



October 19-23, 2019
United Nations Headquarters
and the Marriot Marquis Times Square
New York, New York

Villa Middle School
Information and Application Packet

Global Citizenship Action Project

The Program

The Global Citizenship Action Project (GCAP) is a professional conference for students sponsored by the American Montessori Society. The participants will have the opportunity to experience and discuss the work of the United Nations and learn what they can do to become better informed and more productive global citizens. Participants will learn about the United Nations' major organs, meet with international leaders and dialogue with fellow Montessori students from all over the United States and beyond. In addition to a variety of presentations and activities designed to educate and inspire, there will be a visit to a country's mission and a tour of the United Nations, including lunch in its famed Delegates Dining Room. GCAP alumni are encouraged to share their knowledge and passion about the issues facing the world and what they can do to make a difference.

Preparation before the Conference

Research and Preparation

As a participant in the Global Citizenship Action Project program you will participate in the process of researching the United Nations, and if possible, the assigned country's history, culture, politics and stance on important issues. The research process will be to:

1. Know the UN system.
2. Become familiar with your assigned country's history, culture, political structure, and current political affairs.

Delegates will work together to prepare to meet international officials at the assigned country's mission.

Community Involvement

We will involve the greater Villa Montessori Middle School community by planning projects/service related to our GCAP experience. Upon returning from the trip GCAP students will share their knowledge of United Nations organizations and projects through a presentation to the middle school students. From this presentation, the middle school will help choose a project for second semester. The project will also aim to build awareness and make a difference for people in the world.

Skill Development

Our preparation will also include exercises to help participants hone their skills in the following areas: public speaking, cooperating, planning projects that make a difference, building community awareness and building consensus.

Time Commitment

This process will require a significant time commitment. Students selected to attend GCAP will meet once a week in Make a Difference (MAD) Club after-school enrichment program, from 4:00 to 5:00 P.M. on Mondays, starting in September to prepare for the GCAP trip. This enrichment class will run through March for the GCAP participants as they work toward the community involvement and service goals they bring back from their GCAP experience.

Travel

Expense

To determine the final costs, we need to know our participants. Calculating the final cost includes many variables like the cost of airfare, lodging, and the amount of sightseeing we choose to do. The estimated cost is \$2100-\$2300. The cost includes airfare, accommodations (at the Marriot Marquis in Times Square), meals, sightseeing and conference registration. Additional costs include student spending money for personal items like souvenirs.

We will not be conducting any fundraising within the Villa community. However, active parent fundraising in the greater community such as writing letters to businesses, local service organizations, and cultural organizations seeking donations is highly encouraged. This type of fundraising has netted significant donations in the past. It must be a student and parent driven operation.

Payment

If your child is selected for the trip, family commitment is required by August 27, along with a deposit of \$500. The final price of the trip will be determined by September 16, 2019, and the balance will be due no later than October 1, 2019. Because of security issues with airline tickets and admission to the United Nations, we are not allowed to substitute or add students after the initial application process. Therefore, all fees will be considered non-refundable and families that commit to the trip will be responsible for paying the full cost of the trip.

Additionally, the fees for this trip are not eligible for Villa scholarship funds. All middle school accounts must be up to date for a student to be eligible to apply for this trip. Additionally, a student's middle school account must be up to date at the time of the trip for a student to be cleared for participation.

Expectations for Behavior and Travel Procedures

Middle School Policies

Accepted applicants are expected to maintain a pattern of behavior and choices throughout the school year that shows their ability to travel safely and represent Villa Montessori well. In severe disciplinary cases, a student's invitation to attend the trip could be rescinded. Due to the circumstances described above, the family's financial obligation persists even if the student's invitation to participate is rescinded.

When we are traveling all school rules will apply. However, students will be allowed to carry their own cell phones for extra safety assurance. Cell phones will be turned off whenever we are attending conference activities and will only be used for communication with chaperones, Villa peers who are attending the conference or with parents.

Attire

Businesslike attire is expected for the conference. For workshops, this means business-casual attire. For United Nations visits this means formal business attire. For boys, formal business attire is defined as dress pants with a belt and dress shoes paired with a buttoned-down, collared shirt, tie and jacket. For girls, this means dress shoes with a dress, or dress shoes with a skirt or pants paired with a business-like top and jacket. Most students at the conference wear suits for United Nations events. Sneakers will be unacceptable attire for conference activities, but comfortable shoes and sneakers are encouraged for sightseeing. Please break in shoes well ahead of the trip to avoid debilitating blisters.

Late October in New York City can be warm and pleasant or windy, wet and cold. Students will be walking outdoors and using public transportation. All participants should have an umbrella, a winter coat, a winter hat, and gloves or mittens in case of inclement weather.

Accommodations

The conference is hosted at the Marriott Marquis Times Square. Rollaway beds are not guaranteed, so students should expect to share full size beds. Boys will stay in one room and girls in another.

Meals

Breakfasts will be a combination of continental or restaurant dining – whichever the schedule permits. Lunch on sightseeing days will be purchased at delis or food courts that are convenient to our sightseeing schedule. Lunch on conference days is provided by the conference organizers. Dinner will be eaten out at restaurants where we can get a good value for a large group. We can accommodate students with food allergies. Group travel does not easily accommodate picky eaters.

Chaperones

Four chaperones will accompany the students throughout the trip. If additional parents of accepted applicants want to travel as chaperones, they are expected to fully fund their own trip and to make their own travel arrangements. Even if a student's parent(s) is present, students will be expected to travel with the group and to participate in all scheduled group activities.

Luggage

For ease of travel, students may bring two carry-on items (e.g. a backpack and a small suitcase). All travel items must easily fit in student's luggage. These are strict requirements based on our experiences with group travel. We will provide a detailed packing list closer to departure.



Application Process

1. Complete the application form and turn in to the middle school administration office no later than Wednesday, August 21, 2019.
2. Applicants are required to stay after school on Wednesday, August 21, 2019, between 3:15 – 4:15 P.M., to complete the essay writing portion of the application process.
3. Applicants will be scheduled for an interview held on Saturday, August 24, 2019.
4. Participants will be announced through email by August 25, 2019.
5. If selected to participate in the Global Citizenship Action Project, commitment to the trip is necessary by August 27, 2019, along with a \$500 deposit.
6. All trip fees are due on October 1, 2019.

GCAP APPLICATION	
APPLICANT INFORMATION	
Name:	
Community:	
Grade:	
Date of Birth:	
I have read the application packet and understand the expectations and commitment required for participation.	
Parent Signature	_____
Student Signature	_____