

The Global Sustainability Project Fact Sheet 2023/24 School Year

Sponsor: The Picerne Family Foundation has created and is sponsoring the Global Sustainability Project (GSP) in collaboration with the Edison High School Advanced Placement (AP), Academy of Sustainability and Engineering (ASE), College Dual Enrollment Aquarium Science/Aqua Culture Programs, 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 2023/24 school years with Mr. Gardener to learn more about the ecology, culture, and history of South Africa.
2. Overseas expedition. During the summer 2024, 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. Gardener. Students will depart for South Africa in early August 2024.
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. Gardener, at a local conservancy, university or ecological nonprofit organization.

Eligibility: To participate, students must be a junior taking an AP Course in any subject, participating in the ASE program, or the College Dual Enrollment Aquarium Science/Aqua Culture program 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 2023/24 working on a local sustainability project in an ecological nonprofit, conservancy or university 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:

- April – May, 2023 – GSP Announced in classrooms.
- Wed., April 5 at 6:30pm – Parent & Student Information Session #1 in EHS Student Center (Cafeteria).
- Wed., Sept. 27 at 6:30pm – Parent & Student Information Session #2 in EHS Student Center (Cafeteria).
- Wed., Oct. 25, 4:00pm – Written Applications Due (Late applications will not be accepted)
- Wed., Nov. 1, 2023 – GSP Finalists Announced.
- Wed., Nov. 15, 2023 – Finalist Presentations & Interviews, EHS Room 221 (Times TBA by Mr. Gardener).
- Sat., Nov. 18, 2023 – Announcement of GSP Candidates.
- Wed., Nov. 29, 2023, 6:30pm – Parent & Student Orientation Session, EHS Room 221.