



LEAPYEAR 2010 INFORMATION & APPLICATION PACKET

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 Email: leapyear@leapnow.org Web: www.leapnow.org/leapyear (10/09/2009 revision)

Thank you for your interest in LEAPNOW’s 2010 LEAPYEAR Program. This full academic year is LEAPNOW’s longest, most challenging and personalized program. LEAPYEAR students (ages 17 to 22) gain the experiences and teachings needed to make a graceful and powerful transition into creative, independent adulthood – while having a year of college that is developmentally relevant, transformative, and above all, “real.”

LEAPYEAR includes a 10-week experiential group semester of language, service and cultural immersion in South America or India, a three-month solo internship of your own choosing, career and job-readiness counseling, formal and informal rites of passage, and a full curriculum of vital Life Skills - a full palette of physical, mental, social, spiritual and cultural challenges. Because we have packed so much into the program, it resists easy categorization - so please read through this packet patiently, so you can get a complete sense of this integrated approach to learning.

Growing and transforming oneself is hard work! LEAPYEAR is designed to be a place for you to do the work of maturing and evolving. For this to be effective, the program has to push and challenge you. We are looking for people who are very serious about transforming themselves and who have enough self-awareness that they are hungry for more. **This is not a program that can be done passively!** LEAPYEAR is NOT meant to be done as therapy, or for those in spiritual crisis, or for those under the grip of an active addiction, even tobacco. It is for those who want to gain deeper levels of self-awareness, language fluency, emotional literacy, and broad international experience. We look forward to receiving your application, and accompanying you on a transformative journey!
 Enthusiastically yours!

LEAPYEAR Faculty:

Sam Bull 

Cassie Bull 

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LEAPYEAR 2010: PROGRAM OVERVIEW & CALENDAR

LEAPYEAR 16 – PEGASUS Group

FALL 2010

Sept 7 – Sept 15, 2010

Sept 16 – Nov 28, 2010

Nov 29 – Dec 7, 2010

Dec 8, 2010 – Jan 18, 2011

Retreat #1

Group Travel (India or S. America)

Retreat #2

Home – The Curriculum Continues

SPRING 2011:

Jan 19 - Feb 10, 2011

Feb 5 and 6, 2011

Feb 11 – May 1, 2011

May 2 - May 14, 2011

Retreat #3

Rite of Passage with Parents

Individual Internship

Final Retreat



GROUP SEMESTER: There will be one LEAPYEAR program group during the 2010/2011 academic year, consisting of a maximum of 32 students who journey together throughout the year. During the fall semester the group separates into three smaller traveling groups with a maximum of 12 students and two adult leaders. Two groups will travel to India (North & South) and one group will travel in South America.



While traveling abroad, LEAPYEAR students stay at homestays and local guesthouses, and live as the locals do. This is generally simple, but not primitive – most of the time we have a bed to sleep in and running water. Food is basic, and the primary challenges are culture shock, cold, heat, fellow group members, staying healthy, rain and bugs.

India Group Travel: Study Hindi language while doing internships and exploring the traditional arts in Varanasi. Sit a one-week Buddhist meditation course in Bodhgaya or Dharamsala and do a Hatha yoga course near the source of the Ganges. Live and work in orphanages in Rishikesh and Varanasi. Visit the Taj Mahal, Golden Temple and do a 4-day trek in the Himalayas. Directly experience the Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim and Sikh religions.

South America: Argentina, Bolivia & Peru: We will travel by bus, horseback and foot as we follow the ancient Inca trail starting in northern Argentina, traveling through Bolivia and on into Peru, culminating in a trek through the Sacred Valley to Machu Picchu. Along the way we will complete a total of four weeks of language immersion with homestays and internships – two weeks in Argentina, and two in Bolivia. Complete a week-long contemplative retreat on the world's highest lake - Lake Titicaca - between Bolivia & Peru. Work with native groups in Bolivia learning traditional building and agriculture. Work with environmental activists and meet with youth groups in northern Argentina.

RETREATS: These are 8 weeks at LEAPNOW's campus in northern California. These weeks are the backbone of the program and the foundation for all exploration. The focus is on working with peers to learn vital skills for living, undergoing rites of passage, enhancing emotional literacy, building supportive community, and receiving orientation about group and individual travel. Each day includes at least one hour of a physical discipline (yoga, movement, dance), 3-4 hours of physical work, free time, and 3-6 hours of the living skills curriculum. See the Curriculum Outline for details.

