via email or fax. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. A complete application consists of:

1. Completed 2017 Scholarship Application Form
2. Copy of parents' or guardians' most recent federal tax returns
3. Copy of student's most recent federal tax returns (if applicable)
4. Statement explaining parents' or guardians' financial obligations and need for financial support
5. Applicant Statement
6. Two completed teacher references
7. Copy of student's passport (if applicable)

Submit completed applications to:

Putney Student Travel, Inc. ("PST")
345 Hickory Ridge Road
Putney, Vermont 05346

1. SELECT A PROGRAM

First choice _____ Dates _____

Preferred On Assignment project (if choosing an expedition) _____

Second choice _____ Dates _____

Preferred On Assignment project (if choosing an expedition) _____

2. STUDENT INFORMATION

Name of applicant as it appears on passport _____ Age _____

Address _____

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____ Email _____

Nickname _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Name of your school _____

City/State of school _____ Current year in school _____

Please list prior camps or summer programs _____

What foreign languages have you studied and for how many years? _____

How did you learn about National Geographic Student Expeditions? _____

Extracurricular activities in which you participate _____

3. PARENT INFORMATION

Primary Parent:

Name _____

Address _____

Occupation _____ Place of Employment _____

Parent's email _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____ Cell phone _____

Secondary Parent:

Name _____

Address _____

Occupation _____ Place of Employment _____

Parent's email _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____ Cell phone _____

With whom does applicant live? _____

Who should receive all mailings? _____

4. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

A. Household Income

Primary Parent Taxable Income (Adjusted Gross Income from Federal Tax Return):

\$ _____

Primary Parent Nontaxable Income (Includes Child Support, Social Security Benefits and Other Nontaxable Income): \$ _____

Secondary Parent Taxable Income (Adjusted Gross Income from Federal Tax Return):

\$ _____

Secondary Parent Nontaxable Income (Includes Child Support, Social Security Benefits and Other Nontaxable Income): \$ _____

Total Household Income \$ _____

B. Please list all financial assets and their values including parents' and student's savings accounts, home equity, investment portfolio, etc. (Attach additional sheets if necessary.): _____

C. Enclose a copy of your parents'/guardians' most recent federal tax returns (Fiscal Year 2015 or 2016).

D. If you file a separate tax return from your parents/guardians, enclose a copy of your tax return.

E. Enclose a statement which describes your parents'/guardians' need for financial assistance based on financial obligations and assets

5. PASSPORT INFORMATION (for international programs only)

All scholarship students accepted for an international program will be required to provide us with a copy of the photo page of their valid passport by April 15, 2017. The passport must be valid through March 1, 2018. Students who are offered a scholarship on an international program but do not meet this requirement may have their scholarship offer revoked. If you do not have a valid passport, please consider whether you will be able to obtain a passport and meet this deadline before applying for an international program.

If you have a valid passport, enclose a copy of the photo page of your passport.

If you are applying for an international program and do not have a passport, do you commit to applying for a passport and any other necessary travel documents within one week of notification of a scholarship? _____

6. APPLICANT STATEMENT

Attach a statement explaining why you would like to join a National Geographic Student Expedition and what you feel you can contribute to it, as well as your interest in the country and project on which you wish to focus. (Approximately 200-300 words.)

7. TEACHER REFERENCES

To be considered for the scholarship program, we must receive two completed Teacher Reference Forms by March 1, 2017. These forms can be downloaded from the scholarship page of our website, www.ngstudentexpeditions.com/scholarships. Teacher Reference forms should be included with the application materials, each in individual envelopes signed across the seal by the person who completes them.

8. PARENTS/GUARDIANS

My child/ward (the "Student") is enthusiastic and prepared and I believe Student is capable of handling both the emotional and physical aspects of the program. Furthermore, I agree that should Student's conduct, at the sole discretion of PST, be deemed to be in violation of NGSE (as defined below) rules or otherwise detrimental to the maintenance of standards or to the successful operation of the expedition, PST may dismiss Student from the expedition. I agree that PST and NGSE's responsibility for Student ends with his/her dismissal from the expedition, and I agree that dismissal may occur at a location far from Student's home.

I agree that should Student be dismissed from the expedition, I will make arrangements for, bear the cost of, and provide supervision for dismissed Student, even in situations that require extended international travel, and that no refund of the tuition will be given for dismissed Student. There will also be no refund for Student if he/she withdraws voluntarily, or as the result of illness or accident, during an expedition. Baggage and personal effects are at all times the sole responsibility of the Student.

The Student and I have read and agree to the Statement of Responsibility, Binding Arbitration and the Terms and Conditions (as stated below), and understand that they include a release of liability that will be binding upon us and our family, heirs, and legal representatives. If any provision of this agreement is held to be unenforceable, the remainder of the agreement is enforceable.

Please sign below where indicated confirming your agreement with the foregoing:

Name of Student (Please print):	
Signature of Student:	Date: / /
Name of Guardian (Please print):	

Signature of Guardian:	Date: / /
Please mail the signed application form back to Putney Student Travel, Inc. The application process cannot be completed without this signed Application.	

STATEMENT OF RESONSIBILITY

National Geographic Partners, LLC, d/b/a National Geographic Student Expeditions, (“NGSE”) will provide educational enrichment for National Geographic Student Expeditions trips (“Program”) as outlined in its catalog and on its website (*ngstudentexpeditions.com*) and has licensed PST, a Vermont corporation based in Putney, Vermont, to organize and administer the Program. PST, in turn, has selected independent transportation carriers, hotels, ground operators, and other suppliers of the services connected with these trips (“Other Providers”), and those Other Providers are solely responsible and liable for providing their respective services. Neither NGSE nor PST owns, operates, supervises, and/or manages any person or entity which is to or does provide goods or services for the Program, including, for example, lodging facilities of any kind, airline, vessel, or other transportation companies, local guides, guide services, or local ground operators (even if they use the PST or NGSE name), providers or organizers of optional excursions, food service or entertainment providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, neither NGSE, its parents, subsidiaries and their respective employees, affiliates, officers, directors, successors, representatives, assigns (collectively, “National Geographic”) nor PST, its employees, shareholders, affiliates, officers, directors, successors, and assigns, (collectively, “Putney”) is liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or entity, or of any other third party.

In addition and without limitation, neither National Geographic nor PST is responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or any damage to personal property, whether resulting from, but not limited to, acts of God or force majeure, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, acts of government, incidents, attacks, or bites from domestic or wild animals or insects, strikes or other labor activities, athletic or sporting events or endeavors including the normal risk associated with same, epidemics or the threat thereof, adequacy or availability of health services and/or evacuation services if necessary, criminal, terrorist or threatened terrorist activities of any kind, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, mechanical or other failure of airplanes or other means of transportation, or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart in a timely manner, or loss, damage or delay in delivery of luggage and/or personal effects.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

BINDING ARBITRATION: PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS “ARBITRATION AGREEMENT” SECTION CONTAINS PROVISIONS THAT REQUIRE (i) WITH LIMITED EXCEPTIONS, ALL DISPUTES ARISING BETWEEN YOU (AS PARENT/GUARDIAN AND ON BEHALF OF THE STUDENT) AND PROGRAM PROVIDER (AS DEFINED HEREIN) UNDER THIS AGREEMENT TO BE RESOLVED IN BINDING ARBITRATION, AND NOT IN COURT, AND (ii) YOU AND PROGRAM PROVIDER WAIVE THE RIGHT TO BRING OR PARTICIPATE IN A CLASS ACTION IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH DISPUTES. PLEASE BE SURE TO READ AND REVIEW CAREFULLY THIS ENTIRE SECTION. BY ACCEPTING THIS AGREEMENT, YOU AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THE ARBITRATION AGREEMENT.

