



2024 Veterinary Academy

Veterinary medicine, zoology, and conservation programs for middle and high schoolers

UNITED STATES • COSTA RICA • BELIZE • THAILAND

Dear Students, Parents, and Teachers,

I'm excited to welcome you to the Veterinary Academy program. I co-founded Loop Abroad when I was a student at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education to immerse students who love animals (like you!) in the hands-on experience of animal care and conservation. What began as a group of nine students in Thailand has grown into a global network of veterinary partners, conservationists, and passionate alumni.

Despite this enormous growth, I'm proud to say that we've stayed true to our original commitment to animal welfare and respect for all living things. This is why I'm so glad to be partnering with WorldStrides on the Veterinary Academy program to offer all students who are passionate about animal welfare the chance to experience this life-changing program. One of the greatest joys of my professional career has been hiring teaching veterinarians who attended a Loop Abroad program in high school or college and know that it truly changed the course of their career.

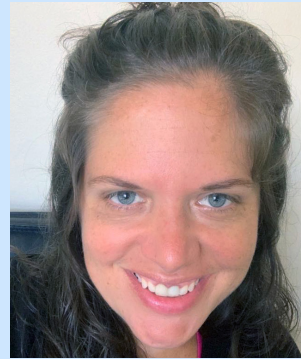
I hope to see you on the Veterinary Academy program soon!

Best,

Jane Stine, JD, M.Ed.

Co-Founder and Managing Director

Loop Abroad



**MEET THE CO-FOUNDER
OF LOOP ABROAD**

Jane Stine, JD, M.Ed.

**Co-Founder and Managing
Director Loop Abroad**

**Veterinary Academy
by WorldStrides**



Ignite your future

Veterinary Academy, a WorldStrides program in partnership with Loop Abroad, is a unique opportunity for passionate students to get hands-on experience learning about veterinary science. **Students can earn up to 60 veterinary hours that can be included as part of their applications to veterinary school.**

Program Highlights

Veterinary Academy is your chance to learn from teaching veterinarians and seasoned animal care and conservation professionals as you witness firsthand the behind-the-scenes moments in a working veterinarian's life.

You can look forward to countless incredible experiences, including:

- Time with a variety of animals, practicing handling, rehabilitation, and various clinical skills*
- Honing your skills through daily field classes, lectures, or laboratory workshops
- Learning in **groups of 17 or fewer**, on average, giving you endless opportunities to ask questions of your teaching veterinarian
- Shadowing animal care experts as you study topics ranging from veterinary surgery to farm animal care to marine animal research
- Living and working alongside fellow students who are equally passionate about caring for animals

