

CSW Panama Off Campus Course 2022 www.cswoffcampus.net

Our Science and Language in the Neotropics course is coming up! Here are some important updates:

Delta Airline flight information:

To Panama City, Panama

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| 1 | March 23 Delta Flight # 376 | Boston to Atlanta: depart 5:45 am, arrive 8:34 am |
| 2 | March 23 Delta Flight # 1811 | Atlanta to Panama City: depart 9:45 am, arrive 12:44 pm |

Return to Boston (all course members will return on same flights)

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| 3 | April 21 Delta Flight # 1810 | Panama City to Atlanta: depart 2:20 pm, arrive 7:35 pm |
| 4 | April 22 Delta Flight # 2085 | Atlanta to Boston: depart 6:00 am, arrive 8:35 am |

* We have reservations for Comfort Inn & Suites for the layover

Air Panama Flight Information:

March 24: Air Panama Flight # 980 Panama City (Albrook) to Bocas del Toro
Leave 1 pm from Albrook and arrive in Bocas del Toro at 2 pm.

Staffing

The course will be led by Steve Scrimshaw, Patricio Hernandez & Mitzy Herrera, will be with us for the full 30 days. Steve will be leading the Science portion of the course. Dr. Peter Lahanas the director of ITEC (Institute for Tropical Ecology and Conservation) will assist while we're at ITEC.

Patricio will be leading the Spanish Language portion. Patricio is collaborating with Mitzy, a native Panamanian, for language and cultural immersion section in the Guararé portion of the course. She will be with us throughout course.

Note: we will have other adults assisting our students in each locale

Packing

A 2022 Packing List is published and downloadable at the <http://www.cswoffcampus.net> in the Forms/Downloads tab Some items will need to be acquired before the course. We will review this in more detail. It's great to have some quick-dry clothing, headlamps, and a timepiece to stay on time.

Where we'll be when:

March 23: We'll be staying at the [Magnolia Inn](#). We have stayed there many times before. It's in Casco Viejo, old part of Panama City.

March 24 - April 3: we'll be staying at the [ITEC](#) field station on Isla Colón in Bocas del Toro

April 3 - April 8: We'll be staying in cabins owned by [Los Quetzales Ecolodge](#) in Cerro Punta, Chiriquí. This is a upland cloud forest and agricultural area.

April 8 - April 21: We'll be in the Guararé, in the province of Los Santos on Azuero Peninsula. We'll be staying at the Hotel Residencial La Mejorana in Guararé

April 21: Drive to Tocumen Airport in Panama City and fly home

Communications:

Patricio and Steve will likely get Panama chips for our phone that will have new numbers, and we will be publishing those numbers immediately after we get them in Panama City the first day. Students are welcome to do the same and we can help them. Many will opt to get international plans for their phone and use wifi. Wifi will be spotty at times and even phones with data plans will be limited. Each site as we travel should be somewhat better than the previous site. Phone calls can be made at all our sites. Sometimes it might take a little work to get through.

Checklist for the Course**Health**

1. ____ You need to fill out all health forms for course and check with your son or daughter's doctor or a travel clinic re: immunizations and to get signed medication forms if needed. (There are no vaccinations required to enter Costa Rica or Panama. Nevertheless, health care providers generally suggest up-to-date tetanus vaccination, as well as at least a start on the Hepatitis A vaccine. Let your doctor know that you will be at Guararé, in the Azuero Peninsula, Isla Colón in Bocas del Toro Province and Cerro Punta in the high mountains of the province of Chiriquí. We are not going east of the canal and our stay in Panama City will be very brief. We'll be in Panama during the dry season.
2. ____ All students should be sure to bring whatever they need to care for health and well-being (eg. extra glasses or contacts and solution, prescription and other medications in original packaging, etc.)
3. ____ Take care of any dental care needs before the trip.
4. ____ Fill out CSW Self-Administration Agreement Option form ([Download here](#))

Checklist of required Forms and Travel Documents

The following forms and copies need to be turned in directly to Steve or Awa, or placed in their campus mailbox:

- a. ____ 2 copies of your passport (**All students MUST have a valid passport with expiration no earlier than 6 months from our return date on 3/11/15**)

- b. Covid vaccination card/certificate and it must include a booster shot.
- c. Hold harmless agreement

Overview of some basic trip rules & agreements

Both students and parents should be clear about following rules & agreements. While we don't anticipate that there will be any problems, we will act in accordance with what is written below. We want to be very clear that we expect to students to abide by these in good faith. Please contact Patricio or Steve, if you have any questions.

RULES/AGREEMENTS

Please be mindful of the pre-trip rules. We certainly do not want anyone sent home! It would be sad for the group to lose a member, and for the person sent home, it would be expensive and result in the loss of 3 academic credits and one D block credit.

Please view the following as agreements as well as rules.

In Panama:

- Students found with smoking or vaping devices will first be given a warning and their parents will be called. If there is a second violation, they will be sent home at their additional expense.
- No use of alcohol or other drugs will be allowed at any time for any reason during the trip. In consultation with the school, students caught with these substances will be sent home.
- For any behavioral issues, the course leaders, in consultation with the School, will determine whether having the student sent home is merited.
- Collectively, we have considerable experience with group travel in Central America. It is *imperative* that students follow staff guidelines regarding individual behavior for In particular, we ask that students not venture out at night outside of established guidelines or group activities. We will be clear as to specific times and circumstances. It is very important that students agree to abide by our requests on these matters. Failure to follow clear curfew hours may be grounds to send a student home to the U.S. immediately at their own expense.

In addition to the above agreements & rules we add the following expectation:

We expect all participants in the group to stay in close communication. For the group to function well and safely we need all persons to be prompt when there is a scheduled meeting of any size. It is imperative that, if circumstances prevent you from meeting a group commitment, that you find a way to communicate to others, including the group leaders. In addition, all participants are encouraged to communicate needs especially around health issues so that we can provide the best care. We expect that group members will support each other in this effort.

Note: this document may be updated. Latest version can be found at [forms/info tab](https://forms/info) at cswoffcampus.net