Breaking Down Barriers: How to Effectively Organize International Trips for K-12

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Introduction

- Middle Eastern Studies, B.A History, Minor; Rutgers University
- Young Scholars of Central PA Charter School;
- Turkish Language Teacher
- Character Ed. Teacher
Turkish Proverb

- Her yiğidin bir yoğurt yiyiği vardır!

- Literal Translation: Every guy (yiğit = brave young man) has his own way of eating yogurt!

- Figurative Translation: Everyone has their own way of doing things.
Topics to Discuss

- Benefits of International Trips (Brief Overview)
- Planning Prior to Trip
- Planning During Trip
- Planning After Trip
- Question and Answer Session (If time permits) 🎉
Benefits of International Trips

- Academic Attainment – Short/Long Term
- Cultural Development
- Personal Growth
- Career Impact – Long Term
THINGS TO DO BEFORE THE TRIP

Deciding on Trip Type (Shop Around)
- Types of trips and Study Abroad programs
- Short trip (10 days) or language camp (30 days)
- School Approval
- Cost

Publicize your trip (Get the word out)
- Syllabus, newsletter, school website, flyers
- Building rapport with parents and students

Selection Process (Who should go?)
- Criteria Defined
THINGS TO DO BEFORE THE TRIP

Paperwork

- Permission Slips (school), Waiver of Liability of Release Form
- Student Contract (helpful)
- Contact info cards (for students to wear)
- Parental Consent (notarized, custody purposes)
THINGS TO DO BEFORE THE TRIP

- Paying for the trip
- Passports
- Visa(s)
- Provide reading materials
- Go over Etiquette, Customs & Gestures
- Appropriate Attire
- Travel Insurance (Good Idea)
Travel.state.gov

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)
Orientation

- Packing
- Respecting Customs/Traditions
- Buying gifts/spending
- Basic Phrases to learn/know
- Identification Badge
- Staying in Touch with loved ones
- Going over the itinerary
- Rules & Expectations
Orientation continued...

- Culture Shock
- Sample camp schedule (classes, daily schedule, activities/programs)
- School/Housing/Safety/Food
- Medication
- Fundraiser Activities
Turkish Culture Quiz – true or false

1. In Turkey, putting your thumb between your first two fingers is considered to be a rude and insulting gesture. (Fig gesture)
2. The US gesture of wagging the head to indicate “no” means “I don’t understand.”
Turkish Culture Quiz

3. It is very common in Turkey to see two men or women holding hands or arm in arm at walking on the street.
Turkish Culture Quiz

- 4. During a business meal in Turkey, it is customary to share the bill.
During the Trip

- Take Photos
- Designate 1 hour - Reflection
- Teachable moments
- Integrating language with culture (Make it real - interactive)
After the Trip

- Follow Up, Get together Party
- Have students share their travel logs, souvenirs
THANK YOU!
Questions?