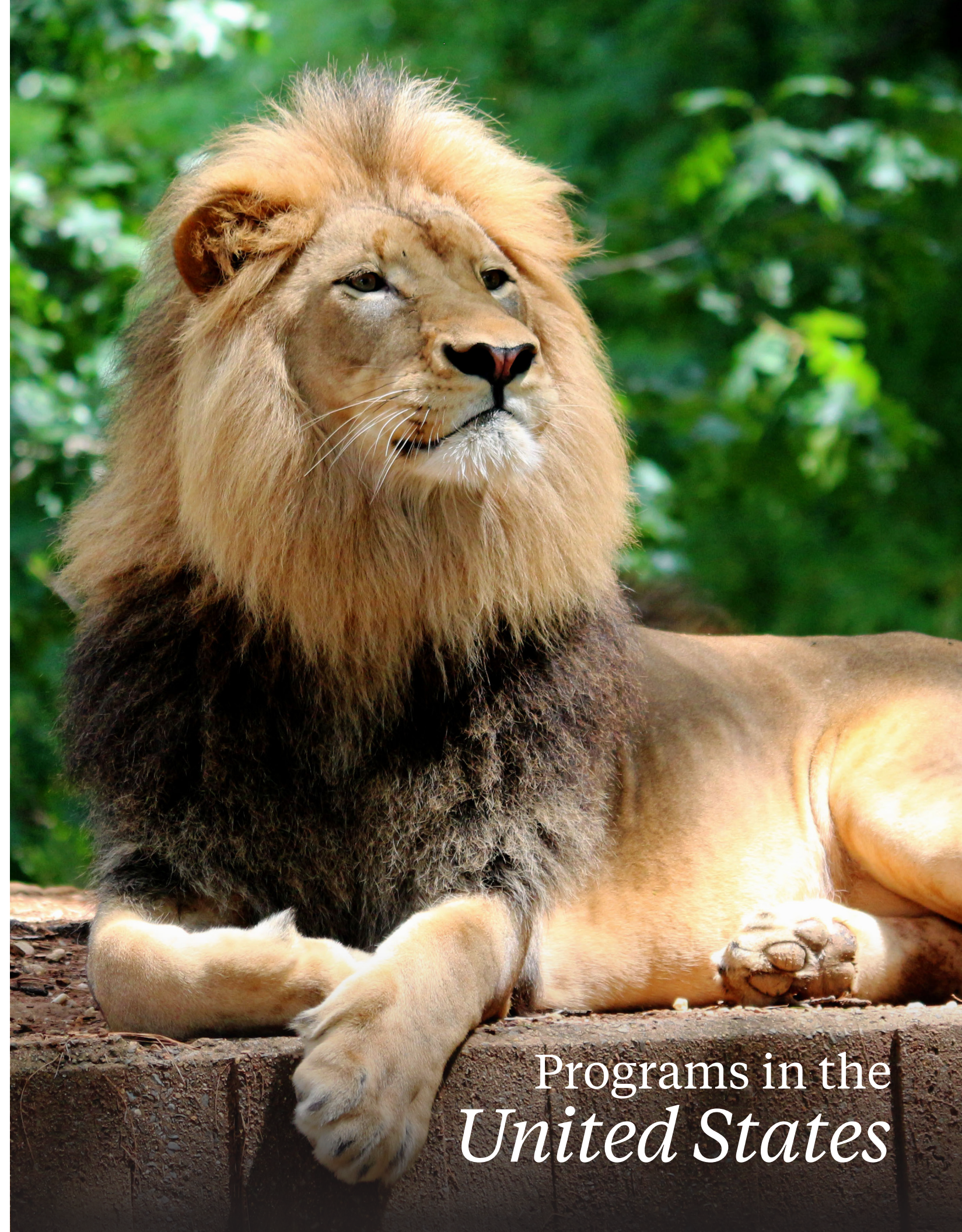
**Please note: for your own safety as well as the safety of the animals, not all animals may be touched or held by participants. Your teaching veterinarian will advise you of the proper time, place, and method to handle animals when it is safe to do so.*

Location & Supervision

Students and staff will stay together in the same location to ensure 24/7 supervision and support. All programs are administered by a staff of experienced professionals, teaching veterinarians, and veterinary clinical staff. All WorldStrides staff members undergo background checks and are trained extensively on safety procedures.

Staffing

Every location will have a site director, teaching veterinarians and group leaders, often veterinary students, who will work with students in smaller groups, and additional staff to support the program experience. Our staff members have extensive experience in veterinary medicine, travel programs, and working with students.



Programs in the
United States



Junior Veterinary Medicine • Grades: 6-8

Residential: \$3,599 before December 31 • **\$3,799** after December 31

Day: \$3,199 before December 31 • **\$3,399** after December 31

RESIDENTIAL DATES: July 21–26 | July 28–August 2

DAY DATES: July 22–26 | July 29–August 2

Washington, D.C.

Getting an early taste of various potential careers is essential for young students. At Junior Veterinary Medicine, you can look forward to doing just that as you:

- **Get hands-on experience in the lab** using the same tools and techniques as professional veterinarians, from taking heart rates and using a microscope to suturing a wound and even performing a dissection!
- **Explore the Smithsonian National Zoo**, home to over 2,100 animals that represent nearly 400 species, to learn about enrichment activities, enclosure design, and the important role of zoos in animal conservation.
- **Learn about veterinary school**, including the application process and the various career paths in veterinary science.

