# **Tips for Successful Student Travel Experiences**



# Today's Agenda

- Personal introduction
- Getting to know this group of teachers
- Importance of international travel
- Why we selected Explorica
- Pre-trip preparations and details
- On-tour strategies for success
- Post-trip ideas for growing your program
- Closing travel success defined





London Training
Tour 2022

Example sheets are provided in your packets when you see this symbol





# Who is this person at the front of the room?

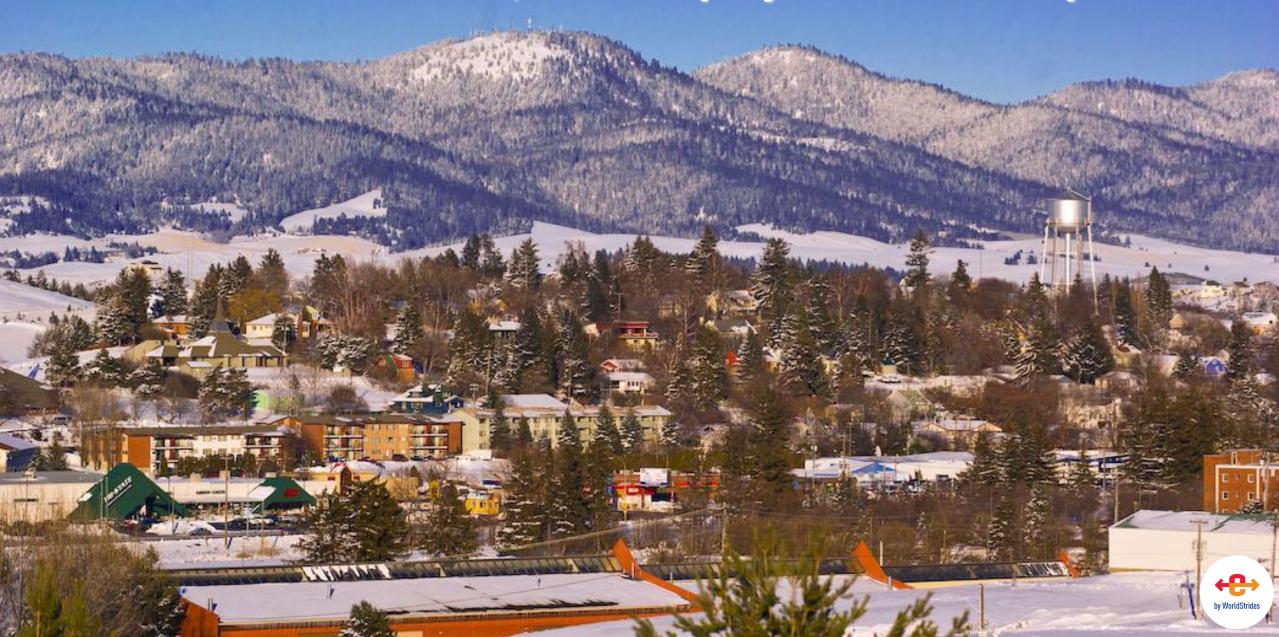


### Jason Albrecht

- 29 year middle school social studies teacher
- Department chair
- Father of two
- Former coach and travel enthusiast



# From Moscow, Idaho (my hometown)





# Where is Explorica taking your group?













# Getting to know this group

Where are you traveling to?



TELL us about

How many students are you taking?



How many trips have you taken with students?

What age group are you taking?
Are parents coming?



# Importance of International Travel

- Learn and understand first-hand about people and societies around the world
- Provides valuable world experience and personal growth opportunity for students that can in turn be applied in their high school and college classes
- Creates strong friendships that only a shared travel experience can provide
- Helps students appreciate and understand where they live in a whole new light





# Why is Explorica our choice for student travel?

**Flexibility** 

Consistency

**Partnership** 

Customization



Creativity

Rewards

**Delivery!** 



# **Preparations for Success**

Efficiency and team work are the keys to success. Prepare ahead of time to maximize your overseas experience.





