

## **The Global Sustainability Project Fact Sheet 2019-20 School Year**

**Sponsor:** The Picerne Family Foundation has created and is sponsoring the Global Sustainability Project (GSP) in collaboration with the Advanced Placement and Academy of Sustainability and Engineering (ASE) Programs at Edison High School (EHS) and the Earthwatch Institute.

**Objectives:** (1) to broaden students' understanding of another culture; (2) to experience conservation and sustainability issues of another country; and (3) to make a direct contribution to solving local environmental sustainability issues.

**Program:** There are three aspects to the GSP program.

1. Expedition Preparation. Students will spend time in lunch and/or after school meetings during the 2019/20 school year with Mr. Gardiner to learn more about the ecology, culture, and history of South Africa.
2. Overseas expedition. During the summer 2020, students will participate in a 12-day international research expedition conducted by Earthwatch to study endangered rhinos in a South African wildlife preserve and national park. This will be an EHS student-only expedition accompanied by Mr. Gardiner. Students will depart for South Africa in late July or early August 2020.
3. Service. Prior to departure on the overseas research expedition, students are required to contribute 40 hours of meaningful volunteer work on a sustainability project, approved by Mr. Gardiner, at a local conservancy, university or ecological nonprofit organization.

**Eligibility:** To participate, students must be a junior taking an Advanced Placement Course or participating in the ASE Program in any subject at EHS and have a minimum overall 3.0 GPA.

**Expenses:** The Picerne Family Foundation will provide scholarships for up to 10 students that will cover airfare and the cost of the expedition. Students will be responsible for obtaining a passport, inoculations, gear and all other related expenses. Limited financial assistance will be available for students unable to meet all of these expenses.

**Time Commitment:** Students will:

- Meet after school and on weekends as needed with Mr. Gardiner. The meetings will be devoted to expedition preparation, research, and field trips.
- Volunteer 40 hours in 2019/20 school year working on a local sustainability project at a local conservancy, university or ecological nonprofit organization chosen by Mr. Gardiner.
- Journalize and document their volunteer project with photos, and present this experience to foundation members, parents, peers and community members upon the completion of the project.
- Complete and submit on time all required travel documents, inoculation requirements, passport application, etc. Students who fail to do so will be dropped from the program.

**Application Process:**

- Thursday May 23, 2019 at 6:00pm, EHS Room 221 – Parent & Student Information Session.
- Friday, Oct. 18, 2019 at 3:00pm – Written Applications Due (Late applications will not be accepted)
- Oct. 18 – Oct. 24 – Picerne Family Foundation Selects GSP Finalists
- Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019, Room 221, Time TBA – Presentations & Interviews with Finalists
- Friday, Nov. 8, 2019 – Announcement of GSP Participants
- Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019 at 6:00pm, EHS Room 221 – Parent & Student Orientation Session.

**More Information:** To learn more about the *Global Sustainability Project* and the Picerne Family Foundation, visit [www.picernefoundation.org](http://www.picernefoundation.org). For more information about the Earthwatch Institute and the Conserving Endangered Rhinos in South Africa expedition, go to [www.earthwatch.org](http://www.earthwatch.org).