

PARENT OR STUDENT ORGANIZED TRIPS

Periodically, parents or students ask us about creating additional Winterim trips. Our response is that we would much prefer that families consider the broad range of opportunities that Wheaton Academy is already offering. Over the four years a student spends at Wheaton Academy, they will typically have the opportunity to choose from approximately 100 different classes, 25 trips and thousands of internship placement possibilities. Trips by nature involve the most planning and carry the most corresponding risk. By the time you hear about a Wheaton Academy-sponsored Winterim trip, it will have already been planned over a 6-month period with multiple checkpoints of approval by various experienced consultants.

Our Winterim trips of the past 15 years have taught us that trip planning and trip leadership is best done by mature adults who have used the planned transportation systems, previously visited the destinations, know the area and culture, are familiar with the emergency support systems of that area and who have experience traveling and leading a trip with a group of teenagers. In addition, because of the real risks inherent in travel these days, it is important that trip leaders have the necessary financial support and insurance that is often only available through an institution.

Consequently, Wheaton Academy does not approve Winterim trips that are not planned, coordinated and supervised by the school or an approved organization that specializes in student trips.

The only exception for those parents who want to “plan their own trip” is to have their student go through our Internship program. For instance, if individual students and their parents want each student to travel to Mexico and work in an orphanage with a family friend, each student would need to apply for, and get approved, an individual internship through the Internship Coordinator following the published internship schedule and requirements. In this situation, it is critically important for parents to realize that Wheaton Academy does not assume any responsibility for the inherent risks of traveling on this “trip internship” and will not be involved in the related planning issues, such as supervision, safety, collecting and distributing funds, insurance, emergency plans, etc. Parents remain fully responsible for the complete experience. Wheaton Academy will be responsible only for approving the internship and evaluating the work for academic credit.

Overall, we believe that the wide array of dynamic and exciting experiences laid out within the Winterim curriculum offer any teen multiple opportunities for exciting new experiences. While not everyone will get their first choice every year, our experience is that God truly uses Winterim to nurture growth in our students through new relationships, excellent experiences and opportunities to serve. If you have questions or concerns about trips, please contact Mr. McDonell.