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THE MORPHO INSTITUTE

2023 Educator Academy Frequently Asked Questions

1. What happens if I sign up for this trip and pay, and it is canceled due to COVID restrictions or if I am unable to attend due to COVID?

At this time, The Morpho Institute requires vaccination and trip insurance to attend the Educator Academy. Our full COVID policy and documentation can be found in Appendix A at the end of this document and on the online registration form.

- **Do we have to wear masks?** - This will depend on the health climate and state of COVID in both the US and Peru in July 2023. In the 2022 Educator Academy, participants were required to bring masks and wear them when in close quarters. Most of our time is spent in the open air and did not require mask wearing. Participants are always welcome to wear a mask if they wish.

2. How do I sign up?

Registration is a simple, but multi-step process. You will register online with the Morpho Institute. By completing the online form and submitting your \$125 nonrefundable Morpho Institute Program deposit, your space will be secured on the roster and in your preferred cohort.

After completing STEP ONE, you will receive a confirmation email from Christa Dillabaugh, Director of the Morpho Institute and the Educator Academy in the Amazon. This email will provide instructions for STEP TWO - confirming your travel arrangements with EcoTeach. After you provide your travel information and complete the form with EcoTeach, your enrollment will be complete.

3. How much does it cost?

The cost for the Educator Academy is \$3195* This does not include international airfare from the US to Iquitos, Peru.

**Participants who complete all pre-departure coursework will receive a \$200 mini-grant which will be applied directly to the balance owed to the Morpho Institute.*

This fee consists of two parts:

- \$825 Morpho Institute Program Fee which includes program administration fees, program resource kit, online pre-departure coursework and webinars, access to private online network for program participants, and donations to support our indigenous community partners in the Amazon.
- \$2370 in-country land costs cover in-country ground transportation, room, board, naturalist guides, and entrance or activity fees specifically outlined in the Morpho Institute's Educator Academy itinerary. Travel is coordinated by EcoTeach and all travel-related costs must be paid directly to EcoTeach after you have officially registered with The Morpho Institute and are subject to EcoTeach's cancellation policies.

4. I need a few more days/weeks to clear it with my school/family, etc. Can you save my spot until I know?

Not at this time. There is high demand for these spots right now, so we encourage you to reserve your space as quickly as possible.

5. I'm applying for scholarships, but won't know that I have one until later.

Can payment be flexible with that? If you are applying for a scholarship, you will note that at the time of registration and may receive additional information. The Morpho Institute has a very strong working relationship with Fund For Teachers. If this is the scholarship for which you are applying, you will be reimbursed for any deposits that you have made personally.

6. Will it sell out? Is there enough space on the roster?

We are expecting a fully sold-out academy this year. If registration is full, you will be placed on a wait list. In the event we have a wait list that merits a second departure, The Morpho Institute is currently consulting with faculty to gauge if we will host a second program, potentially July 12-22.

7. I know that there are only a few spaces for each cohort. If that fills up and I still REALLY want to go, can I?

To provide the best PD experience possible, we will initially reserve 8 spaces for each grade-level assignment (Elementary, Middle, High School). We will monitor this closely. If space remains unfilled, we will offer spots to waitlisted participants in the order in which their registration was received.

8. Coursework: How intensive is the pre-departure coursework? Is it possible to complete as also a full time teacher and parent? The pre-departure coursework

is designed to help you make the most of this extraordinary opportunity. Participants are provided with key background information, readings, and reflection activities via a 7-session online course. The course will begin in January, providing participants ample time to complete readings and respond to discussion prompts.

9. The timing of payment due dates might be tough for me. Is any of this negotiable?

If financial access is an issue for you, please consider applying for a scholarship. In the event that you still have questions about timing or payment, don't hesitate to email Christa at director@morphoinstitute.org.

10. What if I'm not a classroom teacher?

Although primarily geared towards K-16 educators, this is still a fantastic opportunity for EE professionals and non-traditional educators. When you complete the registration process, just click the cohort that you feel would be the best fit for you, and leave any notes in the Notes/Questions section.

11. How physically rigorous is this trip?

While not physically difficult, the Amazon is hot and humid and most people require a bit of time to adjust. Be prepared for muddy and slippery trails and clambering in and out of boats.

12. Am I able to bring a partner or child? They would love to go!

At this point, the answer is no due to the fact that we expect a sold out program. Please keep in mind that this is a professional development experience and not a tourist program. We do not currently have the ability to offer alternative programming for partners and children.

13. What is the pre-departure coursework like?

We have developed a comprehensive pre-departure course that will help you make the absolute most of your time in the field. Participants are provided with key background information, readings, and reflection activities via a 7-session on-line course. Web-based community-building activities provide opportunities to connect with fellow participants prior to arrival in the Amazon.

The majority of course readings and assignments will be available online via MorphoNet, our online community for alumni and current participants. Participants

will have access to MorphoNet upon the receipt of their registration form and deposit. A recommended list of field equipment/supplies will also be supplied prior to departure.

In addition, we host monthly webinars that focus on tropical ecology, classroom connections, geography, inquiry, and more! These webinars are free to the public.

14. How does the \$200 mini-grant work?

Participants who complete all pre-departure coursework by April 16th, 2023 will receive a \$200 mini-grant. This will be applied directly to the balance owed to the Morpho Institute which is due on May 1st, 2023.

Appendix A.

COVID TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS AND DOCUMENTATION

It is the participant's responsibility to ensure they carry proper and valid documentation. US Citizens should review International Travel Information available from the US Department of State at www.travel.state.gov for entry requirements. Citizens of countries other than the United States should check with the Embassies of the countries on their itinerary.

As of this writing (December 2021), all air travelers, including United States citizens, that are fully vaccinated are required to show documentation of a pre-departure negative COVID-19 viral test from a sample taken within three days before boarding any flight in Peru with an ultimate destination inside the United States, and before boarding any flight in the United States with an ultimate destination inside Peru. United States citizens and lawful permanent residents who are unable to show that they are fully vaccinated will have to show documentation of a negative viral test taken no more than one day before boarding any flight in the United States with an ultimate destination in Peru, and before boarding any flight in Peru with an ultimate destination in the United States.

Beginning December 15, 2021 the Peruvian government is requiring all adults over the age of 18 to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination to enter closed spaces in Peru. Physical or virtual vaccination cards are accepted. The Morpho Institute cannot guarantee that a picture of your vaccination card will be accepted. Because aspects of the program will occur within closed spaces, if you are not vaccinated you may not be able to participate in certain aspects of the program. The Morpho Institute will not issue refunds or be liable for any loss or damage arising out of or in connection with your inability to participate in any or all aspects of the program due to your COVID-19 vaccination status. KN95 Masks are required. If you do not have a KN95 mask you must wear two masks, one of which must be a surgical mask. In the case of restaurants masks can only be removed when eating or drinking.

All passengers older than 45 years of age using commercial transportation to travel between provinces by land must present proof of vaccination to travel.

These requirements are subject to change. The U.S. Embassy in Peru provides up-to-date information regarding vaccine and testing requirements for travel between the United States and Peru: <https://pe.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/>

The U.S. Embassy provides contact information for labs within Peru that offer testing services. The Morpho Institute cannot guarantee the availability, accuracy, or quality of services any testing laboratory may provide, and bears no responsibility for any lack of availability of testing or any other claim or cause of action arising out of or relating to your COVID-19 testing in Peru.

By making a deposit with the Morpho Institute or signing this form you certify that you have reviewed the policies of the U.S. Embassy in Peru, and the U.S. Department of State policies available here: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/emergencies/covid-19-faqs-for-travel-to-the-us-information.html> and that you will continue to monitor the policies of the U.S. Embassy in Peru and the U.S. Department of State up until the date of your departure.