

# The *Eco League*

*Five Great Colleges ≈ One Important Mission*

## International Study Opportunities across the Eco League

### Northland College

Eco League students have the opportunity to travel international through Northland's arrangement with two organizations that focus on environmental stewardship and the development of community based conservation strategies. *Check the program websites for course dates.*

### ***The Center for Ecological Living and Learning***

ICELAND , COSTA RICA, NICARAGUA: The Center for Ecological Living and Learning (CELL) is a nonprofit educational organization inspiring students to bring creative, systemic solutions and environmental stewardship to their individual lives and leadership positions. Semester programs consist of a combination of structured course work, field-learning experiences, service-learning opportunities, and development of individual action plans for environmental stewardship. Our programs are interdisciplinary by design and fit any major or program of study. Students live with host families and/or in lodging run by community partners and have classes, lectures, field experiences, and service-learning opportunities in the region where their program is conducted. During the experiential-learning phases, students apply what they have learned in the classroom to real-life problems in the communities where they are studying.

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### **Iceland Program**

In Iceland CELL partners with **Solheimar**, an eco-village of about 100 people renowned for its international, artistic, and ecological atmosphere. Solheimar is the first self-sufficient community of its kind in the world, where people with special needs and those without live and work together in a community committed to environmental sustainability. Inspired by the theories of Rudolph Steiner, Solheimar focuses on cultivating the individual and the environment. It was the first community of its kind in Scandinavia to practice organic agriculture. For more information about the CELL Iceland Program, see:

<http://www.cellonline.org/programs/iceland-program/>



## Central America Program

**Nicaragua:** In Nicaragua one of CELL's partners is *Grupo Fenix* ([www.grupofenix.org](http://www.grupofenix.org)), a cooperative network of university-trained engineers and local community people who share a common passion for developing solar- and renewable-energy technologies and finding cost-effective ways to have these simple technologies utilized. Providing affordable and renewable electricity to rural villages helps to reduce the over-consumption of firewood which causes deforestation, the drying up of local rivers, serious erosion, and loss of top soil. The group also does a variety of service-learning projects during 11 days living at *Selva Negra* ([www.selvanegra.com](http://www.selvanegra.com)), a self sustaining coffee plantation nestled in the rainforest near Matagalpa.



**Honduras:** in Honduras Cell partners with *Heifer International* ([www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)) and *Sustainable Harvest International* ([www.sustainableharvest.org](http://www.sustainableharvest.org)) to visit demonstration project sites, students participate in service projects while living with local families, and go to see Mayan ruins and learn about the history, culture, and language of this beautiful country.



**Costa Rica:** In Costa Rica, CELL students spend time with two organizations: **Kekoldi** and **Asociacion ANAI**. With Kekoldi, a sustainable development organization located in the rainforest of the Talamanca region, the focus is on learning about the Bri Bri indigenous people and their commitment to conserving natural resources through community involvement ([www.kekoldi.org](http://www.kekoldi.org)). Asociacion ANAI, is a local sustainability organization which has pioneered some of the tropical world's most successful community-based, sustainable-development practices. Working hand-in-hand with

villagers in the Talamanca region, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, ANAI has been instrumental in implementing a regional initiative that is helping rural communities become more economically self-reliant through environmentally friendly activities. For example, they are working with community members in Gandoca, a coastal rainforest community to raise their standard of living by preserving rather than poaching endangered sea turtles ([www.anaicr.org](http://www.anaicr.org)).

For more information about CELL's Central America program, see: <http://www.cellonline.org/programs/central-america-program/>

## ***Round River Conservation Studies***

Round River Conservation Studies is an independent research, teaching, and community development organization. Round River believes landscapes are powerful educators and is dedicated to conservation strategies that preserve and restore wild places; to that end, they strive to develop and support traditions that sustain wildness. These efforts are anchored in the principles of conservation biology, supported by field research and community planning. While on a Round River program, students work with local people to develop community based conservation strategies in **Wyoming, Ecuador** and **Namibia**. For More information on Round River Conservation Studies, see: <http://www.roundriver.org/>

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**Wyoming - Wind River River Conservation Program:** Conservation efforts focus on utilizing the most current Landscape Analysis Survey tools for the monitoring of pine beetle outbreaks on whitebark pines, along with over 30 years of annual climate change studies on the alpine dwelling pika. Work in the Wind



River Mountain Range is about creating greater connectivity between the Winds and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem to increase the long-term health and conservation of biodiversity therein. Round River's efforts focus on working with community partners such as the Wind River Alliance, the Natural Resource Defense Council, and the Craighead Environmental Institute to further create an appropriate conservation effort in these local communities. **Courses Offered:** Conservation Biology, Introduction to Biological Field Methods, Natural History Methodology and Application.

**Ecuador:** Students are based in a field camp high in the cloud forests of the Mazar Watershed in Ecuador's Andes Mountains. In addition to fieldwork, lectures, discussions, students will participate in experiential learning walks with local researchers to learn about the region's ecological, archaeological, and agricultural history. **Courses Offered:** Conservation Biology, Introduction to Biological Field Methods, Natural History Methodology and Application, Humans and the Environment, Tropical Ecology and Conservation.

**Namibia:** Students spend their time conducting various types of research in the Kunene Region and come away with diverse perspectives of how conservation is done in local communities. The program is based out of a camp at Ewe Romuti. Wildlife is abundant throughout this area. This beautiful setting provides students with a comfortable spot to recuperate between field trips which can range from 3 to 14 days depending on the project, and usually involve a fair amount of driving between sites. Students sleep in heavy-duty canvas tents (provided) and cook on gas stoves or over a fire. Ew Romuti harnesses solar power to run small electronics and charge batteries. **Courses Offered:** Conservation Biology, Introduction to Biological Field Methods, Natural History Methodology and Application, Humans and the Environment, Wildlife Conservation Policy in Africa.

