**UTSA Honors College**

**Trailblazing the National Parks 2.0: Explore, Protect, and Reflect**

**Study Away Program**

**May 21/22 and May 28-Jun 12, 2022**

**Student Application**

We are excited for you to consider this study away program offered by the UTSA Honors College! Review all the UTSA Trailblazing Student Handbook before applying. Be advised the Handbook is a fluid document that may have updates closer to the trip date.

Answer the following question prompts where indicated. Include a copy of your ASAP unofficial transcript (not DegreeWorks) through Dec 2021 with your application. ***Do not separately send them***. Incomplete, late, and unprofessional applications will not be considered.

Submit your responses to: [karen.engates@utsa.edu](mailto:karen.engates@utsa.edu)

Application and unofficial transcript due no later than: **Friday, February 18, 2022 by 1:00 PM CST (1300)**

1. Provide information requested. Indicate your fitness level (1 = sedentary, up to 5 = active 3x/wk, up to 10 = active 5+x/wk); swimming ability (1 = cannot swim, 5 = can swim and tread water, up to 10 = swims regularly and/or has lifeguard training).
   1. Name (first/last/preferred): [insert answer here]
   2. Major(s): [insert answer here]
   3. Classification: [insert answer here]
   4. GPA as of Dec 2021: [insert answer here]
   5. UTSA email: [insert answer here]
   6. Fitness level (1 to 10): [insert answer here]
   7. Swimming ability (1 to 10): [insert answer here]
   8. Date of last tetanus shot (MM/DD/XXXX): [insert answer here]
   9. **NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School) requires participants to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 for their NOLS-WFA courses**. Are you able to show proof of vaccination? [insert answer here (Y,N) and proof]
2. This program is for students interested in experiencing an alternative way of living that lacks amenities of urban commercial life, including limitations on technology. Shared lodging is modest with small group tents in campgrounds. There is no air conditioning/heating, and climates range from hot, dry desert to temperate forest to cold, snow-covered areas. Food is planned, purchased, and prepped by the individual participant; at times there is no option to purchase food. Use of cell phones and other electronic devices will be extremely minimized and used on a rotating basis, not an everyday modern luxury. **Minimalization, organization, and flexibility in body/mind/attitude are core to this type of nomadic outdoor experience.** Daily expectations: being in a vehicle for long hours (many days); physical exertion; equipment setup/take down, discussions, journaling; providing your own meals; adapting to others; maintaining personal hygiene especially when showers are not available; fully participating in activities and promoting a positive experience for everyone. Students should be in good physical shape and able to hike several miles (e.g., 5-8+) per day most days. We will live humbly and closely as a group and within the larger public community at campgrounds with park service employees, other visitors, and wildlife, including bugs, birds, snakes, scorpions, spiders, skunks, racoons, bears, etc. Participants **must** be able to attend all events related to this course in their entirety unless there is an ***extreme*** emergency as they are part of your grade for the course: pre-trip meetings, NOLS-WFA training weekend at Government Canyon State Natural Area (May 21-22, 2022), and the long trip (May 28-June 12, 2022).

Please indicate using ‘YES’ or ‘NO’ to the following:

* 1. Have you read and carefully considered the above statement? [insert answer here]
  2. Do you acknowledge and accept living conditions, physical health expectations, and relationships that are core to your successful participation? [insert answer here]
  3. Do you understand you will have limited access to your electronic devices to include going for several days without them at a time? [insert answer here]
  4. Do you have any conflicts with the weekend of May 21 (7 AM) -22nd (7 PM)?
  5. Do you have any conflicts (e.g., travel, internships, summer school, family/friend experiences) with the timing of the rest of this program (May 28, 7 AM to June 12, 7 PM)? [insert answer here]
  6. Do you foresee conflict with scheduling for the Sunday evening pre-trip meetings (see below)? [insert answer here]
  7. Have you read, understand, and agree to the Conditions of Participation on the second to last page of the Trailblazing Handbook? [insert answer here]
  8. UTSA Honors College is generously sponsoring a large portion of this program to reduce student cost to $500 (you must also pay for 3-hr credit tuition). ***This $500 cost is nonrefundable*** due to advance registrations for groups. If a student cannot attend, the payment will go toward UTSA Honors College scholarships; no funds will be returned. If public health conditions cause UTSA to cancel the trip, your $500 will be refunded. Do you understand this parameter? [YES or NO, insert here]

