



Rise Up Belize! Advancement Through Education

Application for American high school students (15 – 17 years old)

Thank you for your interest in applying for the Service Immersion Trip to Belize!

If you are accepted for this unique program, you will spend six months working with a team of teens in Sacramento, Calif. to create curriculum, learn classroom management, engage in fundraising and learn how to teach primary school children. While in Belize during July, you will focus your energies on implementing the summer school program that you have created for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. The curriculum will focus on helping Belizean children develop the academic and self-esteem skills necessary to be motivated toward furthering their education. Your contribution to the education of Belizean children supports them in becoming successful and productive members of their country.

Belize is primarily a Catholic country, so the school hosting Rise Up Belize! volunteers will be Catholic. Faith is also emphasized in the summer school curriculum. As a volunteer, you will spend your days teaching summer school at a Catholic primary school. Afterwards, you will have time for refreshment before participating in an activity to benefit the school or its community. These activities have included painting murals on the exterior walls of a school, painting the interior of a small chapel, and visiting orphanages to read to the children.

If you are chosen to be a member of the Rise Up Belize! team, we expect that you will approach this experience with a heart of service and view this opportunity as an invitation to spiritual and personal growth. Please note: Volunteers are required to attend all pre-trip meetings and to be model ambassadors of Rise Up Belize! at all times during the service trip process.

Deadline for Application: _____

Please submit applications electronically to: info@riseupbelize.org

The price for this trip is \$2,800 and is approximate. The actual cost will be determined by airfare and vehicle rental rates. The price includes roundtrip transportation, ground transportation, lodging, program fees,



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excursions and all in-country meals. Students are responsible for meal costs on travel days, insurance and souvenir money.

Student's Legal Name (as it appears on your I.D.):

_____ **First Name** _____ **M.I.**

_____ **Last Name** _____

_____ **Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY):** ____/____/____

_____ **Email:** _____

_____ **Student Cell Phone:**
_ (____) _____ - _____

_____ **Home Phone:**
_ (____) _____ - _____

_____ **1. Parent Name:** _____

_____ **2. Parent Name:** _____

_____ **1. Parent Cell Phone:**
_ (____) _____ - _____

_____ **2. Parent Cell Phone:**
_ (____) _____ - _____

_____ **Parent(s) Email:**

_____ **1.** _____

_____ **2.** _____

Have you ever participated in an immersion trip? (Check the option that applies):

___ **Yes, with Rise Up Belize! YEAR:** _____

___ **Yes, with my school, church or other volunteer group**

___ **No, I have never been on an immersion trip**

Pre-trip meetings are generally held on Sunday afternoons. Are you available?

___ **Yes**

___ **No, but I am free on the following days/times** _____



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There are many community service programs and immersion trips. What interests you most about the Rise Up Belize! service trip?

What do you hope to experience before, during and after the Rise Up Belize! service trip?

The standard of living in Belize is much different than in the U.S. Poverty is much more obvious. What does this mean to you and what do you anticipate might be the most difficult part of being immersed in another culture?

You must be willing to “live in community” with the other students on the trip. How do you cope with a lack of privacy and having to put others’ needs before your own?



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What part of this experience makes you feel apprehensive or hesitant? What part of it do you think will be the greatest challenge for you?

What is your religion? What is your own personal faith life like? Are you willing to actively participate in nightly reflections? Please comment on what you see as the connection between doing service work and your own faith life.

Have you traveled outside of the country before? When? Where? Have you ever traveled without your parents? When? Where? Have you ever been in a poor, developing country? If so, when, where, and why?



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Do you have experience fundraising for a cause? Please describe your experience. Are you willing to fundraise for Rise Up Belize?

Do you have or have you ever had a job? Describe it. What are your responsibilities at home (in terms of chores)?

What experience do you have working with children as a tutor, coach or babysitter?

Is there anything else you would like to share about yourself?



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Please attach a letter from a teacher or coach who can attest to your capabilities and readiness for this program. The letter should include contact information, including an email address and telephone number.

Thank you!

General Timeline

October: Applications Accepted

November: Interviews Conducted

December: Students Selected and Notified

January through June: Program Preparation

July: Summer School in Belize