# **Build a Travel Team**

As your program grows, consider adding the following as *free spots*:

- Another like-minded program leader (former group leader)
- Nurse/Medical Professional/Counselor
- Fundraising Coordinator
- Social Media Guru/Photographer

You can also assign some of these roles to your paying travelers





# **Pre-Trip Preparations – Topics**

The "On-the-Go Binder"

Communication

Medical and contact information

Packing light

Travel and counting groups

VISION

Set a calendar

Team development and dynamics

Rules and Expectations

Passports, bank cards, and phones

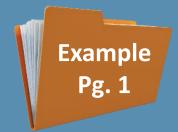
Mug shots

Fundraising and social media





# Create a Calendar of Events



#### Make sure your calendar includes:

- Group meetings
- Fundraisers
- Departure dates



Note: Travelers' calendars fill up quick ... get your schedule out first!





# **Team Development and Dynamics**

#### **Get your travelers together:**

- Plan all-group meetings
- Organize events with adults
- Challenge/ropes course/team building days

#### Purpose:

Create bonds and pre-trip relationships!!!

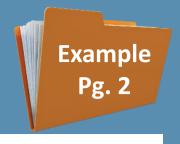








# Rules and Expectations Sheet



#### **Set and discuss clear expectations:**

- Share these with your students
- Share these with your parents

#### **Create a "Rules and Expectations" handout:**

See sample in your packet

#### **GlobalXpeditions Travel Rules and Expectations**

**Travel Company's Role**: The travel company we select is responsible for coordinating all logistical aspects of our travel adventure. They will plan our breakfasts and dinners, transportation, accommodations, excursion information, and much more. They will also provide local knowledge about our destination and will be available 24/7 to assist the group in any way that is needed.

**Trip Advisors' Role:** Our job as trip advisors is to set our behavioral expectations for the group (see below). We will also oversee all trip supervision and discipline (if needed) and we will stay behind in the rare case of an emergency (i.e., medical issue, a passport is lost or stolen, etc.). Lastly, we will ensure that every student and trip participant is fully supported while abroad.

**Adult Role:** All adult trip participants, besides the travel staff and the trip advisors, fall into this category.

- The most important role of the adult participants is to be supportive and always encouraging to all students and ALWAYS model good behavior.
- Adults must act as strong role models for the student participant. Please adhere to the following rules while
  on the trip:
  - All adults are expected to attend ALL group activities and programs unless otherwise approved by th trip advisors. No adult is to leave the group and venture out on their own while on tour.
  - The use of substances that are illegal in Idaho are forbidden on this tour (To be clear, even if something is legal in another country but is not allowed in Idaho, it is forbidden on this tour).
     Excessive use of alcohol or intoxication is also strictly prohibited.
  - While in the airports, our group will sit together and meet at the gate 30 minutes prior to boarding, about 1 hour before takeoff, to ensure that everyone is ready to travel.
  - o Everyone is required to be punctual and make every bus, plane, checkout time, etc. Punctuality is





# **Fundraising and Social Media**

### How to be successful raising money:

- Use Explorica fundraising page
- Set goals and monthly targets
- Teach the two types of fundraising

### Full Group Fundraisers

- Funds based on effort
- Optional for kids
- Seek out local companies
- No less than 50% profit
- Builds your group dynamics



#### **Personal Fundraisers**

- ❖ 100% Profit the "Real \$"
- Provide students with ideas and encourage them to use social media
- Make business card templates
- Create holiday letter templates



# 6 months out THINK TH

## Create book of "mug shots"

Include all travelers pics

#### Purpose:

To get familiar with the group

#### **Share with:**

- Traveling parents
- Traveling kids
- Your tour directors
- Other group leaders

# Mug Shots





6 months out



Passports, Bank Cards, and Phones

#### Passports/Vaccines:

- Must be valid six months past return date
- CDC Vaccination cards

#### **Bank Cards:**

- Should have traveler's name on the card
- Traveler <u>must</u> know their numeric pin number

