High School Humanitarian Student trip to India
Cover Letter with Timeline and eight attachments

To: SLO County Rotary Club Presidents, International Chairs, Interact Counselors, School Administrators and Teachers

From: International Committee of the Passport Rotary Club of the Central Coast

Subject: Seeking Applicants for our High School Humanitarian Student trip to India - February 8-25, 2020

The Rotary Passport Club of the Central Coast is working in conjunction with Passport Club Member and Rotary District 5240 Past District Governor Deepa Willingham to extend the opportunity for a few of our local high school students to travel to India and work at a Rotary supported school near Calcutta. Deepa started PACE International and the Piyali Learning Center for girls fifteen years ago. Subsequently Deepa initiated the extremely successful Humanitarian Student Trip program for high school students from Santa Ynez Valley to visit the school in India for two weeks each year. The Passport Club is now helping Deepa expand the program to also include students from the SLO County Area.

Students are selected on a competitive basis after submitting their application, writing an essay on their personal experiences with poverty and interviewing with the Rotarian committee. If selected, they will travel with Rotary chaperons to Calcutta where they will learn about the history of an ancient culture and interface with other students in the school that Deepa started. It will be a life changing experience that will allow them to work on projects to improve the village and visit Indian students’ homes. They will have the opportunity to learn, first hand, the effects of extreme poverty on human lives, particularly children. They will be our cultural ambassadors and will return having a broader understanding of the needs of others in this world. What an amazing opportunity! We are preparing to accommodate between two and six SLO County High Schoolers this year. The trip will be led by Deepa with help from several Rotary chaperones.

Total cost per student (and chaperone) will be between $3,500 and $4,000. Roughly one half of the student trip costs will be subsidized by the local sponsoring Rotary Clubs ($1500-$2000 per student) and the other half will will be born by the students and their families. Chaperones will pay their own way.

Please let us know if you would like to extend this opportunity to students from the SLO County Schools with which you are involved. Our timeline is short and the trip is scheduled for February 2020.

Please see attachments for details on the School, the student program, the application process and student, parent and Rotary Club requirements. The basic Student/Parent basic timeline is below.

I look forward to hearing back from you as soon as possible.

Curtis Reinhardt
International Services Chair
Rotary Passport Club of the Central Coast
2019 – 2020 Timeline for Rotary Student Humanitarian Trip to India

September: Distribute applications to SLO County Schools and Rotary Clubs

October 31: October 31: Deadline for applying students to submit their formal application including a 500 word essay via email using a Word document format. Please Email to 2 addresses: Curtis Reinhardt (curtis@curtisreinhardt.com) and Susan Dressler <susan.dressler10@gmail.com>

Nov 11th: Students will be invited to interview with the committee

Nov. 16th: Student Interviews in SLO

November 18: Students will be notified of the Selection Committee preliminary decision to invite them on the trip. Others will be thanked for their applications.

November 19 - 30: Required individual student and parent interview/meetings with Deepa Willingham.

December 1: Finalists notified.

December: Flights booked, 50% payments by Rotary Clubs and/or families

December – January: Obtain passport and visas. Several group preparation meetings and orientations with Deepa and chaperones.

February 8 – 25: Trip to Piyali Learning Center near Calcutta, India

March – April: Students presentations to their sponsoring Rotary Clubs and to their schools.

* A more detailed timeline for activities after Dec. 1st will be available for Finalists at that time.
BACKGROUND:

2.4 people, earning less than $2/day, live on extreme poverty in the world today. That is 40% of the world population. Currently, substantial consensus exists among global governmental organization that this level of poverty is the underlying cause of much of the world’s problems, including child trafficking, gender-biased abuses, child marriage etc. These problems have been magnified by many years of governmental non-action and downright negligence and/or corruption in too many countries of the world, creating a planet not safe for inheritance by our children. It is within this framework of global situation and feeling the urgency of helping our youth to understand poverty and the need for its eradication, that a humanitarian student trip, such as this, is being planned.