1. Discuss your background and how it influenced you to want to do a study away program. Include relevant camping, backpacking, and outdoor experiences. [100-150 words, insert here]
2. How will this program contribute to your personal, academic, and professional growth? [100-150 words, insert here]
3. Why is it important for you to experience the national parks, and what are your goals for the trip? [100-150 words, insert here]
4. What does experiential living mean to you, and why is it an important topic of study? [100-150 words, insert here]
5. How are you prepared:
   1. to live as a camping ‘nomad’ in minimal, shared, mostly outdoor conditions? [100-150 words, insert here]
   2. to separate yourself from the use of technology for the majority of the day? [100-150 words, insert here]
   3. to travel long distances by van in shared space? [100-150 words, insert here]
   4. to plan and budget for simple meals that may not be refrigerated? [100-150 words, insert here]
6. What challenges might you face while away and how will you overcome these? [100-150 words, insert here]
7. How do you deal with traveling situations that arise that are unexpected, require change in plans, or are beyond your control? [100-150 words, insert here]
8. How do you deal with individuals in a group who offer negative commentary and/or refuse to do their fair share to assist? [100-150 words, insert here]
9. If you are not selected for the initial round of twelve students, what are your thoughts on being waitlisted with potential to be accepted later with accelerated payment to secure your spot? [100-150 words, insert here]
10. Indicate any special skills that you can bring to this experience (e.g., medical, certifications, yoga/meditation, navigation, musical, storytelling, camping, boy/girl scouts, food planning/prep). [100-150 words, insert here]
11. What questions and/or other concerns do you have that we might be able to answer for you via email and/or during your interview? [insert here or N/A]

**IMPORTANT DATES**

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| Fri, Jan 28, 2022 | Completed applications + transcript must be received no later than 1:00 PM CDT to [karen.engates@utsa.edu](mailto:karen.engates@utsa.edu). Applicant must also be available for a 15-minute Zoom interview for Monday, January 31 (Time TBD between 9-5 PM). A link will be sent Sat, Jan 29 to your UTSA email. |
| Mon, Jan 31, 2022 | 15-minute Zoom interviews |
| Fri, Feb 4, 2022 | Status notification (may occur earlier): accepted, waitlisted, denied participants |
| Fri, Feb 18, 2022 | Deadline to submit $500 payment no later than 1:00 PM CDT to Honors College office (GSR 2.210) |
| Sun, Feb 27, 2022 | Mandatory meeting for participants (TBD: Zoom or in-person on campus, likely 6-8 PM)  Note: If entire group can agree upon a weekday time to meet (e.g., Fridays @ noon), then Sunday meetings will change to that day/time. |
| Tue, Mar 15, 2022 | Summer Registration begins. Register and make payment for HON 3253. |
| Sun, Mar 27, 2022 | Mandatory meeting for participants (TBD as stated for Feb 27) |
| Sun, Apr 24, 2022 | Mandatory meeting for participants (TBD as stated for Feb 27) |
| Wed, May 18, 2022 | Mandatory meeting for participants (Zoom, likely 7-8 PM) to review for May 21/22 weekend trip |
| Sat, May 21-Sun, May 22, 2022 | NOLS-WFA Certification Course + camping weekend @ Government Canyon State Natural Area); 7 AM Saturday to 7 PM Sunday (estimate) |
| Sat, May 28, 2022 | Depart from UTSA Convocation Center (TBD, estimated 7 AM) |
| Sun, Jun 12, 2022 | Arrive to UTSA Convocation Center late afternoon (TBD, estimated 6:00 PM) |

Decisions will be made for 12 students to join us on this experience, and a waiting list will be generated. The twelve students selected for the trip must email Dr. Engates AND turn in the $500 nonrefundable payment check to the Honors College no later than Friday, Feb 18th by 1 PM CST or they will be dropped from the list and the next person on the waiting list will be notified.

If you have questions, please ask Dr. Engates, Dr. Fleuriet, or Mr. Howard. Thank you for your interest and flexibility with this study away program. We look forward to hearing from you!

Cheers,

Dr. Karen Engates, Mr. Eliot Howard, and Dr. Jill Fleuriet