



## Communication and Electronics Project Passport- Costa Rica

Electronics are not permitted on Galapagos Rockford Project Passport Trips. Families who do not agree to this policy will unfortunately be asked to not participate in the program. Any electronics found on the trip will be taken by the chaperones and returned at the end of the trip.

The reason for this policy is to ensure that all scholars are provided the opportunity to fully emerge themselves in the culture and the activities of the trip. In this day and age, children are constantly exposed to electronics: games, phones, social media etc that they become disconnected to what is going on around them. We will be exploring a part of the world that many people simply do not have the opportunity to see.

In order to promote a full appreciation of the trip, absolutely no electronics are allowed on the trip.

**As part of this policy scholars will not be able to make phone calls or other communications during the trip. To be clear:**

- Scholars will not call home during the trip.
- Instead, we will be sending out a daily *WhatsApp* message to all parents summarizing our day in words and photos. *Parents should download the WhatsApp application by May 15 so that we can test it.*

We know that this may not be an easy thing to commit to but we feel that this further allows scholars to freely emerge themselves in the trip. Our experience has been that scholars who call home often get home sick as opposed to developing the skills and independence of being away from home. This also is a great jumping off point for parents as they prepare themselves for when their scholars get closer to going away to college. We understand that this will take some grit on the part of both the scholar and the parent but this is a non-negotiable for this trip.

Obviously, in the case of an emergency we will contact the parents but only in the case of a true emergency. GRCS will have *Whatsapp* accounts and will use that for the daily summary communications as well as in the unlikely event of any emergency communications.

Please discuss this policy with your scholar and sign below to demonstrate your agreement with the policy.

- 
- I understand that electronics are not permitted on this trip; this includes cell phones.
  - I understand that my scholar and I will not be able to talk on the phone or otherwise communicate during the trip.
  - I understand that any electronic brough on the trip will be taken and kept by a chaperone for the entirety of the trip.
  - I understand that it is ok for me to not agree with this policy but I do not agree, my scholar will not be able to participate in the program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature and date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature and date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scholar Signature and date