PLAN:

The trip will involve US high school students’ travel to India and visit a Rotary and PACE Universal sponsored school, the PACE Learning Center, in the village of Piyali Junction, located 35 km from the city of Kolkata. The trip will allow our relatively affluent students to learn first-hand the facts about abject poverty and help them to meet and interact with people and children living in such conditions. They will also have the opportunity to act as goodwill ambassadors representing the youth of this country while developing a better understanding of poverty and its effect on human lives and see first-hand how education can bring hope, change communities and fulfill dreams.

The ultimate goal of a trip, such as this, will be to showcase Rotary and its ideals, to help the youth of different countries and cultures understand the needs of many who are less fortunate, to help the youth develop their own ideas about how to lift the world out of poverty and finally, to sow the seed to create future Rotarians who will carry the forth the torch through the next generation – thus creating a safer world for themselves and their fellow human beings.

PACE LEARNING CENTER at Piyali:
The PACE School, now known as the PACE Learning Center (PLC) at Piyali and co-sponsored by the Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan, was established by Rotarian Deepa Willingham under the auspices of PACE Universal (PACE), a US not-for-profit organization. PACE (Promise of Assurance to Children Everywhere) undertook to fight child trafficking and abject poverty by nurturing the educational, health, nutritional, social and cultural development of girls in Piyali Junction and to construct a proto-type Learning Center to serve as a model for others.

Since the establishment of the center in 2003, it has gained much success and emerged as one of the showcase programs in the area. The students have made tremendous progress - most have become dedicated students, demonstrating an overwhelming desire to learn, and grow. Housed in a rented facility, the school is currently teaching 230 girls, with many more on the waiting list. The original school, started in a two-room rented facility, is now a major hub addressing issues of trafficking and poverty through education and empowerment of girls and women.

IMPLEMENTATION:

In 2005, the Rotary Club of Santa Ynez Valley sponsored the first humanitarian student trip for six SYV high school students’ travel and participation in humanitarian activities at PLC. The duration of the trip was for two weeks. That experience had a significant educational impact on expanding the world views of those participating students. Based on the positive impact of that trip, a decision has been made to offer the opportunity to another set of high school students from our Valley or other area within our Rotary District. This upcoming trip dates are February 8 – 25, 2020.

BASIC RULES AND GUIDELINES:

Students to be sophomores or juniors in 2019-20 school year. Other students may be considered for the trip, but they would be considered on a case-by-case basis. Interact Club members should have priority. Additional details will be provided as clubs are able to make a commitment.

COST:

It is estimated that the cost of the two-week trip will be about $3000/person which will include airfare, food and lodging. This per student amount also includes partial funding for two chaperons. Another $500/person should be
planned for such items as passports, trip insurance, medical insurance, gifts for hosts, and other items of personal nature. It is suggested that the student be responsible for the latter part of the cost as appropriate with their ability to pay. Clubs may choose to subsidize this expense based on merit and financial hardship.

**CONTACT:**
For additional information and/or questions, please contact:

PDG Deepa Willingham  
Founder/Chair– PACE Universal  
[www.paceuniversal.org](http://www.paceuniversal.org)  
[deepa@willingham1.com](mailto:deepa@willingham1.com)  
805-698-6910
Section I (Applicant Information)

Name: ________________________________________________________________________  Last  First  Middle Initial

Date of Birth: ___________________________  Gender: Female / Male

Address: ________________________________________________________________________

Street  Apartment Number

City  State  Zip Code

Home Phone Number: __________________ Additional Phone Number: __________________

Email Address: _________________________________________________________________

Section II (Parent/Guardian Information)

Mother’s Name: ________________________________________________________________________

Last  First  Middle Initial

Daytime Phone Number: __________________ Evening Phone Number: __________________

Email Address: _________________________________________________________________

Father’s Name: ________________________________________________________________________

Last  First  Middle Initial

Daytime Phone Number: __________________ Evening Phone Number: __________________

Email Address: _________________________________________________________________
Section III (High School Information)

High School:_________________________________________________________________

Address:______________________________________________________________________

                                             Street

                                             City                                    State                                    Zip Code

Phone Number: __________________________

Grade (as you will be enrolled in on the date of the application deadline): ______________

Grade Point Average (for the last completed term): ______________

  Signature of Guidance/Academic Counselor: _______________________________________

  Phone Number:______________________________ Ext. Number:__________________

Section IV (Short Answers)

Please include your extra-curricular activities.