Earn up to *25 veterinary hours*—a required part of every vet school application



Florida Reef Experience • Grades: 9-12

\$3,395 before December 31 • **\$3,595** after December 31

DATES: March 10–16 | March 24–30 | March 31–April 6 | April 7–13

West Palm Beach, FL

Florida's coral reefs are an important part of the ocean's ecosystem and they're disappearing. During your time at the Florida Reef Experience, you'll contribute to the vital conservation efforts of The Reef Institute. That means you can look forward to:

- **Data collection runs** to monitor coral and fish conditions and perform coral tagging. You'll receive on-the-spot training in data collection as you performing in-water monitoring of stony and soft corals and fish populations. You'll then analyze your data in the lab or right there on the research boat.
- **Time in the land-based nursery** to learn about the latest innovations in coral conservation like gene banking. The Reef Institute currently houses over 329 colonies of coral in their land-based nursery. You'll go behind the scenes of this cutting-edge research facility to learn about the latest innovations in conservation technology.
- **Excursions to Peanut Island**, a natural habitat that promotes the growth of several healthy coral colonies. Home to at least 20 different species of corals, the lagoon at Peanut Island is also home to eels, fish, turtles, sea horses, manatees, and even the occasional shark. You'll spend several days exploring, tagging coral, and identifying fish species.
- **Explore the flora and fauna of John D. MacArthur Beach State Park**, a barrier island habitat that protects rare and endangered plant and animal species from the elements.



Earn up to *30 research hours*, to include in a vet school application

Only available for spring break



Zoo Medicine & Management in Texas • Grades: 9-12

\$4,495 before December 31 • \$4,595 after December 31

DATES: June 9–15 | June 16–22 | June 23–29 | July 7–13

Victoria, TX

The Texas Zoo is on a mission to connect the public with wildlife and the importance of preserving as many species and habitats as possible. Many of the animals at the Texas Zoo are native to Texas and most are rescue animals that could not be returned to the wild. During your time in Texas, you can look forward to:

- **Daily animal care rotations** on topics including food preparation, enclosure maintenance, large animal exams, rehabilitation and release, and designing animal enrichment activities.
- **Field classes** to explore important topics like animal behavioral observations, zoo ethics, and veterinary diagnostics across the different areas of the Texas Zoo.
- **Researching and presenting** your own Keeper Talk to the visiting public at the Texas Zoo.
- **Time in the lab** participating in lab activities including wound suturing, parasitology, small animal physical exams, and an enclosure design workshop.

Earn up to *40 veterinary hours*—a required part of every vet school application



Zoo Medicine & Management in Massachusetts • Grades: 9-12

\$4,595 before December 31 • \$4,695 after December 31

DATES: June 30–July 6 | July 7–13

Attleboro, MA

The Capron Park Zoo is on a mission to inspire the public to become more interested in the natural world through their exhibits and outreach programs. During your time in Massachusetts, you can look forward to:

- **Daily animal care rotations** on topics including food preparation, enclosure maintenance, large animal exams, rehabilitation and release, and designing animal enrichment activities.
- **Field classes** to explore important topics like animal behavioral observations, zoo ethics, and veterinary diagnostics across the different areas of the Capron Park Zoo.
- **Researching and presenting** your own Keeper Talk to the visiting public at the Capron Park Zoo.
- **Visiting a working farm to learn** about large animal medicine, an in-demand veterinary specialty in the United States and around the world. You'll gain experience working with horses, pigs, and cattle.

Earn up to *40 veterinary hours*—a required part of every vet school application



Programs in *Belize*



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WHAT PARENTS AND STUDENTS ARE SAYING

“My son was able to have a wonderful experience learning meaningful things while having fun with his new friends.”

2023 Parent

“I enjoyed this program so much and loved everyone on staff. This is a trip I’ll talk about for the rest of my life.”

2023 Student



Wildlife Health & Conservation • Grades: 9-12

\$5,999 before December 31 • **\$6,499** after December 31

Price includes chaperoned roundtrip group flight

DATES: June 21–29 | June 29–July 7

San Ignacio, Belize

Spend a week living and learning at the Tropical Education Center, a “living classroom” of the Belize Zoo located in the heart of the Maya Forest Corridor. The Belize Zoo is dedicated to the preservation of species and habitats around the world. During your time at their Tropical Education Center, you can look forward to:

- **Using conservation techniques** including GPS trackers and radio collars, blow darting, and bird banding to track animal populations.
- **Working alongside local conservation experts** to preserve special species like jaguars and howler monkeys.
- **Exploring the Xunantunich Archaeological Reserve** as you learn about the history and culture of the Maya civilization in Belize.
- **Immersing yourself** in one of the most biodiverse countries in the world. Belize is home to the world’s second-largest barrier reef system, rainforest, and thick pine forests.