- 1) National Geographic, and Putney (collectively “Program Provider”), and you agree that any and all disputes and claims that each of you and Program Provider may have against the other that arise out of or relate to this Agreement and the Program, including the breach, termination, enforcement, interpretation or validity of this Agreement, including the agreement to arbitrate (the “Arbitration Agreement”) and the scope or applicability of this Arbitration Agreement (collectively, “Disputes”), including but not limited to the arbitrability of any and all Disputes, and even if the events giving rise to Disputes occurred before this Arbitration Agreement became effective, will be resolved in a binding, confidential, individual and fair arbitration process, and not in court. Each of you and Program Provider agrees to give up the right to sue in court. Each of you and Program Provider also agrees to give up the right to have Disputes heard by a jury and the ability to seek to represent, in a class action or otherwise, anyone but each of you and Program Provider (see paragraph 9 of this Arbitration Agreement below). The only exceptions to this Arbitration Agreement are that (i) each of you and Program Provider retains the right to sue in small claims court and (ii) each of you and Program Provider may bring suit in court against the other to enjoin infringement or other misuse of intellectual property rights.
- 2) This Agreement evidences a transaction in interstate commerce, and thus the Federal Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. §§ 1-16, governs the interpretation and enforcement of this Arbitration Agreement. This Arbitration Agreement shall survive termination of this Agreement.
- 3) Any arbitration between you and Program Provider will be conducted by the American Arbitration Association (the “AAA”) and will be governed by the AAA’s Commercial Arbitration Rules and the Supplementary Procedures for Consumer Related Disputes (collectively, the “AAA Rules”), as modified by this Arbitration Agreement. The AAA Rules are available online at www.adr.org, or by calling the AAA at 1-800-778-7879. The arbitration will be conducted by a single arbitrator. If you and Program Provider cannot agree on who that single arbitrator should be, then the AAA shall appoint an arbitrator with significant experience resolving the type of Dispute at issue. The arbitrator is bound by the terms of this Agreement.
- 4) If either you or Program Provider wants to arbitrate a Dispute, you or Program Provider must first send by mail to the other a written Notice of Dispute (“Notice”) that sets forth the name, address, and contact information of the party giving notice, the specific facts giving rise to the Dispute, the Trip to which the Notice relates, and the relief requested. Your Notice to Program Provider must be sent by mail to Arbitration Notice of Dispute, c/o National Geographic Partners Business and Legal Affairs, Litigation VP, 1145 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036. Program Provider will send any Notice to you at the contact information Program Provider has for you or that you provide. It is the sender’s responsibility to ensure that the recipient receives the Notice. During the first 45 days after you or Program Provider sends a Notice to the other, you and Program Provider may try to reach a settlement of the Dispute. If you and Program Provider do not resolve the Dispute within those first 45 days, either you or Program Provider may initiate arbitration in accordance with the rules and procedures provided for by the AAA. A form for initiating formal arbitration may be found on the AAA’s website at www.adr.org (“Arbitration Form”). In addition to filing this Arbitration Form with AAA in accordance with its rules and procedures, you must send a copy of this completed Arbitration Form to Program Provider at the address listed above to which you sent your Notice of Dispute.
- 5) AAA charges fees to conduct arbitrations. Ordinarily, the claimant has to pay that fee to start a case, but if you wish to commence an arbitration against Program Provider, and you are seeking to recover less than \$5,000 (inclusive of attorneys’ fees), you will not have to pay this

filing fee; Program Provider will pay it on your behalf. If you are seeking to recover \$5,000 or more, you will have to pay the filing fee charged by AAA, but Program Provider will reimburse that fee if you win the arbitration.

- 6) If you are seeking to recover \$10,000 or less, AAA rules provide that the Dispute should be resolved without a hearing, by submission of documents only. Either you or Program Provider may request a hearing, however, and be responsible for the fees associated with it. If the arbitrator recommends a hearing, even if neither you nor Program Provider request one, Program Provider will pay the arbitrator's fees associated with the hearing. If the claim is for more than \$10,000, the manner and place of the hearing will be determined in accordance with the AAA Rules.
- 7) Regardless of how the arbitration proceeds, the arbitrator shall issue a reasoned written decision sufficient to explain his or her findings and conclusions.
- 8) Each of you and Program Provider may incur attorneys' fees during the arbitration. In addition to whatever rights you may have to recover your attorneys' fees under Applicable Law, if you prevail in the arbitration, and if Program Provider failed to make a settlement offer to you before the arbitration or the amount you win is at least 25% greater than Program Provider's highest settlement offer to resolve the Dispute, then Program Provider will pay your reasonable attorneys' fees in addition to the amount the arbitrator awarded. If Program Provider wins the arbitration, you will be responsible for your own attorneys' fees. In addition, if the arbitrator, at the request of the winning party, finds that the losing party brought a Dispute or asserted a defense frivolously or for an improper purpose, then regardless of the amount in dispute, the arbitrator must order the losing party to pay both sides' arbitration fees and may order the losing party to pay the winning party's reasonable attorneys' fees, unless such an award of fees is prohibited by Applicable Law.
- 9) The arbitrator may award declaratory or injunctive relief only in favor of the individual party seeking relief and only to the extent necessary to provide relief warranted by that party's individual claim. The arbitrator may not order Program Provider to pay any monies to or take any actions with respect to persons other than you, unless National Geographic explicitly consents in advance, after an arbitrator is selected, to permit the arbitrator to enter such an order. YOU AND PROGRAM PROVIDER AGREE THAT EACH MAY BRING CLAIMS AGAINST THE OTHER ONLY IN YOUR OR ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY AND NOT AS A PLAINTIFF OR CLASS MEMBER IN ANY PURPORTED CLASS, REPRESENTATIVE OR MULTI-CLAIMANT PROCEEDING. Further, unless Program Provider agrees, the arbitrator may not consolidate other persons' claims with yours, and may not otherwise preside over any form of a representative, multi-claimant or class proceeding. If this specific provision is found to be unenforceable, then the entirety of this Arbitration Agreement shall be null and void, but the rest of this Agreement, including the provisions governing where actions against Program Provider must be pursued, will remain in effect.
- 10) You and Program Provider agree to maintain the confidential nature of the arbitration proceeding and shall not disclose the fact of the arbitration, any documents exchanged as part of any mediation, proceedings of the arbitration, the arbitrator's decision and the existence or amount of any award, except as may be necessary to prepare for or conduct the arbitration (in which case anyone becoming privy to confidential information must undertake to preserve its confidentiality), or except as may be necessary in connection with a court application for a provisional remedy, a judicial challenge to an award or its enforcement, or unless otherwise required by law or court order.