#### **Cell Phones:**

Have travelers check their phone company to find THEIR best international plan



3 months out



# **Travel and Counting Group Lists**

Lydia

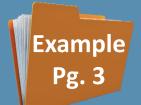
Arlo

Stacy

Watson

Albrecht

Woodland



### **Counting Groups:**

Create counting list to quickly account for travelers when re-grouping

Convenient to help with unforeseen changes

#### Install the Rule of 4

- ❖ No traveler is ever solo
- Keep track of each other

### Switzerland to Spain Counting Groups

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	Jason	Aibrecht			9
2	Jessie	Hansen	5_7		9
3	Ashley	Hansen	•		•
	Mary	Martin			
5	Max	Martin			ule
;	Liam	Bacon			
	Baylee	Carpenter			
}	Riley	Edwards		01	4
)	Miranda	Fenley			
0	Ethan	Fenley		We A	<b>LWAY</b>
1	Elliana	McFarland			
2	Haili	Hull	i	travel	in sma
3	Dakoda	Lamebull			
4	Sara	Lawrence		grou	ps of n
5	Thomas	Lawrence			
6	Orion	McClory	l le	ess th	an FOI
7	Mattea	Nuhn			
8	Charlie	Roesler			
9	Holly	Steele		<b>9</b>	~
20	Kiera	Steele	7		
21	Marcus	Swift			







1	Matthew	Haley
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Cara	Haley
3	Kenadie	Haley
4	Lynne	Haley
5	Phoebe	Haley
6	Lorie	Quist
7	Adelaide	Quist
8	Max	Gropp
	Saskia	Hohenlohe
10	Ella	Julye
11	Nathan	Poler
12	Edie	Sumner
13	Lilly	Loftus
14	Jessica	Loftus
15	Sawyer	Belknap
16	Lisa	Belknap
17	Genevieve	Fealy
18	Brock	Fealy
19	Olivia	Goodrich
20	Wendy	Goodrich
21	Lilly	Wight
22	Cody	Williams
23	Taylor	Williams
24	Amelia	Barker

Haley

Daniel

Matthew and Daniel's Group





# **Rooming Option List**

#### Rooming Arrangements for 2, 3, or 4 persons per room

#### 2 per Room

Trevor D and Aiden W Josh M and Zach C.

Henry S. and Hayden C.

Zaiden E. Max S.

Brendan G and Evan O.

Isaac S. and Preston B.

Isaac 3. and Preston E

Shelby T, and Emelia K (always 2)

Laurel H and Mia L

Elle R. and Madison B.

Jessica S. and Amari B.

Samantha E. and Maddyson. G.

Eliza O. and Ellie G

Megan H. and Sarah L.

#### 3 per Room

Trevor D., Aiden W., and Josh M.

Zaiden E., Max S., and Zach C.

Isaac S., Preston B., and Henry S.

Hayden C., Brendan G., and

Morgan K and Sarah C Megan G and. (Always 3)

Amari B., Jessica S., and Madison B.

Eliza O., Ellie G., and Samantha E.

Laurel H., Mia L., and Elle R

Megan H., Sarah L., and Maddison G.

#### 4 per Room

Trevor D., Aiden W., Josh M., and Zach C.

Isaac S., Preston B., Henry S., and Hayden C.

Zaiden E., Max S., Brendan G., and Evan O.

Laurel H., Mia L., Elle R., and Madison B.

Megan H., Sarah L., Samantha E., and Maddyson G.

Eliza O. and Ellie G., Jessica S., and Amari B. Example Pg. 4

# Design your rooming options:

Establish and organize pre-tour

This will save YOU time and prevent headaches on tour

Provides a check-off sheet for bed checks

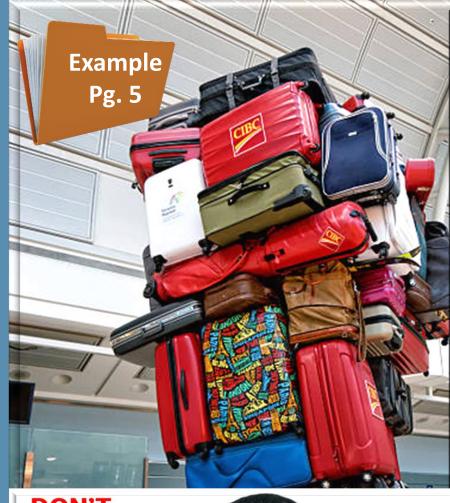


# 3 months out THINK TH

# **Packing Light**



- ❖ Pack once, then remove 1/3 ☺
  - Don't forget power adapters and cell phone cords
  - Pack for changing weather and buy dry-fit clothes
  - Pack good walking shoes
  - Parents have the final say on what you pack
  - Lost luggage pack an outfit in your backpack
  - One Small Carry-on plus one personal item
  - Pack an extra bag and send gifts home
  - See Airline Regulations online for your carry-on size limitations