RITE OF PASSAGE CEREMONY: The retreat weeks after winter break culminate in a dramatic rite of passage into adulthood. One or both parents join the participants for two days to give their son or daughter their blessings while consciously letting them go into adulthood. In the words of author Rachael Kessler, a rite of passage is a “*structured process guided by adults in which young people are helped to become conscious about the irrevocable transition they’re in, given tools for making transitions and separations, initiated into the new capacities required for their next step, and acknowledged by the community of adults, as well as their peers, for their courage and strength in taking that step.*” Participants prepare for the rite of passage during the retreat month prior to the rite of passage. Without a rite of passage, it is difficult to know when and how we step into adulthood. This is one of the most inspiring and transformative parts of the program.

SOLO INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP (12 weeks): Following the rite of passage, participants travel on their own to do an internship, volunteer work, or study in a country of their choice. This builds on the semester group travel, and allows for tailored career or other exploration and language acquisition. Participants work with our internship specialists to use LEAPNOW's database of 6,000+ options to find a fitting internship. Traveling solo to another country and working in a new situation is, in itself, a significant rite of passage – and it follows naturally three days after the rite of passage ceremony. Past program participants have chosen to: work in orphanages in India, study art in Cuba, rescue baboons in South Africa, learn permaculture in Spain, study kung fu & Chinese in China, teach at a school in Patagonia, work with midwives in Bali, provide basic services to street children in Guatemala, and much more.

ACADEMIC CREDIT: All LEAPYEAR participants are enrolled as full-time students for the academic year and earn 36 quarter credits from Antioch University Seattle. Antioch University Seattle is accredited through the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges (NCA). Antioch College started in the 1850's and has been one of the most visible academic innovators among U.S. colleges over the past two centuries. LEAPYEAR students earn lower-division credits - the equivalent of the first or second year of an undergraduate program. Past participants have transferred credits earned during LEAPYEAR to U.Mass-Amherst, Wesleyan, Hampshire College, University of Vermont, Bennington College, Reed, Smith College, Southern Oregon U., U. of Michigan, Naropa University, Long Island University, Evergreen State, Warren Wilson College, and many others. Each year 1-2 students use LEAPYEAR to complete high school.

1 YEAR OF ONGOING SUPPORT & RESOURCES: The final retreat weeks are devoted to making transitions effectively, exploring the job market, re-entry to the larger world, endings, and program closure. After the formal program ends in late spring, participants have access to a full year of life path counseling, the database of internships in the U.S. and abroad, and LEAPYEAR reunions that are held each June after the program is done.

When historians look back on our century, they may remember it most, not for space travel or the release of nuclear energy, but as a time when the peoples of the world first came to take one another seriously. The change that this new situation requires of us all - we who have been suddenly catapulted from town and country onto a world stage - is staggering. Twenty-five hundred years ago it took an exceptional man like Diogenes to exclaim, "I am not an Athenian or a Greek but a citizen of the world." Today we must all be struggling to make those words our own. We have come to the point in history when anyone who is only Japanese or American, only Oriental or Occidental, in only half human. The other half that beats with the pulse of all humanity has yet to be born.

Huston Smith

LEAPNOW reserves the right to make changes to any program in order to provide the best possible experience, safeguard participants or respond to changing political or climatic conditions.

GUIDING PHILOSOPHY

The LEAPYEAR program represents our creative response to needs that we see in the world. The following are some of the assumptions and beliefs that direct our efforts and the philosophies that inform our work. We print them here to make them transparent, and to help you determine whether WE fit YOU:

Between the ages of 17 & 22 young adults are faced with 3 big and potentially difficult transitions: high school to college, family to independence, and adolescence into adulthood. Fundamental questions about identity arise with a sense of urgency, with a strong need to know. If we take some time to wrestle with these questions and find answers, we can lay a better foundation for our life – basing it on integrity, fulfillment, personal evolution, and creativity.

A better alternative to sixteen uninterrupted years in the classroom is to take time for exploration - real exploration and challenge that leads to life experience, perspective, and the beginnings of wisdom - time to engage the world in a genuine way reflecting our individual interests - rather than continuing in a contrived learning situation. There may be no better time of life to explore our inner and outer worlds.

We believe that there are many paths to the same mountaintop – that there is a commonality of human experience, and as many ways to express it as there are human beings. We welcome all spiritual traditions – and prefer traditions and philosophies that allow one to remain open to the validity of the experiences of others.