ELIGIBILITY: Students ages 13 and older who are completing 7th and 8th grades are eligible to participate in middle school trips. Students completing 9th through 12th grades are eligible to participate in high school trips.

SCHOLARSHIP COVERS: All meals, lodging, activities, supplemental fees associated with applicable Photography and Film & Video On Assignment projects, if applicable, excursions, airfare, ground transportation, taxes, gratuities, and pre-trip materials are included.

SCHOLARSHIP DOES NOT COVER: Scholarship specifically excludes costs of obtaining passports or visas, baggage charges, trip cancellation insurance or any other travel insurance, personal expenses such as laundry, and any other items not specifically noted as included.

ITINERARY CHANGES: NGSE and PST have carefully planned each of the Programs in this catalog; however, there may be instances where the Program descriptions and staff presented in this catalog may change. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate Programs as planned, but alterations may still occur after the final itinerary is sent. To get the most out of their experience, students need to be flexible in responding to unforeseen situations and in taking advantage of unexpected opportunities.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS: The Student must be in good physical condition and mental health. Any condition requiring special attention, diet, or treatment must be reported to NGSE and PST before May 20, 2017.

MEDICAL COVERAGE: You certify that the Student has medical insurance which will cover personal accidents, medical expenses, medical evacuation, air ambulance, loss of effects, repatriation costs, and all other expenses which might arise as a result of loss, damage, injury, delay, or inconvenience occurring to the Student, or that in the absence of this medical insurance coverage, you agree to pay all costs of rescue and/or medical services as may be incurred on the Student's behalf.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO: You and the Student grant to PST the right to take photographs or videos during the operation of any trip, or part thereof, and to use the resulting photography, videos, or recordings for promotional or commercial use in perpetuity. You and the Student agree to allow the Student's likeness to be used by NGSE, NGSE-authorized third parties, and PST without compensation to you or the Student. If the you or the Student prefers that the Student's likeness not be used, you or the Student must notify PST in writing prior to departure of the trip.

Copyright in all photographs, video, and text (including correspondence) created by the Student during the operation of any trip, or part thereof, ("Expedition Materials") shall belong to the Student upon creation. You and the Student grant to PST, NGSE, and NGSE-authorized third parties a non-exclusive, worldwide, irrevocable license to use the Expedition Materials, in any media now existing or subsequently developed for the following limited purposes: editorial use, promotion of the editorial use, promotion of NGSE, promotion of the work of PST, or promotion of the mission of National Geographic Society.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT FEEDBACK: National Geographic Student Expeditions scholarship recipients benefit from the generosity of individual donors. As a courtesy to those donors, it is essential that NGSE receive detailed feedback from all scholarship recipients about their experiences. We therefore require that each scholarship applicant and his/her parent/guardian

agree to submit responses to questions on an evaluation form within 15 days of receipt of the evaluation request.

TAXABLE INCOME: The value of all prizes and scholarships are taxable income to the recipient, and we therefore are required to report National Geographic Student Expeditions scholarships to the IRS. If you are awarded a scholarship, we will send you a Form 1099 reporting the value of your award.