

INTERSESSION DESCRIPTIONS 2016-2017

The Intersession Selection Process: The [Intersession Selection Process](#) document will be used by the Intersession Selection Committee when placing students on Intersession trips.

* Denotes Service Intersession

SAN FRANCISCO/BIG SUR: SCENERY BEYOND COMPARE- A PHOTOGRAPHER'S PARADISE- Shinae Byhouwer & Barry Merritt, 14 Students, Days: March 18-25, \$1,700

This year we will be going first to San Francisco. We will stay in a Hostel near Fisherman's Warf, explore and dine in Chinatown (the first and biggest Chinatown in North America), take a ride on San Fran's famous Cable Car, and walk across the Golden Gate Bridge, take a short ferry ride to Alcatraz Island, and venture to Muir Woods for a hike in the Redwoods. For the second half of the trip we will travel to Big Sur, located in the central coast of California where the Santa Lucia Mountains rise from the Pacific Ocean. Its natural beauty has attracted writers, scientists, and artists alike to its shores (e.g., Ansel Adams, our inspiration). We will stay three nights at the Monterey Hostel where students will take turns shopping for food and cooking dinner. We will take day trips to Julia Pfeiffer State Park and visit other magnificent and iconic destinations that beckon with opportunities for hiking and photographing: Bixby Bridge, elegantly arching above Bixby creek by the edge of the ocean; The Lone Cypress (the most photographed tree in the world); and Point Lobos, the "crown jewel" of California state parks, to name a few. We will also experience a whale watching cruise with sights of pods of gray whales as they migrate north from Baja, California. You don't need a fancy camera—iPhones take wonderful photos—but you will need to bring your sense of adventure, your good spirits, and a willingness to throw yourself wholeheartedly into whatever we are doing.

*SOUTHWEST SERVICE - Miriam Rock & Leah Niepold, Service Intersession, 18 Students, 7 days: Sunday, March 19th– Saturday, March 25th, \$1,450

On this exciting service and camping Intersession, we will immerse ourselves in the American Southwest to gain a more nuanced understanding of how social, historical, and political landscapes overlap. We will explore local New Mexico communities, participating in activities ranging from visiting local Zuni artists to making pies in Pie Town. We will participate in a variety of service projects in these areas: in addition to assisting the Zuni and Pie Town communities, we will do service at St. Michael's School and plant cottonwood trees along a river in Sandia. We will spend each night camping in the beautiful New Mexico wilderness and will visit a variety of local landmarks including Window Rock and Kelly's Ghost Town. We will meet new people, visit new places and, perhaps, most importantly, eat pie! Students will complete a minimum of 20 hours of service, and should be prepared for camping in moderate to cool temperatures.

*WEST VA SERVICE- Bim Schauffler, Brian Brubaker, Dave Burgevin & TBD, Service Intersession, 25 Students, \$550

The 2017 West Virginia trip will be working with *The Appalachian Center for Equality (ACE)*, an affiliate of *The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)* and *Grow Appalachia*, out of Berea College in Kentucky, in continuing a 7-year community garden project and helping senior citizens with minor home renovations and repairs in the town of Logan in the heart of the coal fields of West Virginia. Our work will include spring clean-up and expansion of the community garden and making repairs to the homes of primarily elderly, single, African-American women in Logan and environs as needed. Work will include tilling and planting existing raised beds and building new bed frames, as well as scraping and painting houses, cleanup of property, and home repairs as skill and weather allow. Students who are interested will learn some basic gardening, carpentry and home improvement skills. They will also work with a local teen mentoring group called the BAPs (Believing All is Possible) in the evenings. Participants on this trip will share in cooking and cleaning responsibilities at the old Logan Jr. High School, where we stay in dormitory accommodations during the six days we are in Logan. There will be one day for primarily recreational/educational activities, which may include bowling, ice-skating, go-cart racing, or hiking, as well as a mountain top removal site visit and meetings with local community activists. Students should approach this trip with a serious intention to discover the deeper meaning of sustainability and how it is realized/or not in an impoverished community. Students who participate in this Intersession will get 40 hours of community service, 20 of which meet the community service Intersession

requirement with the balance counting toward the community service requirement for graduation. Students are guaranteed to put in some hard, wholesome, and fun work. The trip cost is \$550.00, which covers transportation, lodging, entertainment, and materials for the various projects.