“The unexamined life is not worth living.” We feel that life works better when get to know ourselves better – our minds, our bodies, our feelings, our relationship to the sacred, our energetic being, our social awareness.

“Education either functions as an instrument which is used to facilitate the integration of the younger generation into the logic of the present system and bring about conformity to it, or it becomes the practice of freedom – the means by which men and women deal critically and creatively with reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of the world.” Paulo Freire

Our path is easier with help – from mentors, from a conscious community of peers, from new experiences and from a learning environment with high expectations. Our path is much easier if we walk it with a sense of hope.

We are multi-dimensional beings – much larger and deeper than our bodies and personalities. The journey into adulthood makes much more sense if we can broaden the context of our inquiry.

Life is glorious and to be enjoyed.

We see a world that is getting faster, less personal, more electronic, less private. The work of human maturation and deepening tends to be slow, inward, more personal, and may require time when we aren’t accessible to others. To help our students deepen, there are regular times during the program that we restrict the use of electronic media, cell phones, the Internet, tuning out through “tunes.” We believe that this can help an individual hear a quiet, guiding, inner voice, and also help open us up to the vertical dimension of life – its depth.

We believe that a person has most everything that they need for happiness within themselves – that “we are the ones we’ve been waiting for.” To this end, and also in order to safeguard our students’ safety and well-being, each participant and trip leader puts aside drugs, alcohol and tobacco for the duration of the program. LEAPYEAR is about increasing awareness and gaining clarity - we feel this is best served by putting these substances aside for the year.

We think that it is important to learn to live peacefully in community and learn to serve the greater community.

We assume that travel into unknown inner or outer terrain is often uncomfortable – this can be confusing, disorienting and scary, as well as expansive and exhilarating. It is also one of the most valuable and satisfying things we can do. We assume that LEAPYEAR participants want to know who they are, and are willing to go into their unknown to get there. We assume that they will be willing to undergo a certain discipline to help them evolve.

We assume that our students will be willing to leave friends, family and their known environment to undertake a quest into a larger sense of self, and a larger world.

As a program we take a stand for integrity, for decency, for peace, for bringing light into the world, for living without compromise.

LOGISTICS

LEAPYEAR REQUIREMENTS: Minimum age is 17 by the start of program. Maximum age is 22. Participants must have completed up to the junior year of high school, and be able to attend the full program. To do the program for college credit you must have completed high school. **We don't accept tobacco smokers, or anyone actively in the grip of an addiction.** Anyone in reasonable physical condition should be able to complete the program successfully. A vegetarian/restricted diet can be maintained throughout the year.

APPLICATION & ADMISSIONS: Interested applicants must send LEAPNOW a fully completed application and must have an in-person interview with a LEAPNOW staff member. Once an application is received, we contact the applicant to arrange the interview. We meet with prospective students on an ongoing basis at our office in northern California, and also schedule periodic interviews on the East Coast. There is no application deadline – we accept people until the program is full – then create a waiting list.

Once accepted into a program, participants receive a detailed trip preparation packet. This packet, together with a regularly-updated LEAPYEAR web page, covers program details, transportation, gear & equipment, health & immunization info, communication during the program, climate & living conditions, college credit and financial aid, detailed trip itinerary with contact info, required documents & paperwork, financial details & tuition agreement. Upon acceptance, participants must to choose between group travel to India OR South America.

GROUP SIZE: One program, with a maximum of 32 students. The group splits into three smaller groups of 10-11 with 2 adult leaders to travel in India & South America. Student: Staff ratio on retreats in the U.S. is 3:1, and 6:1 when traveling.

HEALTH, SAFETY AND COMMUNICATION: The safety and well-being of our students is our first priority. LEAPNOW has safely sent over 1,400 students all over the world during the past decade. The current world situation raises questions for our students, their families and friends, and it is very important that you feel confident and secure as you embark on a program involving international study and travel. We constantly monitor the world situation through the U.S. State Department, and through a network of individual and organizational contacts in 33 countries that function as our eyes and ears on the ground. We design and modify our group semesters to avoid hot spots, health risks & political trouble, and the spring internships are arranged with safety as a primary consideration.

Our group leaders are experienced both as travelers and leaders, and each group of students travels with two leaders to insure that any individual emergencies can be given the attention needed for resolution. During the spring internship period, each individual stays in close contact with their group and with the LEAPYEAR program staff, and relates on a daily basis to an in-country sponsor who is directly responsive to their needs.