3 months out

Medical and Contact Information





### **Collect Important Documents:**

- Medical emergency contacts
- Copies of insurance cards
- Colored copies of passports
- Copies of CDC Vaccination Cards

**Note:** all this will go into your "On-the-Go Binder" (to be explained shortly)

		Last Na	ame/First Name:
I	raveler Emergency and Insura	nce Intormation Fo	orm
PERSONAL HISTORY:	First:	D	ate of Rirth:
Last Name.	11130.		ate of birdi
Home Phone:	Address:	City:	ZIP:
Primary (1st) Contact (F	Parent/Guardian):	Home	Phone:
Relation to Traveler:	Work Phone:	Cell Phon	e:
Secondary (2nd) (Parenty	/Guardian):	Home Phon	e:
B 1 11 T 1	Work Dhono	Call Dhan	0.
Relation to Traveler:	Work Phone:	Cell Phon	c
		Cell Phon	c
NSURANCE INFORMATIO	N:		
NSURANCE INFORMATIO			
NSURANCE INFORMATIO	N:	INSURANCE POLICY? YES	6/NO
NSURANCE INFORMATIO  IS THE TRAVELER LISTED  Primary Insurance Compar	ON: ABOVE COVERED BY A FAMILY HEALTH	Insurance Policy? Yes Policy#	5/NO
NSURANCE INFORMATIO  IS THE TRAVELER LISTED  Primary Insurance Compar	ON:  ABOVE COVERED BY A FAMILY HEALTH  The state of the s	Insurance Policy? Yes Policy#	5/NO
IS THE TRAVELER LISTED Primary Insurance Compar Name of Policy Holder:	ON:  ABOVE COVERED BY A FAMILY HEALTH  The state of the s	Insurance Policy? Yes Policy# _ Group#_	5/NO
IS THE TRAVELER LISTED Primary Insurance Compar Name of Policy Holder:  MEDICAL INFORMATION:  > Family Physician:	ON:  ABOVE COVERED BY A FAMILY HEALTH  The state of the s	INSURANCE POLICY? YES Policy# Group# Phone Number:	5/NO
IS THE TRAVELER LISTED Primary Insurance Compar Name of Policy Holder:  MEDICAL INFORMATION:  > Family Physician:  > Last Physical:	ON:  ABOVE COVERED BY A FAMILY HEALTH  The state of the s	INSURANCE POLICY? YES Policy# Group# Phone Number: t Tetanus:	5/NO
IS THE TRAVELER LISTED Primary Insurance Compar Name of Policy Holder:  MEDICAL INFORMATION:  > Family Physician:  > Last Physical:  > Current Prescription	ABOVE COVERED BY A FAMILY HEALTH ny:	INSURANCE POLICY? YES Policy# Group# Phone Number: t Tetanus:	5/NO





# Communicate with Traveling Stakeholders

# Be clear with your expectations and share these with:

- Your tour director
- Other travel leaders

Remember: You ALL have the same goal ... a wonderful and safe experience for the kids!







# The "On-the-Go Binder"

# Print off and include the following in the "On-the-Go Binder":

- Explorica emergency contacts and flight/hotel information
- Attendance and rooming rosters
- Mug shots
- Alphabetized/sorted emergency and insurance form for all travelers
- Color copy of passports for all travelers

Keep this with you at all times while on tour!!!



48 hrs until departure

# **Contact Information Sheet for Parents**



# Create a packet for those staying in the United States which includes:

- Contact information for your group
- Hotel and flight information
- A color copy of their specific traveler's passport
- Parent phone tree (so parents can contact other at-home parents if needed)

#### **Emergency Contact Sheet for At Home Parents**

Note: While we are on tour, please use the contact below to get in touch with our tour group. If we are still within the US please call one of us directly, if we are already overseas and you cannot reach one of us, please call our US contact with Explorica and they will get in direct contact with one of us on the ground. Please only use this service in the case of an emergency. If it is a minor concern, email your child directly or feel free to email matthewghaley@gmail.com, we will check this email as often as possible and we can relay any message you have to your child. Remember to follow our tour on Facebook at Globalxpeditions.

