Youth Leadership in Puerto Rico

Ms. Hardy

June 2026

PARISH EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

My Story

Lived in Guatemala for 5 years

35 Countries

New Mexico

I speak Spanish

MS Lab Learning Specialist & MS Parish Abroad Trip Leader

Last year's trip to Costa Rica!

Who is WorldStrides?

WorldStrides Info

- Created in 1964 by a middle school social studies teacher, Phil Wendel
- Becomes accredited in 1990
- Leads quality educational travel for middle and high school students and their teachers.

Four Pillars

Engagement & Support ›

Ensure participants and team members feel supported and celebrated

Sustainability ›

Reduce environmental impacts in our educational programs and in our offices

Health & Wellness

Invest in the well-being of our participants and employees

Philanthropy

Increase philanthropic impact with strategic community partners

The Amazing Benefits of Student Travel

Educational Success

Students who travel:

- Are 32% more likely to attend college
- Attain a higher college GPA (by ~.9 points)
- Are 16% more likely to study abroad in college

Career Boost

Students who travel:

- Are 21% more likely to be employed full-time
- Report earning more money throughout their career

Long-Term Benefits

Of students who travel:

- 88% felt the trip had a positive impact on their education and/or career
- 86% agree the trip made them a better world citizen
- 80% felt out-of-the-classroom experiences were the most impactful

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Delivering the Deepest Learning

- LEAP into action: Learning through Exploring and Actively Participating
- Our trademarked learning-by-doing philosophy
- Dynamic approach full of hands-on activities and fun

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When	Where
- June 2 - June 8, 2026 - Tuesday - Monday - 6 nights, 7 days total	Puerto Rico - San Juan - Day trips to: Camyu Caves, Luquillo Beach, Ponce, El Yunque National Forest

Tour Itinerary

Day 1 Hola San Juan

San Juan city walk

Day 2 San Juan

San Juan guided sightseeing tour

Plazas San José y Colón, Calle de Cristo, Castillo San Felipe del Morro visit, El Capitolio, Teatro Tapia

Optional LEAP Experience sustainable farming in San Juan $60

Day 3 San Juan

El Yunque Caribbean National Forest visit

Luquillo beach free time

Optional Bioluminescent Bay excursion $70

Day 4 San Juan

Island Excursion & Snorkel Trip

Day 5 San Juan

Visit a local cave

Caguana Ceremonial Indigenous Park and Heritage Center visit

Day 6 San Juan

Zipline Canopy Tour

Free time in San Juan

LEAP Salsa Time!

Day 7 End tour

Travel home

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Affordable Payment Plans

- Only a **small initial deposit** required to sign up for the trip
- Remaining balance spread out into **small installments** and paid monthly prior to travel
- Payments can be **auto-deducted** from your account

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Support Every Step of the Way

From the moment you arrive

Tour Directors:
Specially trained individuals who guide your group from start to finish and deliver plenty of “a-ha” moments along the way

Health & Safety Team:
More than 50 years of success with an unrivaled track record, providing you with the peace of mind that only comes from experience

Insurance:
Industry-leading liability coverage (illness, accident, and dental) and travel protection plans

Round-the-clock

WorldStrides WorldAssist:
Staffed 24/7 by WorldStrides team members who are trained to handle any situation. Travelers have direct access with the phone number on their name tags.

Doctors on Call:
Exclusive relationship with The George Washington University Medical Faculty Associates. You get 24/7 access to telehealth medical consultations or treatment recommendations. Travelers also have confidential telehealth access to a behavioral health care specialist while on tour through our partnership with AXA Mental Health Services.

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Protecting Your Investment

Travel Protection Plan

Educational travel is an investment in your child's future. We recommend you protect that investment with our Travel Protection Plan, which covers you for the following events:

- Enhanced medical, injury, or dental treatment while traveling
- A traveler's injury, sickness, or death of a family member
- Theft of passport or visas
- Flight cancellations due to strike or bad weather
- Trip cancellation or trip interruption due to covered reasons such as a covered sickness, illness, injury, or death

Ultimate Travel Protection Plan

Along with providing you the same benefits as the Travel Protection Plan, our Ultimate Protection Plan also includes the **Cancel For Any Reason Benefit**:

- If you cancel 48 hours (2 days) or more before your scheduled trip departure date for any reason not otherwise covered by this policy, we reimburse you for 75% of the non-refundable cancellation fees which apply to your trip

This plan must be purchased at enrollment or within 14 days of your initial payment for your trip.

4 out of 5 WorldStrides travelers protect their tours!

worldstrides.com/travel-protection-plans

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Accommodations

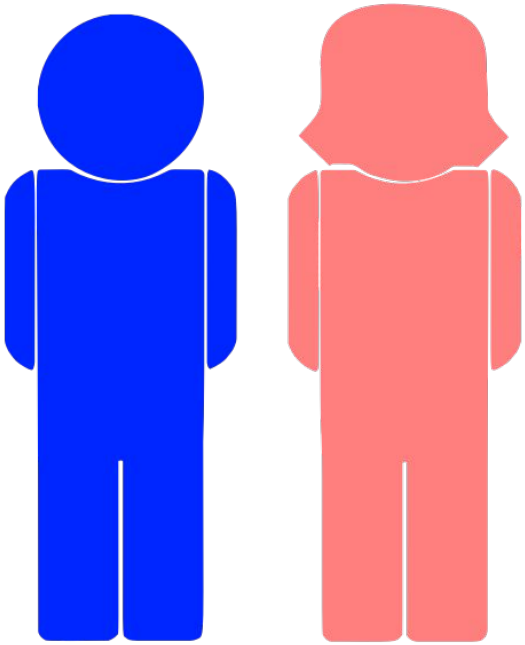
Where:
- 3 and 4 star hotels
- Currently to be determined

Rooms:
- 3 to 4 students per room
- Try and keep grade levels together
- No mixed gender
- If there are personal or family concerns with your child sharing a bed or room, please contact me separately and we can make specific arrangements

Supervision

Team Lead:
- Myself, Erika Hardy

Supporting:
- Male Chaperone
- Third Chaperone
- All Parish staff/faculty



Extra Spending

Lunch & Snacks are not included:
    Approx. $10-20 per day
Souvenirs- up to you

Total range = $20-50 per day

A Visa card is best to avoid dealing with cash. However, no currency exchange.
Most major credit cards accepted- Visa, Mastercard, AMEX

Things to consider…

1. Does your child like learning about the following things:
   - Wildlife / Animals: Fish, Birds
   - The Ocean, the Environment & Sustainability
   - Other cultures

2. Does your child like to be outside and active?

3. Does your child have any environmental allergies? Fish?

4. Has your child been away from home for at least a week at a time before?

Application Process

Google Form for parents and students to complete together

- Student Section
    - Travel Experience, Personality Questions, Personal reflection of about 200 words, and Statement of interest

- No serious infractions/behavior concerns
- Good grades and attendance
- Teacher feedback on all applicants

Upcoming

- Send out application to everyone who filled out the interest survey
- Application due by **Tuesday, September 25th.**
- First down payment of $99 due by **October 1st.**
- Follow up meetings for the chosen students and families will be scheduled and communicated as soon as possible.

Questions?