YUCATÁN PENINSULA: ARCHEOLOGY, ADVENTURE & SERVICE - Eduardo Polón & Claire Donahue, 16 Students, 7 Days, \$1,960

Global Languages Department Head Eduardo Polón and ESOL Department Head Claire Donahue will lead a 7-day cultural adventure throughout Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula. Spanning the states of Quintana Roo and Yucatán, the breadth of experiences that this Intersession will cover is truly breathtaking:

- *Explore the impressive Tulum archaeological site, set on a cliff with stunning views of the Caribbean Sea. Enter into the amazing Sac-Actún system, the world's longest underground river. Snorkel surrounded by awesome rock formations. Ride through the jungle on all-terrain Mercedes Benz Unimogs. Rappel down into Cenote Xcanche (underground cave and natural well) and swim in a unique natural pool. Enjoy nature by flying over the jungle's foliage on exciting zip-lines. Participate in a traditional Mayan purification ceremony.*
- *Visit the first Mayan archaeological site, Ek Balam, an indigenous community where we will have the unique opportunity to live in authentic Mayan cabins and take cooking lessons with locals.*
- *See one of the wonders of the world: The archaeological site of Chichén Itzá. These ancient Mayan ruins represent the remains of one of the largest and most powerful city states of the pre-Columbian Americas.*
- *Swim in Cenote Ik Kil and tour the beautiful colonial city of Mérida.*
- *Tour Hacienda Sotuta de Peón to appreciate the cultivation, manufacturing, and exportation of henequen (agave fiber) products to countries around the world.*
- *Live in homestays with local families, take part in a community service activity, and participate in a Mayan scripture workshop in the village community of Yaxuna.*
- *Enjoy Playa del Carmen, one of the best beaches in Mexico. Shop, people watch and stroll along the famous 5th Avenue.*

While priority will be given to Spanish language students (in descending order from highest level), it is not a requirement. Priority will also be given to grade level (12th followed by 11th and then 10th). Participants need to be prepared for the physical components of this Intersession, which will include hiking, bicycling, snorkeling, swimming, caving, rappelling and zip-lining.

*FOOD FOR THOUGHT- Frances Markowitz and Nancy O'Leary, Service Intersession, 14 Students, 5 Days, \$275

This service-based Intersession will focus on combatting food insecurity locally. Food insecurity refers to USADA's measure of lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. We will visit various food banks and soup kitchens in the greater D.C. area and Annapolis to help stock, prepare, organize, and distribute food to the greater community in need. Students will be provided with lunch each day, breakfast once with an early morning start, and a homemade dinner one of the later evenings. Four out of five days we will be back on campus in time for the afternoon bus. Some of the sites we are working at include the Capital Area Food Bank, Manna Food Center, Elizabeth House, and Nourish Now in Montgomery County, and the Light House in Annapolis. Join us to help combat food insecurity in our greater community!

*HEAD START – Tom Harrison, Heather Engle, Service Intersession, 21 Students, 5 Days, \$175

This community service Intersession will provide aid to HEAD START and elementary programs at several local schools and child-care centers in Montgomery County. Students will gain more empathy for young children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Students will develop a greater understanding of adolescent development and the ways in which we learn. Students will complete meaningful community service. Daily classroom activities include direct work with students and general teacher support. This trip runs Monday through Friday beginning at 8 am and returning to school by 3:20 pm. On Wednesday, the group takes the "day off" and participates in a fun, local excursion.