LEAPYEAR starts with a 8-9 day retreat in the U.S. before any travel commences – allowing us to give very comprehensive orientation, get a good sense of each of the participants, and lay down a foundation for healthy group dynamics before leaving the country. Throughout our travels, participants have ready access to medical attention, potable water, clear information about health risks, and in-country orientation about each new place we visit. The program is designed to move from more structure to less over the course of the year – allowing each participant to learn and practice safe traveling skills before striking off individually in the spring.

COST: The cost for LEAPYEAR is \$31,900 and includes all scheduled program activities, food and accommodation during the program, one full year of college credit, and one additional year of internship placements and access to LEAPNOW resources. **State and Federal financial aid is available because program participants are full-time college students.** Private scholarship money is available to LEAPYEAR participants. Not included in the program fee is the cost of round-trip transportation to northern California during the program, personal medical insurance and spending money, and the two international round-trip airfares (one to Latin America or Asia for the first semester, and the other elsewhere in the world for the internship.) Each participant's family signs a payment agreement that spaces payments out over the first five months of the program. The cost of LEAPYEAR is comparable to many mid-range private colleges – even though our classrooms and activities are held abroad.

IS LEAPYEAR FOR ME?

LEAPYEAR is FOR ME if ...

- I'm between 17 and 24 and feel a "call" to service, exploration and personal transformation
- I'm willing to deal with culture shock, new & challenging situations, and primitive living conditions.
- I'm also enthusiastic about making a journey into my own unknown inner terrain.
- I'm willing to explore my thoughts and feelings in depth and learn about my shadow and my negative feelings.
- I'm motivated to find out what I'm made of, and to find renewed sources of meaning
- I look forward to being challenged to grow in many new and different ways.
- I'm willing to abstain from using drugs, alcohol & tobacco for the duration of the program (9 months).
- I REALLY want to do this program for MY OWN reasons.
- I'm willing to do hard work, and be uncomfortable in order to learn more about myself.
- I'm willing to be part of an intense and honest group.
- I'm very interested in learning to embrace mature and responsible adulthood.
- I'm very interested in learning to live in integrity and willing to be held to a high standard of personal accountability.

LEAPYEAR is NOT FOR ME if ...

- I'm looking for a vacation, a party, or a chance to "hang out."
- I think that LEAPYEAR is just a good chance to travel & get college credit
- I only want to do it because **someone else** thinks it's a really good idea for me.
- I only stick with something until I become bored or uncomfortable or judge it as "a waste of time."
- I regularly use drugs, alcohol or tobacco or am in the grip of an active addiction.
- I need therapy for a serious psychological condition.
- I know what I know, and I don't want anyone else to tell me different.
- I'm not willing to be away from my boyfriend/girlfriend, friends and family for four months at a time.
- I like parts of the program, but other parts don't really work for me.
- I don't want anybody telling me what to do with my time.

ACADEMIC COURSEWORK

All LEAPYEAR students earn 36 quarter hours of credit through enrollment as BA students at Antioch University Seattle. To earn college credit you must have completed high school by the start date of their desired program. (It is possible to use LEAPYEAR to complete your final year of high school.) Everything that is studied and learned within LEAPYEAR is directly relevant to the program activities. Daily writing, public speaking, and group presentations are an integral part of the curriculum.

Fall Quarter: India Program

(12 quarter credit hours)

SOC 330: Cultural Immersion-India: Ten weeks of travel, homestays, internships, service work, and spiritual study in India. Required ethnology projects, and independent study. Daily reading and writing. 6 credits

SPIR 390: Religions of India: Study Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and Sikhism in India. Learn spiritual practices and live in intentional communities with focus on Hatha Yoga, Karma Yoga & Meditation. 4 credits

SPIR 390 Introduction to Contemplative Practice and Conscious Community 2 credits

Fall Quarter: South America (12 quarter credit hours)
SPAN 310: Spanish Language: A month of 1-on-1 Spanish language study in Argentina & Bolivia. 6 credits
SOC 335: Cultural Immersion-South America: Readings, ethnology projects, and independent projects relating to the South American countries we live and work in – Argentina, Bolivia & Peru. 4 credits
SPIR 390: Introduction to Contemplative Practice and Conscious Community 2 credits

