



# TRAVEL SCHOLARS



## OPENING DOORS OPENING MINDS

Now - in a time when intercultural understanding is especially important - Hostelling International USA's *Opening Doors, Opening Minds* initiative uses the hostelling experience to encourage young people to become catalysts for intercultural exchange and understanding.

Through a combination of travel opportunities, educational experiences, and public awareness initiatives, *Opening Doors, Opening Minds* fulfills its purpose:

To build a new generation of global citizens

- unburdened by damaging stereotypes
- emboldened by open minds
- appreciative of their own heritage and understanding of others

through the dialogue and education that come from the hostelling experience.

## ABOUT TRAVEL SCHOLARS

The Travel Scholars program propels young people towards becoming caring world citizens who value and embrace cultural differences and who better understand themselves as part of a larger global citizenry.

Travel Scholars provides opportunities for youth and school groups to experience hostelling and Chicago's diverse cultural communities. For decades, hostel travel has changed the way people see the world and see each other. Through this travel experience, hands-on activities and dynamic workshops, Travel Scholars learn the value of intercultural exchange, responsible travel, humanitarianism and community service.



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## WHAT TO EXPECT FROM A TRAVEL SCHOLARS EXPERIENCE

Travel Scholars are youth ages 13 – 18 who come to the hostel as part of a community or school group. Groups should have at least ten youth. Groups are asked to bring at least one adult per ten youth, with no less than two adults for the entire group. Most Travel Scholar groups arrive at the hostel on Friday evening and return home on Sunday afternoon, though some groups may choose to come during the week or stay longer. In addition to their stay at the hostel, Travel Scholars receive:

- A bundle of pre- and post- travel activities
- The delivery of engaging cultural education programming
- A guided visit to one of Chicago's fabulous cultural institutions
- The opportunity to make a difference through participation in a humanitarian or community service activity
- Free time to explore the fine city of Chicago, meet as a group, or just hang out with other hostellers
- The chance to meet fellow travelers from all over the world
- Earn service learning hours

## STRONG EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

Travel Scholars is a great way to enhance the work conducted by youth leaders and teachers. Students who complete the program gain essential life skills through learning about responsible travel, interacting with people from different cultures and participating in community service. The curriculum meets 10 Chicago Public Schools and Illinois State education standards and goals. Hostelling International USA and our partner organizations are committed to attaining these objectives through the delivery of high quality educational programming.

## VALUE OF GLOBAL LEARNING

The average cost for a two-night/three-day Travel Scholars program is \$125 per participant. This price includes:

- Two nights accommodation at the hostel in Chicago's downtown for \$60/student
- 6 meals (two each of breakfast, lunch and dinner) for the group to prepare in our large and lovely kitchen for \$50/student
- Admission fees to the cultural institutions
- Transportation within the city to the cultural and community service sites

The hostel provides FREE of charge

- Educator to teach workshops and learning activities
- Itinerary planning including meals, destinations and workshops
- Engaging workshop delivery and materials
- Hostelling International Youth Membership to all participants under 18

## SUPPORT FOR UNDERSTANDING AND A MORE PEACEFUL PLANET

Travel Scholars is a vibrant program designed to enhance participants' worldview and prepare them for tomorrow. Can you help Hostelling International Chicago reach more youth? Please consider helping with a donation or by becoming a volunteer. For more information visit our website: [www.hichicago.org](http://www.hichicago.org) Click on "Support the Mission" to learn more about making a donation. Click on "Get Involved" to volunteer.

## WHO TO CONTACT

For more information or to schedule your next Travel Scholars program, please contact:

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