SPAIN- Lyn Ostrov, Bryan & Michele Seith, 18 Students, 11 Days, \$2,500

Join us when we visit some of the major arts centers of central and southern Spain sampling amazing Spanish cuisine all along the way. We'll spend four days in Madrid with visits to the Prado, El Rastro flea market, El Retiro park, Reina Sofia, and the Thyssen-Bornemisza. When we're not taking in world-class art, we will hear concerts in several well-known venues including the Teatro Real and the Teatro Nuevo Apolo. Traveling south, we will then visit the Mesquita Cathedral, and Alcazar de los Reyes Cristianos in Cordoba and the Alhambra and Generalife Gardens in Granada. Then, we spend four days in Barcelona where we will take in the Picasso Museum and the architectural sites of Gaudi, with evening concerts in the Gran Teatre del Liceu Opera and the Teatre Nacional de Catalunya. This is followed by day trips to both the monastery in Montserrat and the Dali museum in Figueres before returning home on Monday, March 27. Students enrolled currently or in the past in Arts and Ideas or Spanish will be given priority.

ART & DISSONANCE- Hannah Kerr & Jordan Taylor, 16 Students, 5 days, \$400

We have watched in horror as a colossal Assyrian lion sculpture from the 8th century BCE is publicly destroyed. How menacing could this statue really be? Ai Wei Wei, Banksy, iHeart, Pussy Riot, NWA. These artists are just a few among many that have been banned, censored or imprisoned. What is it about art that makes it threatening? Why are the artists considered dangerous or provocative? Who writes the rules anyway?

This is an invitation to delve deeper into visual and performing art that is viewed as threatening, dangerous, provocative, and more. Our week will be spent familiarizing ourselves with various artists and their works through multimedia. We will explore graffiti by metro, visit allocated exhibits in DC and Baltimore, meet with a few experts in the field. Additionally, we hope to be more than just observers. We will don an alias and participate in various workshops. Parkour in the city anyone?

This trip is for the adventurous, the artistically curious, or just plain rebellious.

*JOSHUA TREE SERVICE AND ADVENTURE – Julie Borsetti & Ariel Voorhees, Service Intersession, 14 Students, 6 Days, March 19th - March 24th, \$1,300.

Joshua Tree National Park is a wild and rugged desert named after the Joshua Tree cactus that looks like it belongs in a Dr. Seuss book. It's also home to world-class climbing, hiking, and star-gazing. Join Julie Borsetti and Ariel Voorhees on a trip that combines service and adventure in this breathtaking landscape. On this trip, students will learn rock climbing skills and safety procedures from our expert guides. We will hike and explore the history, culture, and natural wonders of this unique national park. Students will learn about the ecosystem of the high Mojave Desert through the geology, flora, and fauna endemic to the area. This Intersession will provide a service learning experience by partnering with the National Park Service and the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve. Students will bond as a group as they take responsibility for camp set-up, meal prep, cooking, clean up, and reflection.

Selection Criteria: Preference will be given to students who have exhibited a strong interest in rock climbing and seniors in need of a service trip. This trip will be capped at 14 students due to rental car capacity.

IRON CHEF- Angela Colegrove and Kexin Zhang, 5 Days, 13 Students, \$400

Can't get enough of the Food Network? Are you watching in your PJ's thinking "I can do that"? Well, now is your chance! Join a small group of your peers in a culinary adventure, which will culminate in a cooking competition after 4 days of practice and observation. You will tour a working kitchen, watch cooking demonstrations from real chefs, learn the "do's" and "don'ts" of kitchen etiquette, learn how to choose good produce and meats from the market, and take a cooking class or two. On the final day, you will partake in a multi-course cooking Iron Chef competition to test your skills, work as a team, and face a panel of discerning judges. Your days will be packed with food, fun and flavor! Bon appetite!

ITALY: MILAN, VENICE, & ROME CULTURAL EXCHANGE- Kathy Laughlin & Scott Carneal, 18 Students, 12 Days, Thursday, March 16-Monday, March 27, \$1,950.

We will first fly into Venice (Venezia), the city of lagoons, which is known for its canals and varied architecture, elegant shops and cafes, and the famous Carnevale. After three days, we take a high speed train to Milan (Milano), the fashion capital of the world. We will stay with host families from Setti Carraro School for five days and sightsee, attend a professional soccer game, and engage in a few classes and sporting events at the school. For our final four days we take the train to Rome (Roma), stay in a monastery hostel and visit Vatican City, the Colosseum, the Pantheon, Trevi Fountain, and much more. Our return flight is from Rome.