#### Team Advisors:

Jason Albrecht Cell # 509-330-2182 (within the US) Matthew Haley Cell # 208-596-5592 (within the US) Stacy Albrecht Cell # 509-330-0231(within the US) Daniel Haley Cell # 208-301-5008 (within the US)

#### Explorica United States' Contact:

1.617.210.6194 then follow the prompts follow person 24 hours a day 7 days a week

#### Group Emergency Phone Tree

**Example** 

Pg. 7



# **On-Tour Success**

Having a cohesive and timely group will only benefit you while on tour, allowing you to see more sights and increase your groups overall experience.





# On-Tour Strategies – Topics

Passports and luggage

Traveler's Macarena

Passport and emergency information

Medical supplies

Rooming checks

Communications

**Money Budgeting and Tipping** 





# Passports and Luggage

### Keep your possessions organized:

- Colored flagging tape on all luggage
- Use colored dots and your counting numbers on passports
- We carry all the passports
  "We'll never lose one, we might lose 50"
  - If travelers carry their own passports have a daily check system ready
- Consider carry-on luggage only (especially for departure)











# **Passport and Emergency Contact Sheet**

Example Pg. 8

#### A traveler's best friend:

❖ The ONE sheet everyone carries with them 24/7

#### **This document includes:**

- Emergency instructions
- Color copy of their passport
- Copy of insurance and CDC card
- Flight and hotel information

#### **Traveler Contact/Emergency Sheet**

Note: If you ever get lost or turned around while traveling, stay calm and go ask a person (store clerks, policemen, etc.) to use their phone to call our Explorica Tour Guide Michael Wighton his number is NEVER PANIC ... you will be just fine. Here is all of the hotel and flight information for you to use as a point of reference.

#### Team Advisors: ONLY WHILE IN THE US

Jason Albrecht Cell # 509-330-2182 (within the US) Matthew Haley Cell # 208-596-5592 (within the US) Stacy Albrecht Cell # 509-330-0231(within the US) Daniel Haley Cell # 208-301-5008 (within the US)

#### **Explorica United States' Contact:**

1.617.210.6194 then follow the prompts for an "on tour emergency" and that will get you to a live person 24 hours a day 7 days a week.



#### Accommodations Information

June 16 - June 18

Hotel Ibis Aero Budapest

Ferde u. 1-3: Budapest, 1091: Hungary

Phone Number: +36 13479700

<u>June 21 - June 23</u>

A&O Salzburg

Fanny-von-Lehnert-Straße 4

Salzburg, 5020 Austria

---- N...----- 140 2000047F110





# Medical Kit – Be Prepared

### Make sure you are prepared:

- Carry a medical kit at all times
- Collect extra airline sick bags
- ❖ Keep "On-the-Go Binder" with you 24/7

### **PREVENTION** is always best:

- Keep hydrated while on tour
- Especially important to combat jetlag





# **Communications while on Tour**

### Once you arrive at your first destination:

Send an email home ASAP for the group

#### First night while on tour:

- Talk with your Travel Director and other Group Leaders
  - Plan on having these meetings often
- Remind kids to use Wi-Fi to check-in at home

### **Explorica Tour Diary:**

❖ A fun way to follow the tour for people back home

#### **Debrief with your group:**

❖ After touring sites: "What was your favorite thing?"







# **Money Budgeting and Tipping**

#### Accessing funds on tour

- Credit and debit cards or a card like "Visa Travel Money"
- Do NOT use travelers' checks or gift cards
- Use ATMs abroad for the best exchange rate and to avoid international fees for every card transaction
- Limit the amount of local currency you carry to one- or two-days worth at a time... helps with budgeting too

### **❖**Tipping on tour

- Tour Directors should receive \$5-\$7
   per traveler, per day. Multi-day bus
   drivers should receive \$2-\$3
- Tips should be paid in local currency
- If your group has opted to do On-Tour Tipping:
- Tips for both the tour director and bus driver are included



# Rooming, Bed Checks, and Schedules

### **Use your rooming document:**

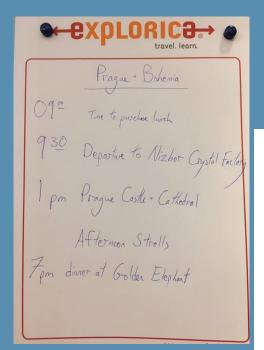
- Make copies for bed checks
- Allow travelers to take a photo

### Set bed check time and quiet time:

Hard to enforce but important to set

### Snap a photo of the Explorica itinerary document:

Make kids responsible for their day





# Traveler's Macarena and other Mantra's

# When a traveler always checks to ensure they have their "items":

- Wallet/money/purse
- Cell phone
- Passport and emergency contact sheet

#### A few useful traveler's mantras:

- "If you're not early, you're late!"
- "Hurry up and wait."