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

How did you learn/hear about PACE Universal and the Rotary Humanitarian Student Trip?

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________
What do you, personally, hope to gain from this trip?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Section IV (signatures)

Applicant Signature: _______________________________________ Date: ________________

Parent/Guardian Signature: _________________________________ Date: ________________
Directions:
Please use your creativity, thoughtfulness, and analytical skills to write an essay using the prompt given below. Your essay should be double spaced and no more than 500 words in length. Include your name on each page. Essays need to be submitted in electronic format (Word document please).

Prompt
Almost 50% of the world’s population lives in poverty and students chosen to go on this Rotary humanitarian trip will be exposed first hand to the effects of poverty on human lives. Poverty represents different things to different people.

What has motivated you to apply and why you are interested in being part of this humanitarian Rotary delegation to India?
Are there differences in the causes and effects of poverty in different parts of the world? If so, why?
What has prepared you for this experience?
What do you have to offer of yourself on this trip?
What do you expect to gain from this experience?
Humanitarian Educational Student Trip
Notes
To
Piyali Learning Center

➢ Trip Dates: Feb. 08 – 25, 2020
  ▪ Chaperones:
    o TBD
  ▪ In-Kolkata Coordinator:
    o Rotarian Jayanta Chatterji – PACE Director

➢ Need to have adequate medical insurance
➢ Vaccines- Recommended Hepatitis, Tetanus Booster and Malaria Prophylactics
➢ Carry with you – Cipro, Lomitol, and Allegra (Consult your physician)
➢ PACE Universal School
  o 501c3 (tax-exempt/non-profit status) operating in India
  o ~ 250 girls
  o Began in 2003
  o 45 km from city
  o Mrs. Joyeeta Chatterjee – Vice Principal
  o Mr. Udit Sen – Project Development Officer
  o Helping teachers with classroom activities

➢ Call everyone “Aunty” or “Uncle”
➢ 13.5 hours ahead (7 a.m. our time – 8:30 p.m. in India)
➢ Video/Slide/PowerPoint – Have to prepare for presentation
➢ Students – Pre-arranged Absence Form from schools for time in India

To Bring (Travel accessories - Magellans in Santa Barbara – 110 W. Sola Street)
  o Climate/clothing – 1 nice outfit (boys - include tie, jacket, leather shoes; girls – dress, closed-toe shoes); cold in Delhi – no heating; layers; same hemisphere as U.S.; nylon for easier hang drying; laundry is available.
  o Gifts for the 125 students - 99¢ Store – barrettes, combs, stickers, candy, marbles, pencils, pens, post it notes
  o Gifts for Rotary families – latest CD’s, stylish necklaces
  o Gifts for teacher and Principal
  o Adapters – 240 in India
  o Polaroid Camera – for instant pictures
  o Journal for Daily use
  o 1 Suitcase for clothing
  o 1 Carry-on to include sundry items (toothbrush, etc)
  o Money belt – recommend neck money pouch
  o Neck Airport pouch (passport/tickets)
  o Visa/ATM cards – call credit card company to inform card will be used in India during dates
  o Sunglasses
  o Approximately $200 in cash – suggest using ATM for best exchange rate and credit cards for purchases
  o Camera/Video Camera
Humanitarian Student Trip Guidelines

Do’s:

• Learn about the history of a country whose culture dates back at least 8000 years!
• Understand what extreme poverty is.
• Notice the girls’ humanity despite having nothing.
• Be friendly and respectful!
• Try different food and experience new things.
• Obey the safety guidelines & follow chaperon instructions.
• Take your prophylactic medication.
• Take pictures & videos for presentations.
• Call elders “Uncle” & “Aunty”
• Eat only pealed fruits, e.g. bananas, oranges.
• Keep a journal.
• Act as US youth’s ambassadors.
• Have fun!
Don’ts:

- Brush your teeth with tap water.
- Eat salad or raw vegetable.
- Eat anything not authorized by your chaperons.
- Order the most expensive thing on the menu.
- Do drugs or try to consume alcoholic drink.
- Wear inappropriate clothing.
- Be raucous or run around after hours.
- Leave any valuables in the room without putting them in the safe.
- Use the hotel laundry service.
- Use hotel phones to make long-distant calls.
- Handle money without your chaperons.
- Wander off without supervision.
- Be judgmental even when you see something that seems “gross”.
- Give money to beggars.
- Make faces to show your disapproval of other people’s culture.
- Say inappropriate comments.
- Go shopping without Indian Rotarian escort.
HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

For

PACE Universal & RC/Calcutta Metropolitan Sponsored
Educational Student Trip (EST)

WHEREAS, the PACE Universal and the Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan (jointly known as the SPONSORS) have designated dates February 8 – 25, 2020, as the SPONSOR authorized volunteer service opportunity for Educational Student Trip (EST) at the PACE Learning Center at Piyali, herein referred to as the SITE; and

WHEREAS, certain members of the SPONSORS are participating in EST as chaperones on said dates for the purpose of accompanying the students to Kolkata; and

WHEREAS, Mr.________ and Mrs.________ both have been appointed as chaperones by PACE Universal and Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan, are referred as CHAPERONES, authorized and are organizing a trip to India from California for __________ local high school students, wishing to participate in EST as student ambassadors on the above-mentioned dates; and

WHEREAS, CHAPERONES and said students will depart the USA for India on February 8, 2020, and return to the USA from India on February 25, 2020; and

WHEREAS, CHAPERONES and said students acknowledge each is serving as a volunteer without expectancy of compensation or financial reimbursement for participating in the EST; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned participant acknowledges receiving a general code of conduct and rules concerning the behavior of team members while being hosted in India; and

WHEREAS, the code of conduct and rules referred to herein were derived for the purpose of avoiding misconduct of team members that could jeopardize or harm the team, its purpose, or its hosts in India; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned student participant acknowledges the unfettered discretion of any team leader to remove any participant from the team, including the undersigned, for any action or conduct the team leaders feel inappropriate or in violation of the rules referred to herein and that such removal may result in preventing the removed participant from any further participation in the EST event.
NOW THEREFORE, it is agreed as follows:

You, the undersigned student participant, and the parent or guardian, will save and hold harmless, SPONSORS and the CHAPERONES from all liability for loss or damage or injury you may incur in any manner arising out of or incident to their performance set forth above, including without limitation all consequential damages.

You, the undersigned student participant and your parent or guardian, hereby acknowledge the possibility of civil unrest and terrorism in areas outside the United States and in India. Although it is not the intent of SPONSORS to knowingly frequent any dangerous areas or subject you or any other student participant to such danger, the possibility of such a confrontation with dangerous civil disobedience does exist. You agree to save and hold harmless SPONSORS and CHAPERONES, and the participating Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan from all liability for loss or damage or injury you may incur because of your participation in this EST event.

You, the undersigned and your parent or guardian, agree your participation in this event is at your own risk, and you are agreeing to save and hold harmless SPONSORS and CHAPERONES and the participating Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan from any loss or damages you may incur whatsoever because of your participation in this event.

You the undersigned and your parent or guardian, acknowledge you have read this “Hold Harmless” agreement, understand its contents and the legal consequences thereof, and you are signing this document under your own free will, without any duress or undue influence exerted by SPONSORS and the CHAPERONES, or any other person.

_____________________________________________
Student Signature

_____________________________________________
Print Name

_____________________________________________
Parent or Guardian Signature

_____________________________________________
Print Name

____________________, Year
Date:
PACE Universal Chaperon Signature

Deepa Willingham

Print Name:

January, 2020

Date: