



## 2024 Costa Rica Experiences

### Program Description

Participants will spend their program living in La Flor, a small community in a valley of Northern Central Costa Rica. They will engage daily in enrichment activities with local youth, including art, physical education, literacy, and community service while immersing themselves in the culture, language, cuisine, and incredible flora, fauna and natural wonders of the region.

### Program Goals

This opportunity looks to focus on three areas:

- **Community:** making lasting friendships through living within a rural community
- **Cultural Competence & Giving Back:** engaging community residences to share culture and provide enrichment activities for youth
- **Learning:** improving foreign language skills through immersion and gaining an understanding of local flora and fauna and natural beauty through field trips and tours



### Country Description

Costa Rica is the wealthiest country in Central America and has established itself as a leader in territory preservation and sustainability. Over 26% of Costa Rica's land is protected for conservation, much of which falls within its 29 national parks. Costa Rica is home to 6% of the world's biodiversity and is well known for ecotourism. The country is a military-free democratic republic.

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Authentically.  
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## Program Fees & Registration Information:

- Program fee: \$3,400
- Please submit the following to register by February 23, 2024 (to [goticocostarica@gmail.com](mailto:goticocostarica@gmail.com))
  - Registration form
  - Liability Waiver
  - Passport copy
  - 50% deposit - \$1,700 (Venmo: goticocostarica)
- Documents due by April 5, 2024 to [goticocostarica@gmail.com](mailto:goticocostarica@gmail.com)
  - Proof of Travel Insurance (card)
    - If purchasing, we recommend Seven Corners travel medical insurance OR AIG Travel Guard
  - Behavioral Expectations\*
  - Homestay Bio\*
  - Remaining 50% Registration fee - \$1,700



## Program Fee Includes:

- Roundtrip Airfare from Madison, Wisconsin region (ORD, MKE or MSN) to San Jose, Costa Rica
- All accommodations in Costa Rica, including nights with a local host family and overnight stays at outings
- All meals during program in Costa Rica
- In-country transportation
- All entrance fees for tours and activities

## Program Fee Does Not Include:

- Spending money
- Luggage fees & meals on airlines or in airports
- Travel delay & Travel Medical Insurance

## Passport:

Routine applications are processed in approximately 8-10 weeks from the time of application, but wait times now are generally longer. Additional Information:

<http://travel.state.gov/passport>



## Travel Vaccinations:

- All travelers should visit either their personal physician or a travel health clinic 4-8 weeks before departure.
- Please consult the following website for government recommendations regarding vaccines: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/costa-rica>

## Contact Information:

Sara Bembenek-Saborio at Go Tico! Costa Rica

Whatsapp: +506-8991-3536

goticocostarica@gmail.com



## **FAQs**

**Where will participants be staying?** Participants will split their time between cabins in the host community and host families in La Flor de Rio Cuarto, all of whom are either family of Sara & Johel or family friends that are very well known and have lived in the community for many years.

**Who else will be going on this trip?** Go Tico! Costa Rica Co-directors Sara Bembenek-Saborio or Johel Saborio Gonzalez will be in-country chaperones as well as in-country support (host families) and summer program staff. This program will be open to rising 8th grade - 12th grade students.

**Is the community safe?** The community is incredibly safe, as it is so small that most of the families have been living there for much of their lives. The people of La Flor are wonderful, kind hosts who enjoy having students stay and share their culture.

**Where is the nearest medical facility?** The nearest private medical clinic (open standard business hours) is 15 minutes away. The nearest urgent care facility is 15 minutes away. The nearest hospital is 40 minutes away. If need be, transportation by ambulance is available.

**We heard cell phones aren't allowed. Is that true?** Kind-of..... Historically, Go Tico! has not allowed cell phones on trips to provide students with the freedom to *just live* in Costa Rica, interact with the community, practice their Spanish a lot, and be free from always having to be connected and reporting back on everything that happens in life. Past students have greatly enjoyed time to disconnect and immerse themselves in their experience. Another reason to avoid phones while on the trip is that scammers love to prey on parents & grandparents eagerly awaiting their kids' arrival from abroad. Social Media posts about traveling abroad allows for scammers to take advantage of family who may not be keeping as closely in touch with your student. However, we will be allowing cell phones with the requirement that all students leave them in their accommodations or check them into a cell phone basket during daytime engagement with community members and charlas. They will be available during free time and evening quiet hours.

# Parental Consent and Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement (“Agreement”) 2024 Costa Rican Programs

I, the undersigned parent or legal guardian of \_\_\_\_\_ (herein referred to as my “Child”), request that my Child be allowed to participate in the 2024 Costa Rica Program coordinated by **Go Tico! Costa Rica and chaperoned by Sara Bembenek-Saborio and/or Johel Saborio Gonzalez, and/or Go Tico! Interns** (herein referred to as “the Program”). This Agreement shall remain in effect until the conclusion of the Program. In return for my Child being permitted to take part in the international travel and activities and to use the facilities and property of third parties, I make the following promises and warrant as to the truth of the following facts.

1. I understand that this Program is not an activity sponsored or endorsed by and is not connected in any way or manner whatsoever with any school (herein referred to as “School”).
2. I am familiar with all the activities included in the Program, and I understand that representatives from the Program are available to discuss these activities if I should wish for additional information. I will inform my Child that he/she is expected to cooperate with, and follow the directions of, the persons in charge of the activities and to act in a manner consistent with the spirit of good international détente and respect for the rights of others.
3. My Child is in good health, and I know of no reason why he/she would be incapable of participating in all the Program activities. I will immediately notify the representatives of the Program if a change in my Child’s health or other condition would affect his/her ability to fully participate in the Program.
4. I hereby waive and release any right I, my heirs, distributees, guardians, legal representatives and assigns may have or acquire to make a claim against, sue, attach the property of, or prosecute **Sara Bembenek-Saborio, Johel Saborio Gonzalez, Interns, School** or any of their members, governors, officers, agents, family members, instructors, and affiliated organizations (herein referred to as the Releasees”) for monetary damages caused by injury to my Child or damage to the property of my Child or myself arising from my Child’s participation in the international travel and activities and use of the facilities and property of third parties, whether or not the injury or damage results from the negligence or other action of the Releasees.
5. I am aware that the international travel and activities of the Program involve traveling to and living in rural communities and remote National Parks in the country of Costa Rica which do not have emergency medical facilities nearby. With knowledge of the dangers involved, I voluntarily ask that my Child be allowed to take part in the international travel and activities of the Program.

**I ACCEPT ANY AND ALL RISKS TO MY CHILD OF INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH AND PROPERTY DAMAGE ARISING FROM INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TO COSTA RICA AND PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES, AND THE USE OF THE FACILITIES AND PROPERTY OF THIRD PARTIES, WHETHER OR NOT CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OR OTHER ACTION OF THE RELEASEES.**

6. I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Releasees from any loss, liability, damage or cost, including reasonable attorneys fees, they may incur due to my Child's participation in the international travel to Costa Rica and activities of the Program and us of the facilities and property of third parties, whether or not such loss, liability, damage or cost results from the negligence or other action of any of the Releasees.

**I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS. I AM AWARE THE AGREEMENT INCLUDES A WAIVER OF LIABILITY, AN ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND AN AGREEMENT BY ME TO INDEMNIFY THE RELEASEES, AND I SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.**

**PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN SIGNATURE (1):**

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Print Name

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Date

**PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN SIGNATURE (2):**

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Print Name

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Date