Earn up to **40 veterinary hours**—a required part of every vet school application



Horses & Large Animal Medicine • Grades: 9-12

\$5,799 before December 31 • **\$5,999** after December 31

Price includes chaperoned roundtrip group flight

DATES: July 7–15

San Ignacio, Belize

Large animal medicine is an unsung but vitally important job in protecting the well-being of animals and the human populations that depend on farms for food. During your time in Belize, you can look forward to:

- **Shadowing a working veterinarian** as they travel to local farms and treat a wide variety of animals. You’ll get hands-on practice in your stable-side manner as you learn large animal examination techniques.
- **Learning about the cultural importance of farming** in Belize, including the impacts of Maya, Mestizo, Kriol and other cultures on farming techniques in this ecologically diverse country.
- **Enjoying field visits** to the Belize Raptor Center and the Green Iguana Project to learn about the conservation of raptors and green iguanas and their natural habitats.
- **Exploring the Xunantunich Archaeological Reserve** as you learn about the history and culture of the Maya civilization in Belize. You can look forward to lessons in cultural dancing, drumming, and chocolate-making.

Earn up to **40 veterinary hours**—a required part of every vet school application





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WHAT PARENTS AND STUDENTS ARE SAYING

“This program allowed me to not only gain more career experience but social experience as well. I was able to learn so much while I was here while also having fun. I would definitely recommend this program to anyone interested.”

2023 Veterinary Academy alum

“My experience in Costa Rica was eye-opening, insightful, and enriching. I now feel more confident in my future academic ventures.”

2023 Veterinary Academy alum

**Programs in
*Costa Rica***



Costa Rica Veterinary Experience • Grades: 9-12

\$5,295 before December 31 • \$5,595 after December 31

Price includes chaperoned roundtrip group flight

DATES: March 9–16 | March 23–30 | March 30–April 6 | April 6–13

Only available
for spring break

San Jose, Costa Rica

At Costa Rica Veterinary Experience, you get the chance to contribute to the vital efforts of respected animal care facilities as you learn from the experts that run them. That means you can look forward to:

- **Participating in clinical lab rotations** to practice skills like using the microscope to conduct ear & skin cytologies.
- **Creating post-surgery care plans** for dogs recovering from procedures, including spay and neuter surgeries.
- **Honing your emergency veterinary skills**, including suturing, taking stray animal histories, safe handling and restraint techniques, and specialized diet preparation.
- **Practicing your animal identification skills** while exploring the highly biodiverse area around the Arenal Volcano and Hot Springs.
- **Learning about rehabilitation for animals** that have been the victims of wildlife trafficking or who otherwise need care, including toucans, spider monkeys, porcupines, and kinkajous.
- **Immersing yourself in the culture** of Costa Rica through fun, culturally enriching activities including a dance lesson with a local instructor, Spanish trivia, and an art project inspired by the motifs of the country.

Earn up to *30 veterinary hours*—a required part of every vet school application



Rescue Center Costa Rica • Grades: 9-12

\$5,599 before December 31 • \$5,899 after December 31

Price includes chaperoned roundtrip group flight

DATES: June 8–16 | June 15–23 | July 20–28

Guacima, Costa Rica

At Rescue Center Costa Rica, you get the chance to contribute to the vital efforts of a respected animal care facility as you learn from the experts that run it. That means you can look forward to:

- **Completing rotations** in the on-site animal hospital where you can look forward to providing enrichments for the large sloth enclosures, shadowing clinical staff as they perform physical examinations, and performing ethograms in the lab.
- **Honing your emergency veterinary skills**, including suturing, taking stray animal histories, safe handling and restraint techniques, and specialized diet preparation.
- **Learning about rehabilitation for animals** that have been the victims of wildlife trafficking or who otherwise need care, including toucans, spider monkeys, porcupines, and kinkajous.
- **Exploring Manuel Antonio National Park**, home to hundreds of species of animals including sloths, monkeys, anteaters, and over 180 species of birds.