IRELAND: EXPLORING THE EMERALD ISLE - Elizabeth Andersen & Cathy Harrison, 21 Students, 10 Days \$2,800.

As one of the most vibrant cultures of the Western world, Ireland's landscape and people are worth discovering. From the cosmopolitan Dublin to the small towns and the rugged beauty of the country, we'll explore Ireland's culture, physical beauty, and famously friendly people. We will get a taste of Northern Ireland and see how locals have worked to build peace in Belfast with the help of our Quaker friends at the Lisburn School. We will spend a day supporting Peace Players International as they use basketball to bring together children from opposite sides of the historic conflict. Next up – a venture into the world of Game of Thrones with a one-of-a-kind tour of the natural backdrops for the Iron Islands and the Dark Hedges, and the Giant's Causeway. Then we are off to explore the Cliffs of Moher, kiss the Blarney Stone, explore the 15th century Bunratty Castle and then back to Dublin for the Book of Kells. Along the way we will sample Irish food, language, dance, music, and sports. The days will be packed with activity, exploration, and cultural discovery. As an Irish blessing says, "... it's the one place on earth that heaven has kissed with melody, mirth, and meadow and mist."

Note: Most students not from Europe or the Americas (except Japan and South Korea) will need to pay visa fees for both the UK and Ireland which totals an additional \$270. There may also be costs of postage, biometrics, and passport photos.

*HISTORICAL MARYLAND SERVICE- Ben McClellan and Ghislaine DeCock, Service Intersession, 13 Students, 5 Days, \$225

One of the great SSFS Intersession traditions has returned! If you are interested in historic preservation and need a service Intersession, this is the trip for you. We will be traveling to various locations in Maryland and working with service coordinators to get parks and museums ready for the spring season. We will be working with the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge, preparing the Robinson Nature Center in Howard County and the Calvert Maritime Museum for spring (hopefully they'll let us play with their otters!), helping the Franciscan Brothers at the Shrine of St. Anthony's and finally volunteering at the Sandy Spring Museum. The trip will leave each morning from campus and return each evening (except for Wednesday) in time for the buses. The cost is \$225 and the experience is priceless.

Special Criteria: Seniors who need a service Intersession take priority.

ART AND THE BORDER: ARIZONA'S HUMAN BORDER 2017 - Sharon Wall and Adam Keller, 16 students, 8 days: 3/18-3-25, 1,800

Students will explore the Arizona-Mexico Border culture through the lens of social justice and art. Students will explore the connection between the ecology of the desert and the socio-economic makeup of a border open to business and closed to people. Students will spend time touring the border with the nonprofit organization BorderLinks. BorderLinks will help manage risk in the border region, supply guides for the deserts and local communities, help students create contacts with local organizations, and supply dorm rooms for the students in Tucson (our home base). With BorderLinks as our guide, students will explore the social and economic dynamics of the border and the art it inspires. This trip will include a BorderLinks-led overnight visit to the Mexican side of the border, an expedition to the desert to resupply water tanks with Humane Borders, a community dinner with Casa Mariposa (Quaker activist organization), and a guided tour of the Wall in Nogales. During the

duration of the Intersession, students will be asked to reflect on their time on the border and on how their experiences will translate once they return home through painting, sketching, journaling, Meeting for Worship, and group processing. While there are service opportunities on this trip, it is not a service Intersession. **Students will need a visa and passport for traveling to Mexico.**

9th GRADE TRIP TO FLORIDA KEYS- 9th Staff, All 9TH Students, 5 Days: Sunday through Thursday, \$725.

The 9th Grade trip to the Florida Keys will be an introduction to the Upper School Intersession. This trip will include some service, outdoor education, and we will snorkel, kayak, study the mangroves, visit the turtle hospital, remove invasive plants, explore the everglades by fan boat and do many more fun and exciting things. This required 9th grade trip has been in place for almost a decade, and to this day, it is quite memorable to most. This is a different experience from the five day camping trip; there is more time to bond with both teachers and peers.