

The Global Sustainability Project Fact Sheet 2026/27 School Year

Sponsor: The Picerne Family Foundation has created and is sponsoring the Global Sustainability Project (GSP) in collaboration with the Advanced Placement Program at San Clemente High School (SCHS) and Ecology Project International.

Objectives: (1) to broaden students' understanding of another culture; (2) to experience conservation and sustainability issues of another country; and (3) to make a direct contribution to solving local environmental sustainability issues.

Program: There are three aspects to the GSP program.

1. Expedition Preparation. In order to enrich the overseas experience and make it more meaningful, participants as a team will prepare a resource guide to the Caribbean Coast of Costa Rica. The guide will focus on the geography, climate, economy, history and culture of the area as well as the flora, felines and primates. Students will create an interactive electronic presentation on their research that they will present to Foundation members, parents and peers.
2. Overseas expedition. During the summer 2027, students will participate in a 9-day international research expedition conducted by Ecology Project International to study the felines and primates at the Pacuare Reserve in Costa Rica. This will be a SCHS student-only expedition accompanied by Ms. Finnerty. Students will depart for Costa Rica in July 2026.
3. Service. Prior to departure on the overseas research expedition, the student group is required to contribute 40 hours of meaningful volunteer work on a sustainability project, approved by Ms. Finnerty at a local conservancy, university or ecological nonprofit organization.

Eligibility: To participate, students must be a junior taking an Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate Course in any subject at SCHS and have a minimum overall 3.0 GPA.

Expenses: The Picerne Family Foundation will provide scholarships for up to 10 students that will cover airfare and the cost of the expedition. Students will be responsible for obtaining a passport, inoculations, emergency medical and evacuation insurance, gear and clothing for the expedition. Financial assistance will be available for students unable to meet all of these expenses.

Time Commitment: Students will:

- Meet after school and on weekends as needed with Ms. Finnerty. The meetings will be devoted to expedition preparation, research, and field trips.
- Volunteer 40 hours in 2026/27 working on a local sustainability project with an ecological nonprofit, conservancy or university that chosen by Ms. Finnerty.
- Journalize and document their volunteer project with photos, and present this experience to foundation members, parents, peers and community members upon the completion of the project.
- Complete and submit on time all required travel documents, inoculation requirements, passport application, etc. Students who fail to do so will be dropped from the program.

Application Process:

- Tue. Sept. 15, 2026, 6:00pm – Parent/Student Information Session, SCHS room # P36.
- Fri. Sept. 25, 2026, 4:00pm – Written Applications Due (*Late applications will not be accepted*).
- Fri. Oct. 9, 2026 – GSP Finalists Announced.
- Wed. Oct. 28, 2026 – Finalist Presentations/Interviews, SCHS room # P36. Students sign up for specific times with Ms. Finnerty.
- Sat. Oct. 31, 2026 – Announcement of GSP Participants
- Wed. Nov. 18, 2026, 6:00pm – Parent & Student Orientation Meeting, SCHS room # P36. Students and both parents are required to attend.