

FAQ: Parents' Most Frequently Asked Questions About Our Programs

1. What is the focus of Going Global's International Youth Leadership Program?

Our program is built around five key focus areas designed to prepare students for global success.

- **Leadership:** Developing confidence, decision-making, and teamwork skills through hands-on experiences.
- **Cross-Cultural Competency:** Building understanding and respect for diverse cultures through immersive travel and interaction.
- **Global Networking:** Connecting students with peers, mentors, and professionals from around the world to expand their global perspective.
- **Black History:** Exploring the global impact of the African diaspora and celebrating cultural heritage through historical and educational experiences.
- **Study Abroad:** Encouraging academic curiosity and international learning opportunities that inspire future educational and career goals.

2. What ages of students can participate?

This is a college-prep level program designed for students 13–18 years old.

3. What qualifications do trip leaders and staff have?

Our trip leaders and chaperones are experienced educators, youth mentors, and travel professionals trained in youth group supervision. Many have prior experience leading international programs or working with teens in educational settings. Additionally, all staff submit to annual background checks for safety and security purposes.

4. What is included in the program cost?

Program fees cover flights, accommodations, lunch and dinner, transportation during the trip, activities, guides, and travel insurance. Personal spending money is additional.

5. How do you handle medical or emergency situations?

Staff are trained to manage basic first-aid issues and minor illnesses requiring over-the-counter medications. For medical situations requiring further attention, Going Global staff follows established emergency protocols, including familiarity with international emergency numbers, locations of medical facilities, on-call doctors, and parent notification processes. All students are provided travel insurance that covers most medical emergencies.

6. What is the staff-to-student ratio for the trips?

Each cohort is staffed with a 5:1 or 4:1 student ratio. Curfews, group check-ins, and structured schedules ensure accountability and safety throughout the trip.

7. Can parents become chaperones?

Many of our staff chaperones are parents of students in our programs; however, they do not accompany their own children on trips. Our program is intentionally structured to promote independence, confidence, and leadership, and experience shows that students gain the most from the program when they travel in supervised cohorts without their parents.

8. Is my student eligible for the IYL Programs?

Going Global welcomes the enrollment of students of all backgrounds. Applicants must be in good standing with their enrolled school, academically and behaviorally, and must complete an online application and health forms. Participants should be mature, responsible, and intellectually curious to fully benefit from an educational travel program. Advanced programs may also require teacher recommendations.

9. Where do students depart the United States from?

Most students participating in Going Global programs travel to the Washington, DC area to attend a send-off reception and depart with the cohort. Alternatively, students from outside the DC area may travel directly to the destination and be met by a member of our staff upon arrival.

10. How do parents stay in touch with students and staff?

Parents are encouraged to follow Going Global social media pages and join the parent WhatsApp chat groups to receive daily updates on the group's activities. Students' phones should be updated to include international service during the trip (please consult your service provider for plans and fees). Chaperones and tour directors are available for direct contact 24/7 in case of emergencies.