Winter Quarter: (both India & South America) (12 quarter credit hours)
SOC 345: The Whole Human Being: Daily journal writing, introduction to meditation, yoga, and other introspective practices. Focus on the integration of mind, body, emotion & spirit. 8 credits
SOC 390: Ethnology Research Seminar I: Research completed during the winter quarter to deepen the experience of the Spring Quarter Internship) 4 credits

Spring Quarter: (both groups) (12 quarter credit hours)
EXP 390: Using the World as a Classroom: 12-week internship in a country of your choice. Work is augmented by readings, ethnology projects, daily reading and writing. 6 credits
SOJ 350: Being the Change: Learn the skills needed to live in integrity, develop emotional literacy, make graceful life transitions, learn to be at home in your own body. 4 credits
SOC 390: Ethnology Research Seminar II: Research carried out during the internship. 2 credits

LIVING SKILLS CURRICULUM & EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Beyond the academic coursework for college credit, you can expect to learn much more in the following areas:

Personal Life Map: Comprehensive Life Review ❖ Exploration of Core Values ❖ Identify Life Goals ❖ Rites of Passage & Life Transitions ❖ Identify and Overcome Personal Barriers to Success

Explore the World of Work: Acquire Practical Skills: Cooking/Baking, Gardening/Landscaping, Carpentry ❖ Work Experience in Construction, Environmental Work, Social Service ❖ Internship - career exploration through a 3-month personalized internship ❖ Job Readiness Skills: Resume, Public Presentations ❖ Career Path Exploration ❖ How to navigate college & Alternative College Pathways

Cross-Cultural Exploration: 1 month of intensive Spanish study ❖ 3 months of Spanish practice, homestays, service work OR Intensive exposure to the language, religions, culture and people of Asia ❖ Live & work in different countries for 6 months ❖ Explore, identify and question our own cultural assumptions

Cultivation of the Body: Daily work outdoors ❖ The basics of nutrition ❖ Daily physical discipline (yoga, dance, movement, tai chi) ❖ Breathwork ❖ Meet physical challenges such as scuba diving, trekking and physical labor ❖ Learn how to remain grounded in your body under stress

Cultivation of the Mind: Regular writing & journaling ❖ Meditation ❖ Self- Inquiry ❖ Learn new skills, then teach others ❖ Group presentations & storytelling ❖ Required readings throughout the year ❖ Learn effective teaching & presentation techniques ❖ Develop mental discipline through understanding emotions, practicing meditation and daily physical discipline, and through meeting inner & outer challenges.

Develop Emotional Literacy: Learn to identify and presence emotions ❖ Locate feelings in the body ❖ Learn to constructively “move” and work with sadness, anger, fear and excitement.

Social Skill Acquisition: Communication – Conscious Speech, Conscious Listening ❖ Conflict Resolution ❖ Working together ❖ Care and Feeding of Community ❖ Embracing Differences ❖ Balancing Group & Individual Needs ❖ Learn to live in a high state of Integrity

Expected Outcomes:

A Full Year of College Credit. Successful completion earns the student 36 quarter hours of academic credit.

Language fluency and in-depth understanding of and exposure to a culture and region. Participants will get to know India or South America well, then have an opportunity to learn about another region in the Spring. In the process they have two major opportunities to gain functional language fluency.

Wisdom, Maturity, and Experience: Beyond their intrinsic value, these outcomes are exactly what colleges are looking for in new applicants. Participants generally become seasoned world travelers.

Enhanced Job Readiness & Career Direction: Participants will attend regular presentations from adult mentors representing diverse walks of life. They will do intensive work focused on identifying life purpose. The 12-week spring internship allows for in-depth and practical career exploration. The program incorporates regular creative writing, regular oral presentations, mock interviews, and resume writing.

Radically Enhanced Emotional Literacy & Social Skills – Emotional literacy has been found to be a greater predictor of success than IQ and is not directly addressed in traditional education. Communication and relationship skills development also support greater success both personally and professionally.

Self-Confidence: The program encompasses so many diverse experiences, work environments, skills, and challenges, that self-confidence is greatly enhanced – a confidence based on meeting real world challenges in real time.

Physical Fitness: Through daily exercise, physical work and healthy eating.