Earn up to *40 veterinary hours*—a required part of every vet school application



Dog Sanctuary & Wildlife Rescue • Grades: 9-12

\$5,395 before December 31 • \$5,595 after December 31

Price includes chaperoned roundtrip group flight

DATES: July 6–13 | July 13–20

San Jose, Costa Rica

Land of the Strays Dog Sanctuary has been rescuing stray dogs for over 15 years. They offer free spay & neuter surgeries for their rescued animals and help them find forever homes with families around Costa Rica. During your time at the sanctuary, you can look forward to:

- **Participating in clinical lab rotations** to practice skills like safe handling and restraint, canine anatomy, injection and catheter placement, proper surgery prep techniques, and using the microscope to conduct ear & skin cytologies.
- **Creating post-surgery care plans** for dogs recovering from procedures, including spay and neuter surgeries. On your final program day, you will assist clinic veterinarians and professional staff to provide a free spay and neuter clinic for the pets of the local community members.
- **Visiting the Rescate Wildlife Rescue Center**, a rehabilitation center and sanctuary for injured wildlife that takes in over 2,700 wild animals every year, from jaguars and sloths to birds and reptiles.

Earn up to **40 veterinary hours**—a required part of every vet school application



Dolphin Conservation & Research • Grades: 9-12

\$5,999 before December 31 • \$6,199 after December 31

Price includes chaperoned roundtrip group flight

DATES: July 13–20

Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica

Research projects like the one you'll be joining in Costa Rica are vitally important for the preservation of animal species and habitats. You can look forward to:

- **Daily boat excursions** to collect biometric data, track pod behavior, and complete photo ID image analysis.
- **Time in the dolphin lab** to perform necropsies and shark dissections, analyze stomach contents, and analyze collected data.
- **Learning in groups of 10 or fewer**, ensuring individualized attention from your teaching veterinarians.
- **Exploring Golfo Dulce**, a tropical fjord, that is home to bottlenose dolphins, pantropical spotted dolphins, and humpback whales.



Earn up to **30 research hours**, to include in a vet school application



Programs in
Thailand



Elephant Sanctuary & Dog Rescue • Grades: 9-12

\$5,999 before December 31 • \$6,199 after December 31

DATES: June 23–July 6 | July 21–August 3

Chiang Mai, Thailand

Thailand is one of the world's few remaining havens for elephants. Unfortunately, the booming tourist industry often forces these gentle giants into unsafe working conditions. Over your two weeks in Thailand, you can look forward to:

- **Living next to the elephants** that call the Elephant Nature Park their home, helping sanctuary staff to care for elephant enclosures, learn about elephant anatomy and physiology, and assist the on-site elephant vet in providing care and testing for various medical conditions.
- **Going behind-the-scenes at a dog rescue clinic** in Chiang Mai where you'll learn how to handle instruments, suture wounds, and complete canine physical examinations. You will participate in a heart dissection, practice drawing blood, and assist your teaching veterinarian with procedures in the exam room.
- **Exploring the Land of Smiles**, as Thailand is widely known for its friendly people, beautiful surroundings, and delicious food. You'll visit local street markets, take a meditation lesson with a Buddhist monk, and go ziplining through the jungle canopy.



Earn up to
60 veterinary hours—a
required part of every
vet school application

Program Details

From safety to scholarships, we've thought of everything to ensure you have a truly unforgettable experience. Have more questions? Check out our website at vetmed.worldstrides.com or give us a call at **844-794-4430**.



HEALTH & SAFETY

The well-being of our students and staff is our priority. We implement first-rate health, safety, and risk-management protocols for all of our programs based on recommendations from our Health & Safety Team and medical advisors. During your time at **Veterinary Academy**, your teaching veterinarian and other professional staff members will advise you of the proper time, place, and method to handle animals when it is safe to do so. For your own safety as well as the safety of the animals, not all animals may be touched or held by participants.



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS & STUDENT FUNDRAISING

WorldStrides offers a limited number of scholarships to qualified students each year based upon financial need, scholastic merit, leadership achievements, and other factors. Students who are interested in applying for a scholarship or fundraising to help offset the cost of tuition may visit our website for helpful suggestions and activities.

To access both our scholarship application and our Fundraising Guide, visit our website at fundraising.worldstrides.com. Both the scholarship application process and fundraising will take time, so students are strongly advised to begin as early as possible. Submission of a scholarship application is required to be considered for a reward.

Program Transportation

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

All program participants traveling from the United States to an international destination will be able to take a staffed group flight to their destination. Flight is included in program fee except for Thailand participants. Students are responsible for their own transportation to and from the designated gateway airport. For select destinations, students will spend one night in a nearby hotel before the group flight. All individuals are solely responsible for any passport and visa requirements. Details about flights, visas and more will be shared post enrollment.

