The Traveling School

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

The Admission Committee evaluates each student based on her completed application, references, school transcript, personal interview, and ability to meet the Essential Eligibility Criteria (attached).

PART 1: APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applying for: ☐Fall Semester ☐Spring Semester **Year:** _____

Are you willing to attend another semester if your preferred semester is full? ☐Yes (recommended) ☐ No

Applicant Name: _____ Usually Called: _____
(Name as it appears/ will appear on Passport)

Birthdate: _____ Current Grade: _____ Anticipated Grade with TTS: _____
(month/day/year)

Home Address: _____

_____
City State Zip

Mailing Address (if different from above): _____

_____
City State Zip

Home Phone (if applicable): (____)_____ Student's Cell Phone: (____)_____

Student's Email: _____

PART 2: PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Parent/Guardian #1 Name: _____ Email: _____

Cell Phone: (____)_____ Alternate Number: (____)_____

Parent/Guardian's #2 Name: _____ Email: _____

Cell Phone: (____)_____ Alternate Number: (____)_____

Who lives in your home?

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

If applicable, who is your legal guardian? Name: _____

The Traveling School may request to review the parenting plan of divorced or separated parents. The Traveling School requires authorizations from each legal guardian.

PART 3: SCHOOL INFORMATION

Present High School: _____

School Phone: (____)_____ Website: _____

School Mailing Address: _____

_____

City State Zip

Counselor: _____

Counselor Phone: (____)_____ext:_____ Counselor Email: _____

List the following information (use a separate sheet if necessary):

Summer Programs (since 7th grade)	Extracurricular Activities	Academic Honors	Volunteer or Paid Work Experience

PART 4: STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE

The questionnaire is intended to help you focus your reasons for choosing The Traveling School and share your personality, interests and beliefs. We hope to learn more about you as an individual to discover who you are beyond your activities and academic records. Answer the following questions on an additional sheet of paper. Responses should be about 6-12 sentences and may be typed or neatly handwritten.

1. Which aspects about The Traveling School appeal to you and what do you hope to gain from an experiential semester?
2. Describe the way you like to learn academic subjects. Include aspects that help you learn – subjects, teachers, students, assignments, etc.
3. Describe your regular physical activities, sports and outdoor interests. Include frequency, intensity and level.
4. Describe a time when you had to deal with a difficult situation. How did you handle it?
5. We believe different perspectives, lifestyles and beliefs strengthen our community. What makes your perspective unique?
6. Have you ever experienced group living? Describe when, where, and the length of time. Also include your favorite and least favorite aspects of group living.

7. Have you ever traveled? Describe when, where, length of time, travel companions, accommodations, etc.
8. Describe a situation when you have had to adapt, reflect or change.
9. The Traveling School appreciates diversity in many forms. Please share anything you would like us to know about your background (race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, political orientation, etc.).
10. What else do you want us to know about you?
11. Are you applying to other semester schools? If so, which one(s)?

Traveling School faculty are not trained to work with students with severe physical, emotional, psychological, or severe learning disabilities. The following questions will not automatically disqualify your application, it opens the conversation to discuss whether The Traveling School can support your needs.

12. Have you received counseling or therapy? Yes or No
    a. If you answered yes explain
13. Are you currently attending counseling or therapy? Yes or No
    a. If you answered yes explain
14. Do you have any academic accommodations or an IEP? Yes or No
    a. If you answered yes explain
15. Do you have any concerns or conditions that would restrict you from participating fully in activities such as running, walking, swimming, or hiking? Yes or No
    a. If you answered yes explain

PART 5: GUARDIAN STATEMENT

An international semester with The Traveling School promises to be unique yet intense and will offer opportunities that will intrigue, challenge, motivate and inspire each student. You have a unique perspective of the applicant. Your insight is vital and your support is necessary for a successful semester. Please respond to each of the following questions on an additional sheet of paper.

1. What would you like your daughter to gain from this semester? Do you have any concerns about your daughter's participation in The Traveling School?
2. Describe your daughter's interests, study habits, learning style, and any academic accommodations. How have they developed and evolved?
3. Describe two of your daughter's strengths and two of her weaknesses. Provide enough detail to help the teachers understand how they can help your daughter reach her full potential in light of these strengths and weaknesses.
4. What elements of The Traveling School do you feel will come easily to your daughter and which ones will be especially challenging? How well do you feel she will fit into The Traveling School residential environment?
5. What is your current family structure? Has it recently changed? Describe your daughter's role in the family.
6. What would you like us to know about your daughter that may not already be included in this application? Are there any family, school, or other circumstances we should be aware of that will help us provide the best possible experience for your daughter?
7. If your daughter has sought counseling in the past or currently is in counseling, please explain.

Before you approve your daughter's application, note Traveling School faculty and staff are not trained to work with students with severe physical, emotional, or psychological disabilities, or severe academic needs. I understand that after enrollment a student may be dismissed or withdrawn from the program if the student is not in compliance with school policies, does not meet our Essential Eligibility Criteria or if the student needs therapeutic or substantial health support. Confirm you have read this section by checking yes below.

☐Yes

PART 6: REFERRAL INFORMATION

1. How did you hear about The Traveling School?

   ☐Current/Previous TTS student: _____ ☐Personal Referral: _____

   ☐Internet Source: _____ ☐Other: _____

PART 7: STUDENT AND GUARDIAN SIGNATURES

I confirm that all of the information provided above and on all attached sheets is complete and accurate. I confirm I have read the Essential Eligibility Criteria and am able to fully participate in all aspects of the program.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

PART 8: SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION MATERIALS

1. Include **two recommendations**. One should be from a current teacher, the other may be from any adult in a position to assess the applicant's skills and readiness for overseas study and independent living, such as a guidance counselor, coach, religious leader, employer, etc.
2. Include your **official school transcripts** for all high school schoolwork, any college classes or special summer programs attended.
3. **Credit Transfer Form.** Meet with your counselor to approve academic credit transfer.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Ensure that ALL of the following items are included in your application.

☐Completed application form
☐Two recommendations
☐ Official school transcripts
☐ Credit Transfer Form (*signed by student, counselor and parent/guardian)*
☐$75 non-refundable application fee. This fee is separate from tuition. Please make the check payable to The Traveling School.

Email all completed materials to: info@travelingschool.com
Or mail to:
The Traveling School
Admissions Office
PO Box 7058
Bozeman, Montana 59771

APPLICATION PROCESS

Complete applications take approximately 60 days to process.
You will be notified upon receipt of your application.
The Traveling School will contact you for an interview.
The Traveling School will contact your parents/guardian for a 60-minute question and answer session.

Please contact us if you have any questions.
Telephone: 406.586.3096
info@travelingschool.com

Essential Eligibility Criteria

The Traveling School empowers young women academically, physically, and culturally through an experiential overseas high school semester. We look for participants who are in good health, physically and emotionally, and have an interest in being a part of a supportive community. Furthermore, we seek participants who are excited to try new things and see new places, want to further a healthy sense of self-confidence and learn more about who they are and what they are capable of achieving.

The Traveling School ("TTS") is not a therapeutic program; while a little nervousness or apprehension is natural, we are not an appropriate choice for individuals dealing with behavioral, motivational, or rehabilitation issues. The following list of essential eligibility requirements ("EEC") are not intended to be exclusionary, but to honestly identify the basic and fundamental elements of participation – integrally tied to safety and risk management considerations. The health and well-being of our students and staff and effective education are top priorities.

The environments Traveling School semesters live in and travel through are remote, dynamic, physically and emotionally challenging. These environments along with the educational activities conducted and the living and traveling conditions encountered require each student to be fully committed to and capable of working hard, taking personal responsibility, and working effectively in the group to achieve the goals of the semester. The Essential Eligibility Criteria are applicable for all students. A qualified person is one who can meet the EEC for participation in the program. These EEC are intended to give an overall 'snapshot' of EEC for TTS activities and do not encompass every criteria or function of the various activities you may encounter on a given program.

As detailed in our Terms of Agreement, an applicant's final enrollment and participation in a Traveling School semester is conditioned on, among other things, the Traveling Schools' receipt and review of all completed and signed forms. If you have any questions or concerns about the applicant's ability to meet the criteria, please call The Traveling School office. We would be happy to answer your questions and give you more details about the demands of a Traveling School semester.

The following Essential Eligibility Criteria apply to all participants on a Traveling School semester.

EXPEDITION BEHAVIOR: ATTITUDE, ACTIONS & BEHAVIORS

Each student must…

- Come with an open mind and willingness to try new things.
- Maintain a positive attitude, even when challenged physically, mentally or emotionally.
- Display inclusion, respect and compassion towards all.

- Work effectively as a member of an expedition team. This includes taking personal responsibility for your belongings and behavior, effectively communicating ideas and concerns on an individual and group level, accepting differences, and possessing a willingness to put the needs of the group before those of the individual.
- Be willing and able to follow rules and obey authority figures (Traveling School faculty, administrators, and guides/contractors).
- Independently perceive, understand and follow instructions given to you, including directives, to successfully execute appropriate and possibly unfamiliar techniques regarding hazards/risks.
- Act reliably and responsibly around hazards/risks even when not directly supervised.
- Consistently perform necessary self-care including personal hygiene, adequate hydration, dressing appropriately for weather conditions and responsibility for and organization of personal gear.
- Interact responsibly in a group and support a team approach, understanding that every participant shares in the responsibility for their own well-being and the well-being of the group.
- Respond appropriately in the face of unexpected challenges such as inclement weather, changes in itinerary, unfamiliar surroundings, and homesickness.
- Contribute to a safe learning environment.
- Practice effective communication and conflict resolution to address personal, educational and group needs.
- Have the cognitive ability to learn necessary skills given normal time limitations of a fifteen-week semester.

SAFETY & JUDGEMENT

Each student must…

- Effectively communicate with or to other participants or leaders regarding potential hazards/risks, personal distress, injury, or need for assistance.
- Independently identify and recognize cultural and travel hazards. These hazards may include, but are not limited to other travelers or people outside our program, food safety and preparation, quality of transportation, lodging status and different country norms/laws.
- Independently identify and recognize environmental hazards. These hazards may include, but are not limited to, falling objects/rocks, loose rock and unstable surfaces, rugged steep and uneven terrain, cliff edges, crevasses, moving water (fast or slow) such as rivers, creeks, surf, or tides; and potentially hazardous animals and insects.
- Recognize and understand the hazards and risks posed by other course members, which include, but are not limited to, fatigue, state of mind, and actions that may influence judgment and decision-making.
- Recognize and understand the hazards and risks posed by people met while traveling, which include, but are not limited to, fatigue, state of mind, and actions that may influence judgment and decision-making.
- Recall and understand hazards and risks previously explained by instructors.

- Be able to effectively alert and warn others of potential or impending dangers such as other people, travel conditions, falling rocks, aggressive people/animals, or other environmental and cultural hazards.
- Be able to effectively signal or notify course instructors or other course members of personal distress, injury, or need for assistance.
- Be able to maintain proper dosage of prescription medications by self-medicating without assistance from instructors or others (except possibly in emergency situations).

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Each student must…

- Have average strength and endurance plus basic balance and agility to travel through uneven terrain with a backpack weighing up to 60 lbs or 40-45% of body weight.
- Lift and carry weight, including personal or group belongings, gear or provisions.
- Navigate travel distances that range from less than one mile to more than ten miles in one day, potentially carrying a loaded backpack for hiking, backpacking, or other activities.
- Travel conditions may include, but are not limited to, rough, rugged, uneven steep and sloping terrain; human made and animal made trails; rocky terrain that may range from smooth bedrock to extensive areas of large rock boulders (boulder fields); needing to cross rivers and creeks without the aid of bridges up to three feet or more in depth; ascending, descending or traversing slopes covered in snow, rocks or vegetation; bushwhacking off trail through thick standing and/or downed vegetation. Any and all travel can occur during periods of inclement weather or nighttime hours.
- Be able to move about the campsite/hostel/facility in order to attend classes, attend to toileting needs, and contribute to group living tasks as necessary.
- Live in a physically demanding, remote, or backcountry environments for the uninterrupted period of the course length. Conditions of this environment may vary from cold (below 0º F) to hot (above 90º F) depending on course location and season and may include, but is not limited to, rain, snow or hail, uninterrupted sun and/or wind, or the absence thereof. The remoteness is such that it may require at minimum 1-day's travel, to reach the nearest advanced medical care.
- Maintain a healthy diet in various/ a variety of environments with different, often limited food choices.
- Be prepared with necessary medical contingencies including inhalers and epinephrine if prone to allergic reactions/ asthma.

Criteria for Specific Activities:

In addition to The Traveling School's General EEC, a student must meet specific criteria for specific activities. Teachers, with contracted guides, will teach students appropriate safety measures for each activity. A student's ability to meet Specific Activity EEC may be determined at the time of the activity.

WHITEWATER RAFTING, CANOEING AND KAYAKING

In addition to the General EEC, each student must…

- Be able to swim or be comfortable in the water, including fast moving water, while wearing a personal flotation device (PFD).
- Wear all protective gear recommended or required.
- Be able to respond to verbal and/or visual signals.
- Enter and exit a wet or dry watercraft independently.
- In the event of a capsize or fall out of the watercraft, you must be able to remain calm, follow instructions and independently: get out from under the watercraft, remain face up in the water, endeavor to make progress to the shoreline or another boat and be able to perform self-rescue or cooperate with assisted rescue.

ROCK CLIMBING, ABSEILING/RAPPELLING

In addition to the General EEC, each student must…

- Meet all Hiking, Backpacking and Mountaineering EEC, listed above.
- Wear all recommended/required gear.
- Be able to respond to verbal and/or visual signals.
- Grip a rope firmly, grasp the rock face, and negotiate upwards on a climb.

MOUNTAIN BIKING

In addition to the General EEC, each student must…

- Pedal, steer, stop and negotiate a mountain bike.
- Wear all recommended/required gear.
- Be able to respond to verbal and/or visual signals.
- Travel competently and independently on a bicycle over a variety of uneven and challenging outdoor/wilderness terrain, with travel distances ranging from 1 – 10 miles per day.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

In addition to the General EEC, each student must…

- Be open and willing to interact with new and unfamiliar cultures.
- Engage in service learning projects (for example: building, digging, lifting, painting, construction and clean-up), for 6-8 hours per day with tools such as shovels, axes and hoes.