LEAPYEAR FACULTY BIOS:

Cassie Bull directs all LEAPNOW retreats, oversees the campus kitchen and is LEAPNOW's artist-in-residence. After earning a BFA from Wichita State U., Cassie had a full career as a professional dancer, choreographer and teacher in Colorado and New York. Discovering that more was happening in her dance classes than just learning to dance, Cassie earned a Masters in Somatic Psychology in 1988 and worked in psychiatric hospitals, bringing her love of movement and creativity to the mentally ill. As a therapeutic activities program director in a psychiatric hospital in New York, she developed a horticulture program, a dance/yoga program, and a cooking program for adolescent and adult addicts as well as leading movement therapy groups for the residents at the psychiatric hospital. During this time Cassie received her ADTR (Advanced Registry, Dance Therapist) and Certification in Authentic Movement. She subsequently directed the Somatic Psychology Dept. at Naropa University in Boulder, Colorado - training dance therapists and body-centered psychotherapists. She is deeply interested in the confluence of movement, passion and creativity and is an affiliate faculty member at Antioch University Seattle.

Sam Bull founded LEAPNOW in 1994 and created LEAPYEAR in 2001. After earning a degree in geology from Princeton University in 1982, he made a decision not to use the word "career" until he was at least 30, choosing instead to follow the "golden thread" of whatever he most wanted to do. This resulted in 9 years of exploration in the U.S., Asia, Central America and Europe. Some of the highlights included: Extensive study in Hindu and Carmelite(Catholic) monasteries in India and the U.S.; work as a carpenter, waiter, computer consultant, folk music restaurant manager, park ranger, lobster fisherman, and trail crew leader in California and Alaska. He has coordinated a program for the homeless in Seattle, directed a job-training program for youth-at-risk (the New Hampshire Conservation Corps), and was the Career Services Director and International Student Advisor at a university in Colorado. He is a Senior Fellow of the Hendricks Institute of Ojai, California and is certified in Conscious Relationship Transformation and Body-Centered Transformation through the Institute. Sam is also an affiliate faculty member at Antioch University Seattle.

Our core faculty are regularly joined by guest teachers for 1-2 day intensives on creative writing, yoga, shamanic journeying, Native American ceremonies, Sufi and Druidic teachings and more. Guest teachers have included Sandra Ingerman, Kathlyn Hendricks, Mark Saito, Michael Eller, Shabda Kahn, Susan Mayginnes and others.

LEAPYEAR Group Travel in India & Latin America is led by past LEAPNOW 3-month group leaders, former Peace Corps or AmeriCorps volunteers – people with a proven track record of success leading groups in Latin America and India. Specific leader names and bios are posted in the specific group web pages 2-3 months prior to the start of each program.

QUOTES & FEEDBACK:

...LEAPYEAR so far has been the most meaningful year of my life. I have learned more and grown more in this time than I ever thought imaginable...certainly more than my year in university or in all 4 years of high school put together. From LEAPYEAR I have gained a powerful foundation for a life of growth, meaning, clarity, and integrity. With the tools LEAPYEAR has given me, I discover more each day what it means to live a life of learning, loving and ever-returning to myself and my path.

Kirsten - LEAPYEAR participant

"Many thanks for your gift of commitment to growth. Our family will never be the same. Your gift will give and give, again and again."

Parents of a LEAPYEAR student

Hardly a day goes by when I don't think about Isaac and the profoundly amazing year that he had with LEAPYEAR. I have been meaning to write a letter to you and all the staff, thanking you for all the opportunities that you provided. Your program is like walking down a hall with a thousand doors beckoning to be opened. I think it is hardest to write a thank you for the most profound things. If I had to say, "Thank you for the delicious meal," that would be easy. But LEAPNOW offers such a multifaceted program that touches so many parts of a person's heart and soul, that I honestly wouldn't know where to begin. It is ironic that I am a writer, but you have me stumped! Just know that you are in my heart, both for what you did for Isaac, but what you also did for Michael and me. Your ceremony last February was meaningful beyond words.

Mother whose son did the 2005/06 Central America Program

We heard from Mike this morning from the baboon compound. I could hear the sounds of the newest batch of baby baboons in the background. He tells me there is a troop of wild warthogs who graze on the compound garbage, but, gratefully, are shy of people and back away when you walk by slowly. So exciting to hear of such wonders and that he is safe and occupied in yet another incredible spot on our planet earth.

