

Announcing the 28th Student Delegation to Ometepe Island, Nicaragua Approximate Dates June 21 – July 5, 2017



High school students from Bainbridge Island and neighboring communities interested in person-to-person interaction with Bainbridge's sister island community in Nicaragua are invited to apply to join the 28th student delegation to Ometepe.

Bainbridge Ometepe Sister Islands Association (BOSIA) has been taking students to Nicaragua since 1990. The primary goal of these delegations is to encourage hands-on cultural experiences to build deeper relationships between our students and the people of Ometepe. Students develop new perspectives on global issues while learning to communicate in Spanish. Our past student delegates agree that this is an immensely powerful and unforgettable growth experience.

While on Ometepe, each delegate stays with a host family in one of four communities, with up to six students and at least one Spanish-speaking chaperone placed in each town. Host families are not paid; rather, the students and chaperones "give back" by working with local community members in their host town on a community project.

COST is approximately \$2000 per delegate. The cost covers all expenses, including airfare. Host families on Ometepe provide a bed and simple meals for the delegates at no charge. Students pay for their own "extras" and souvenirs. Delegates may apply to BOSIA for partial scholarships based on need. The scholarships are funded by community contributions to BOSIA through One Call for All.

INFORMATIONAL MEETING. You and your parents/guardians are invited to attend an informational meeting on **Wednesday, October 19th** from 7-8:30pm at **Eagle Harbor Congregational Church, 105 Winslow Way West.**

APPLICATION & DEPOSIT: to apply, complete these 3 steps **by Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2016:** (1) **Download** the application form at <http://bainbridgeometepe.org/delegate-resources> "Student Delegate Application", (2) **Email application** to applications@ometepe.net and (3) **send an initial deposit** of **\$250** (checks made out to BOSIA) to **BOSIA Student Delegation, PO Box 4484, Rolling Bay, WA 98061.**

INTERVIEWS ♦ FINAL PAYMENT ♦ SCHOLARSHIPS: Applicant interviews will be held the week of November 7th. Delegates will be informed of acceptance by November 12th. Checks will be returned to those not selected. Final payment for delegates will be due in March 2017. Applications for partial scholarships are due by December 15th. If you are interested in a scholarship, email cestjon@cmcfarland.com.

*** General Schedule ♦ All Meetings are Mandatory ***

October 19th, 2016, 7PM: Informational Meeting, Eagle Harbor Congregational Church, 105 Winslow Way West

November 2, 2016: Last date to submit applications (see 3 application steps above)

November 7, 2016: Interviews after school at BHS

November 13, 2016, 3-4:00PM: Meeting at BHS (or other location) of all selected delegates

December 2016: Town Group placement and first town meeting

January 2017 through June 2017 (details TBA):

- monthly meetings of Town Groups
- Medical Orientation with delegates, parents and guardians (January)
- History/Culture Orientation with delegates (Feb. or March)
- Student Auction & Dinner (with planning meetings leading up to the auction) (date & month TBD)
- Overnight Retreat that includes additional BOSIA/Nicaragua history, role plays, cultural sensitivity workshop, packing demo, community service project, cooking, games and team building (March/April)
- Packing Party to pack ~40 suitcases with aid donations and review packing for personal items (early June)

June 21 - July 5, 2017: Trip to Ometepe (*approx. dates subject to airline*)

July 12, 2017: post-trip potluck (*approx. date*)

September 2017: students and chaperones give a presentation to the BOSIA community about the trip