

*“The journey of a thousand miles  
begins with a single step.”—Chinese Proverb*

**About Take Flight:** Take Flight Scholarship Travel Program facilitates international trips for the purpose of global education for small groups of ICS 7th graders. Travelers are selected through an application process which is weighted toward students with a.) excellent citizenship and b.) little travel experience. All 7th graders who have had no D or Fs or “needs improvement” in citizenship on their June 2011 report card are welcome to apply. A family’s ability to pay for this trip has no bearing on whether a student can apply or be selected to travel. While students who are accepted will be asked to contribute financially and encouraged to solicit funds from family and community members, we anticipate that our travel group will be a combination of those who can and can’t afford the entire cost of a trip. Fundraising for this trip has already begun and will be ongoing. Students may apply for financial aid from this pool of funds raised.

**This Year’s Destination is Nicaragua.** The theme of this trip is global education equality. Travelers will explore the question “What role does diversity play in the story of our world?” by examining access to quality education within Nicaragua and between Nicaragua and the United States. This itinerary includes visits and service-learning with students in two types of schools in Managua as well as visits to historical sites in Granada and nearby volcanoes and volcanic lakes. All ICS 7th graders will engage in thinking and writing about education equality and Nicaragua. The travel group will consist of approximately 14 students. ICS teachers Kate Dean and Lacey Boland will lead the group. Trip dates are March 28 to April 4.

**For More Information:** Please attend an information session in the ICS library on Thurs. October 6 at 6:30 PM or Sat. October 8 at 10 AM. Trip Leaders Tr. Kate and Tr. Lacey will talk about Nicaragua in general and this trip specifically. We’ll also talk about the Take Flight process. Or contact Laura Hutton, ICS parent and Take Flight coordinator at 215.755.1419 or [huttonlaura@verizon.net](mailto:huttonlaura@verizon.net) for more information.

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*“Perhaps travel cannot prevent bigotry, but by demonstrating that all peoples cry, laugh, eat, worry, and die, it can introduce the idea that if we try and understand each other, we may even become friends.”—Maya Angelou*

## How Take Flight Works:

1. A student must qualify. ICS 7th graders must meet academic and citizenship standards (no D or Fs or “needs improvement in citizenship” on June 2011 report card).
2. A student must apply. Applicants write an essay, submit a travel history, and attend an interview.
3. Applications are evaluated. Citizenship grades are tallied, travel history is scored (less travel experience scores higher than more travel experience). Essay and interview are evaluated.
4. Top 14 applicants are accepted. Students calculate financial contribution and may apply for financial aid. Students submit deposit to secure space.
5. Trip preparation begins. Team building and trip documentation planning sessions occur weekly.
6. Trip to Nicaragua takes place from March 28 to April 4, 2012.
7. Travelers present trip documentation to ICS community upon return.

## Important Dates:

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<b>October 12</b>	<b>Applications will be distributed to 7th graders.</b>
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<b>October 28</b>	<b>Completed applications are due.</b>
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<b>Oct. 31—Nov. 4</b>	<b>Interviews will take place at ICS.</b>
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<b>Nov. 21</b>	<b>Travel group will be announced.</b>
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<b>Dec. 2</b>	<b>Commitment deadline for accepted travelers.</b>
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<b>March 28—April 4</b>	<b>Trip to Nicaragua</b>
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**Why is international travel important?** Today’s fields of economics, health, communications, and technology are global in scope. Our children are coming of age in a world where nations increasingly work together to solve problems. Students who understand their place within a global context are well-positioned to participate in this essential exchange of ideas, skills, and humanity. Students at Independence Charter School practice global citizenship every day through language-learning and country-studies. Through Take Flight Scholarship Travel Program, they have an opportunity to experience global citizenship on a truly international level.

