

THE ECHO FOUNDATION

PRESENTS

ECHO ABROAD: Footsteps in Rwanda

- WHAT:** This unique travel and leadership initiative to Rwanda, taking place in the Summer of 2008, offers students the exceptional opportunity to witness first-hand a country and its people who have experienced the devastation of genocide and the hopeful process of reconciliation. Positioned in Central Africa, Rwanda is the most densely populated country in sub-Saharan Africa. In contrast to its poverty, it is home to the Gorillas in the Mist, located in some of the world's most beautiful mountains. In this age of globalization, it is vital that young people heighten their sensitivity and broaden their awareness of critical world issues so that they develop into compassionate leaders. Travel and hands-on experiences have the capacity to transform students in a way that transcends classroom learning; only by "doing" can young people fully appreciate the challenges that face them as future leaders.
- WHERE:** Once synonymous with cruelty, violence, and injustice, the Rwanda of today is a place of hope and optimism. In the thirteen years since genocide ceased, the Rwandan government has been dedicated to promoting democracy, an improved standard of living, economic stability, and safety and peace for all citizens. To this end, the Rwandan Ministry of Health collaborates with Boston-based Partners in Health, established by Dr. Paul Farmer (*Mountains beyond Mountains*), in eastern Rwanda to promote health and long-term positive changes in the rural community. The Echo Foundation's *Footsteps Ambassadors* will join this partnership, as Charlotte students learn about genocide, personal responsibility, and the profound impact one person can have in the life of another.
- WHO:** Students from the Charlotte Mecklenburg area who are in grades 9-11 during the 2007-2008 school year are invited to apply. We are looking for dedicated students who display leadership skills, individual initiative, compassion, who have a demonstrated commitment to service, and who are eager to promote greater tolerance and justice anywhere in the world.
- COST:** The program fee is \$10,000.00 per student. Significant scholarship opportunities are available. There is no application fee.
- HOW:** Interested students should complete and submit the following application, and attach a current photograph. Application forms can be obtained online or at The Echo Foundation's office. Semi-finalists will be selected for interviews with representatives of The Echo Foundation.
- WHEN:** Entry forms and accompanying documents must be received by The Echo Foundation at 1125 E. Morehead St., Suite 106, Charlotte, NC 28204, by **Monday, November 12, 2007 at 5:00 PM.**

For more information, contact The Echo Foundation at (704) 347-3844 or
EchoFoundation@aol.com.

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Official Entry Form

Application Instructions

- Please type or print legibly all information.
- You must attach a photograph of yourself to the first page of the application.
- If on any section you do not have enough room in the space provided you may attach your responses on a separate sheet of paper.
- You must sign and have a parent or guardian sign the Duties and Responsibilities Statement. Only signed applications will be considered.
- We will accept only completed applications. Please check that you have completed each section before submitting your materials.

Personal Information

Full Name _____ Male Female

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Parent Name _____ Parent Email _____

Class Status for 2007-2008 school year:

Freshman Sophomore Junior

School _____ GPA _____

Date of Birth _____

References

Please list three individuals not related to you who we may contact to get to know more about you. You should provide one academic reference, one personal reference, and one reference that can attest to your community service or extra-curricular activities.

	Name	Phone	Email
Academic:	_____	_____	_____
Personal:	_____	_____	_____
Extra-Curricular:	_____	_____	_____

Extra-Curricular Activities

Please list your school, community, athletic or other activities beginning with the one most important to you.

Activity	Office(s) held or honor(s) received	Dates	Hours per week

International Experience

Is English your native language? Yes No

Have you previously traveled outside the U.S.? Yes No

If so, please provide the following information on each country you have visited:

Country	Date(s)	Reason for Visit

Financial Aid

If chosen, will you require financial assistance to participate in the program?

Yes No

Essay

Consider the quote below from Nobel Peace Prize winner, Elie Wiesel. Construct an essay exploring the themes of justice and injustice, making sure to address the three questions posed below. Your response should be typed, double-spaced, and no longer than 1500 words. Attach your essay to the application form, and be sure to include your name on each page.

"There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest." – Elie Wiesel

1. Why do you think it is important that we not stand silently by when we witness injustice, even when we are not certain taking action will create positive change?
2. Describe a time when you, seeing injustice, responded. What was the injustice? What was the outcome of your involvement, and what lessons did you learn as a result of your actions?
3. Discuss why you would like to be a young ambassador for *Echo Abroad: Footsteps in Rwanda*. Considering the duties and responsibilities, what qualities do you bring to the role? What do you hope to learn from the experience and how would you seek to share this knowledge with others?

Fulfillment of Duties and Responsibilities Statement

I certify that all the information on this application is correct, that all work submitted is my own, and that if selected, I am available to participate in the program and fulfill my duties during the 2007-2008 school year and July 2008 travel.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

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