U.S. PROGRAMS

All program participants attending domestic programs in the United States are responsible for their own transportation to and from the program location. Airport shuttle service will be available for a fee.

Please Note: We encourage you to wait until after receiving confirmation of your session enrollment before booking any travel arrangements.

Program Prices & Dates

| PROGRAM | GRADES | IF YOU ENROLL BEFORE 12/31/2023 | IF YOU ENROLL AFTER 12/31/2023 | SAVINGS | DATES |
|--------------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Costa Rica Veterinary Experience | 9-12 | \$5,295 | \$5,595 | \$300 | March 9–16 March 23–30 March 30–April 6 April 6–13 |
| Florida Reef Experience | 9-12 | \$3,395 | \$3,595 | \$200 | March 10–16 March 24–30 March 31–April 6 April 7–13 |
| Wildlife Health & Conservation | 9-12 | \$5,999 | \$6,499 | \$500 | June 21–29 June 29–July 7 |
| Elephant Sanctuary & Dog Rescue | 9-12 | \$5,999 | \$6,199 | \$200 | June 23–July 6 July 21–August 3 |
| Rescue Center Costa Rica | 9-12 | \$5,599 | \$5,899 | \$300 | June 8–16 June 15–23 July 20–28 |
| Zoo Medicine & Management in Texas | 9-12 | \$4,495 | \$4,595 | \$100 | June 9–15 June 16–22 June 23–29 July 7–13 |
| Zoo Medicine & Management in Massachusetts | 9-12 | \$4,595 | \$4,695 | \$100 | June 30–July 6 July 7–13 |
| Dog Sanctuary & Wildlife Rescue | 9-12 | \$5,395 | \$5,595 | \$200 | July 6–July 13 July 13–20 |
| Horse & Large Animal Medicine | 9-12 | \$5,799 | \$5,999 | \$200 | July 7–15 |
| Dolphin Conservation & Research | 9-12 | \$5,999 | \$6,199 | \$200 | July 13–20 |
| Junior Veterinary Medicine - Residential | 6-8 | \$3,599 | \$3,799 | \$200 | July 21–26 July 28–August 2 |
| Junior Veterinary Medicine - Day | 6-8 | \$3,199 | \$3,399 | \$200 | July 22–26 July 29–August 2 |

Visit vetmed.worldstrides.com to enroll.



THE WORLDSTRIDES FAMILY OF BRANDS

GLOBAL STABILITY, SCALE, AND RELATIONSHIPS

Having led trips for millions of students over our 55-year history, WorldStrides is the most widely recognized and most trusted student travel organization in the country. We've got the staff and partnerships to pivot on a dime and make any real-time program adjustments when necessary, so you can feel confident and covered, every moment of your trip. Our close relationships with universities and colleges around the world create immersive learning environments that build on students' natural curiosity while encouraging them to grow both personally and professionally.

UNMATCHED SAFETY SERVICES

Our 24/7/365 Tour Central hotline puts live help just a phone call away. It's staffed with trained and responsive WorldStrides personnel at all times. Additionally, our Doctors on Call medical support service is administered through our exclusive partnership with The George Washington University Department of Emergency Medicine. Plus, our dedicated in-house Health and Safety team relies on a rich network of international partners and exhibits a "do-what-it-takes" commitment to responding to whatever the world hands out.

EXPANDED PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Each student's journey is different, which is why WorldStrides offers a broad range of program categories, including educational travel, language immersion, career exploration, study abroad, service-learning, sports, and performing arts travel. From teacher-led group tours to programs for individuals on university campuses, each experience helps students see beyond the classroom and experience the world—and themselves—in new ways.

- Educational Travel
- Study Abroad
- Language Immersion
- Service-Learning
- Career Exploration
- Performing Arts
- Sports



 **WorldStrides**
Educational Travel & Experiences

WorldStrides is the global leader in educational travel and experiential learning. We provide a wide range of programs for over 550,000 students annually, partnering with more than 7,000 K-12 schools and 800 universities around the world.

Enroll Now!

[VETMED.WORLDSTRIDES.COM](https://www.vetmed.worldstrides.com)