# Post-Trip and Continuing Program Growth

To grow your travel program and increase future interest in your tours, do not forget to highlight your successful trip upon return. Past success drives future explorations!!!



# **Post-Trip and Growing Your Program**

**Explorica Debrief** 

**Local Newspaper** 

Social Media

**Local Scholarships** 

**Photo Sharing** 

**Reunion Dinner** 

Surveys/Reflection





# **Explorica Debrief**

#### Talk with your Tour Consultant upon return:

- Fill out the Explorica survey ASAP
  - Discuss what worked and what could use some tweaking ... always be honest
- Make tweaks on your next trip
  - We learn more each time we travel



#### The Debrief

- 1.How do you feel?
- 2. What happened?
- 3. What did you learn?
- 4.How does this relate?
- 5.What if ---?
- 6.What next?





# Keep your Momentum Going

#### Share with local newspapers

MOSCOW-PULLMAN

# DAILY NEW



#### Parents enjoy Stonehenge

Daily News reader Paul Sullivan submitted this photo of Amy Conway, Juliet Carlisle and Susila Bales, all of Moscow, "acting like a bunch of kids" June 19 at Stonehenge during the recent student educational travel trip organized by Moscow Middle School teachers, Jason Albrecht and Matthew Haley through Explorica Educational Travel. While the trip centered around the student travelers experiencing Ireland and the UK, the accompanying parents also found time to experience the moment.

#### Host a reunion dinner



#### Photo sharing on line



### Engage local businesses/scholarships





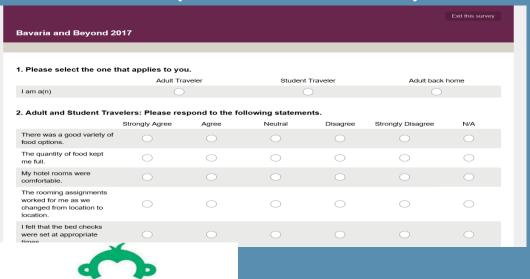


# Surveys and Social Media

### Utilize Facebook/Social media platforms



#### Generate a post-tour survey



#### Design a website for promotion







# **Travel Success Defined**

# What is success when it comes to student travel?

- Opening young eyes to the world
- Piquing global interest and curiosity
- Creating lifelong adventurers and globally minded citizens

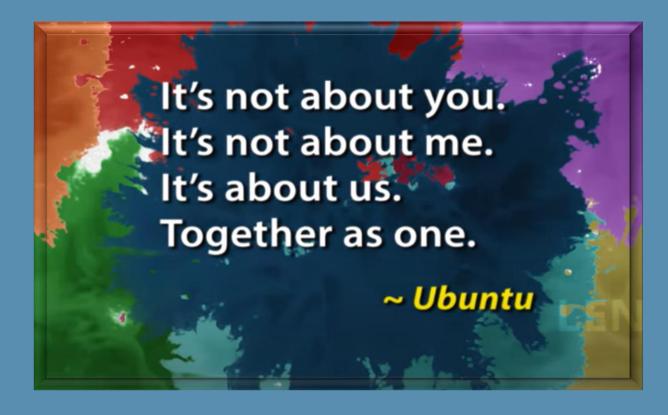






# Traveler's Ubuntu

- "We are in this together! We are a travel family!"
- "Each part/choice/action that a person makes will impact everyone."





 Lastly, YOU'VE GOT THIS ...You take care of the kids and Explorica takes care of the travel. Enjoy changing the trajectory of your travelers' lives!





If you have more questions or thoughts, we are resources for you anytime!!!



Jason Albrecht jsalbrecht87@yahoo.com 509 330-2182



Questions, Comments, Freaking Outs?





#### Global Xpeditions

"Expanding your world view through international travel."

Globalxpeditions.weebly.com

#### **Talk With A Teacher**

Tune in to the Teacher's Lounge with our peer mentors—pop in for five minutes or 30 minutes to discuss your tour or any of the topics below. My teaching partner Matthew Haley and I are available Wednesdays from 4-5pm PST (7-8 EST.)