



Want to go on a Costa Rica 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 and International Baccalaureate classes at Rancho Buena Vista High School (RBV) and Ecology Project International (EPI). The Picerne Foundation will provide scholarships for up to ten RBV students to participate in a research expedition to Costa Rica in summer of 2026. 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 9 days researching and studying sea turtle ecology at the Pacuare Reserve on the Caribbean Coast of Costa Rica.

To participate you must be enrolled in an Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate course in any subject during your junior year and have a minimum overall 3.0 GPA. In order to enrich the overseas experience and make it more meaningful, participants as a team will prepare a resource guide to the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica. The guide will focus on the geography, climate, economy, history and culture of the area as well as the flora, and sea turtle ecology. Students will create an interactive electronic presentation on their research that they will present to Foundation members, parents and peers. 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 Pacuare Reserve on the Caribbean Coast of Costa Rica for 9 days of fieldwork with Ecology Project International scientists. Students will be participating in a RBV student-only expedition accompanied by Ms. Dugas.

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

For more information about EPI and the 9-day research expedition to study the felines and primates at the Pacuare Reserve in Costa Rica, visit www.ecologyproject.org. For questions about the GSP at RBV, contact Ms. Dugas in room 131, or by email at kaylidugas@vistausd.org. You may also contact Mr. Nelson, Executive Director of the Picerne Family Foundation, at 949-267-1517 or vnelson@picernefoundation.org. To learn more about the Picerne Family Foundation, the organizers and sponsors of the Global Sustainability Project, visit www.picernefoundation.org.

Academic Commitment

Research & Presentation: Students will meet regularly after school with Ms. Dugas to learn more about the culture, history, geography, animals, plants and birds of the Caribbean Coast of Costa Rica. 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 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 Ms. Dugas 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 and Meeting Schedule

August & September, 2025	• GSP Announced in Classrooms.
Wed. Sept. 17, 6:00pm	• Parent & Student Information Session, RBV room # 131.
Fri. Nov. 21, 3:30pm	• Student Written Applications Due. <i>Late applications will not be accepted.</i>
Wed. Dec. 3, 2025	• GSP Finalists Announced.
Wed. Dec. 10, 2025	• Finalist Presentations/Interviews, RBV room # 131 <i>Students sign up for specific times with Ms. Dugas.</i>
Fri. Dec. 12, 2025	• GSP Candidates Announced.
Wed. Jan. 14, 2026	• Parent & Student Orientation Meeting, RBV room # 131. <i>Students and both parents are required to attend.</i>