

Participants: Robin Brooks, John Treat, Scott Pankratz, and Jennifer Rinio

Ecology Project International works in Mexico, Montana, Costa Rica, and Ecuador. We have an interest in developing collaborative and co-listed international programs alongside nature centers throughout the U.S.

Through collaboration, a U.S. based nature center can offer an international program without the resource allocation necessary to find transportation, program sites, cultural compatibility, and other aspects of international program development.

At the same time, this type of partnership can:

- engage high-school level participation
- offer an exciting new program that may increase interest in a local nature center
- produce students who return with inspiration and desire to get involved in local programs
- increase marketing and program awareness for both partners

In addition, an international collaboration may benefit and inspire:

- Cross-border initiatives for nature centers in southern states. (e.g. Amistad based in Oracle, AZ would like to develop a program to get their students involved in programs in Mexico).
- organizations who work in different countries but similar ecosystems

We discussed a few specific examples of possible partnerships:

Jennifer offered to outreach to Tuscon schools about EPI's programs, and introduce Amistad (based in Oracle) to EPI. John suggested that border industries (especially in the energy sector) may assist with funding for this type of programming.

Robin has an interest in motivating Wyoming students, especially native kids in science education and thought an international opportunity may be beneficial, especially for the gifted and talent students.

TSS works with the LEADS (Let Everyone Achieve Dreams) program for two weeks a year; this program may have an interest in participating in an international program to provide an additional aspect to current programming. She recommended speaking with John Haskin for more info on this program in particular.

More possibilities are likely to exist. Scott would like to continue this conversation with anyone who has that interest.

Thanks to all those who added to our discussion.