



Want to go on an Amazon Research Expedition?

## ***The Global Sustainability Project***

**Sponsored by the PICERNE FAMILY FOUNDATION**

**Newport Beach, California**

The Picerne Family Foundation is sponsoring the *Global Sustainability Project (GSP)* in collaboration with the Advanced Placement classes at Segerstrom High School (SHS) and the Earthwatch Institute. The Foundation will provide scholarships for up to ten SHS students to participate in a teen research expedition to Peruvian Amazon in July, 2020. The goal of the GSP is: (1) to broaden students' understanding of other cultures; and (2) to increase their knowledge and awareness of local and global ecological concerns via scientific study. To accomplish this, students will spend 11 days at the Yarapa River, situated between the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve and the Tamshiyacu-Tahuayo Community Reserve, in the Peruvian Amazon. They will engage with their peers and the local community assisting research scientists studying the impact of climate change on the flooded forest ecosystem and local indigenous people in the western Amazon.

To participate you must be enrolled in an Advanced Placement course in any subject during your junior year and have a minimum overall 3.0 GPA. To enrich the experience, students will spend time during the 2019/20 school year meeting with Mr. Pfeifer after school to learn more about the ecology, culture, and history of the Peruvian Amazon. Students will also be required to volunteer 40 hours working in an ecological nonprofit or conservancy. The capstone for the study preparation and local volunteer activity will be an expense paid trip to the Peruvian Amazon for 11 days of fieldwork with Earthwatch scientists. Students will be participating in a **SHS student-only** expedition accompanied by Mr. Pfeifer.

Scholarships from the Foundation will cover airfare and the cost of the expedition. Students will be responsible for obtaining a passport, inoculations, gear and clothing for the expedition. Financial assistance will be available for students unable to meet all of these expenses.

For more information about the Earthwatch Institute and the Amazon Riverboat Exploration expedition, go to [www.earthwatch.org](http://www.earthwatch.org). For questions about the GSP at SHS, contact Mr. Pfeifer in his classroom (Science Building D, #306) or by email at [Thomas.Pfeifer@sausd.us](mailto:Thomas.Pfeifer@sausd.us) You may also contact Victor Nelson, Executive Director of the Picerne Family Foundation, at 949-267-1517 or by email at [vnelson@picernefoundation.org](mailto:vnelson@picernefoundation.org). To learn more about the Picerne Family Foundation, the organizers and sponsors of the GSP, visit [www.picernefoundation.org](http://www.picernefoundation.org).

## Academic Commitment

Research & Presentation: Students will meet regularly after school with Mr. Pfeifer to learn more about the culture, history, geography, animals, plants and birds of the western Amazon. Students will create an informative interactive electronic presentation on their research that they will present to foundation members, parents and peers.

Community Sustainability Project: Students will be required to contribute 40 hours working on a local sustainability project at a community based non-profit whose primary mission is ecological sustainability. Students will be required to journalize, document and present research findings to Foundation members, parents, peers and community members upon the completion of the project.

## Time Commitment

Students are expected to make GSP a top priority. Participation in the GSP requires a significant investment of time during the junior year. Students should anticipate spending a number of hours on GSP in addition to their normal academic requirements. Specifically, students will:

- Meet after school as a group with Mr. Pfeifer as needed. The meetings should last an average of 90 minutes. The meetings will be devoted to expedition preparation, research, presentations and field trips.
- Complete and submit on time all required travel documents, inoculation requirements, passport application, etc.

## Application Process

April – May, 2019

- Foundation GSP Announced in Classrooms

Thursday, August 29, 2019 at 6:30pm  
Mr. Pfeifer's Room  
(Science Building D, #306)

- Parent & Student Information Session

Tuesday, October 1, 2019 at 3:00pm

- Student Written Applications Due

Thursday, Oct. 17, 2019  
(Finalists schedule time with Mr. Pfeifer)

- Foundation Finalist Interviews

Monday, October 21, 2019

- GSP Candidates Announced

Tuesday, October, 29 at 6:00pm  
Mr. Pfeifer's Room  
(Science Building D, #306)

- Orientation Meeting with Parents and GSP Participants