LEAPYEAR parent

OTHER LEAPNOW PROGRAMS

Deeper Waters: This three-and-a-half-month Spring or Fall semester program brings together 3 intensive inner-directed residential retreats at the LEAPNOW campus, with a major internship chosen from 6,000+ that are available throughout the world. The program is open to anyone over the age of 18 at the very reasonable cost of \$7,900. Deeper Waters semesters can be attended back-to-back or combined with individual internships to tailor an amazing year of learning. Like LEAPYEAR, this is an example of "live education" where the individual's life purpose is the context for living and learning. Academic credit is available to Deeper Waters students.

One Revolution: Each Spring and Fall, LEAPNOW offers One Revolution, an exciting 5-month program that takes participants on a full revolution around the Earth. One Revolution participants travel as a group with two leaders to Guatemala, India & Uganda. They do 5-6 week individual internships with homestays in each country, immerse themselves in Spanish in Guatemala, take part in 3 retreats for orientation, context and grounding, and are supported by 2 experienced leaders. College credit is available. The program costs \$12,900, is a condensed alternative to LEAPYEAR, and it can be followed by another individual internship (see below) in a country of your choice or by the Deeper Waters program to form an unforgettable and transformative gap year program.

Individual Internships: LEAPNOW offers individual internships of variable duration in 126 countries for people of all ages. These are generally for three months or more, and include teaching, work with wildlife, environmental work, outdoor education, sustainable living, construction, medical and public health work, arts and crafts internships and apprenticeships, work on boats, work in orphanages and with street kids. Find out more about specific internships at www.leapnow.org/internships.

IMPORTANT: *If you find that your interests don't fit within any of these offerings, we are happy to refer you to one of myriad other programs that are available to you. LEAPNOW has a close partnership with Carpe Diem International Education (www.carpediemeducation.org) which runs 3-month group semester programs in Central America, South America, East Africa, Southeast Asia, India and Australia/New Zealand/Fiji. Carpe Diem also partners with LEAPNOW to offer the LATITUDES program which is similar to our LEAPYEAR program in that it combines college credit with a group semester and solo internship – but without the inner-journey retreats. Any of their six group semesters can be combined with an internship and college credit within the Latitudes program. Visit the LEAPNOW and Carpe Diem websites for more information about these alternatives.*



LEAPNOW
Transforming Education

**Please attach
a recent photo of yourself
here - any size will do.**

**Your application is not
complete
if the photo is missing.**

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Please fill out this application thoroughly and thoughtfully. This application, an in-person interview, and reference checks will be the way we determine your fit for the program. We expect honest and detailed responses to these questions. We strive to keep the application process simple. We will call you for the interview after we have received your complete application packet. We will make a decision within a week after the interview.

Please complete and mail or fax us everything that says "Application Packet" on it to:

LEAPNOW: LEAPYEAR Program
11640 Highway 128, Calistoga, CA 94515 USA
Phone: 707-431-7265 Fax: 707-431-8479

PERSONAL & CONTACT INFORMATION:

Your Name (as it appears in your passport) _____

Name You Like To Be Called _____

I am applying for the 2010 LEAPYEAR program in: *(check one)* _____ India _____ South America

Passport # _____ Expiration Date _____ Place of issue _____

Date of Birth _____ Social Security # _____

Address (current) _____

Address (permanent, if different) _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____

Fax _____ E-mail _____

Let us know the best method, _____
time of day, & number to contact you: _____

For office use only:
_____ Date Received _____ Logged By _____ App Fee Received

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Father's Name _____

Address _____

Home phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Fax _____ E-mail _____

Mother's Name _____

Address _____

Home phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Fax _____ E-mail _____

Emergency Contact: (If not your parents, whom should we contact in case of an Emergency?)

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

How did you hear about LEAPYEAR?: _____

Are you planning to apply for financial aid? (circle one) Yes No

Educational Background:

High School: _____ Location: _____ Graduation Date: _____

G.E.D. _____ State: _____ Date Earned: _____

Colleges and Universities Attended: List all college and universities attended starting with most recent first:

<i>Name of Institution</i>	<i>City/State</i>	<i>Dates Attended</i>	<i>Credits Earned/Degree Awarded</i>

On a separate sheet of paper, please fully answer the following questions. (Please don't give us one word or one-sentence answers if you expect us to take your application seriously.)

1. What is your inspiration for doing LEAPYEAR? What do you hope to gain from taking part?
2. Detail the kinds of community/group experiences you have had. Why do you want to do a group-oriented program? What has been your greatest challenge in the past in relating to others and to groups?
3. Please write a three-paragraph introduction of yourself that could be read to your new LEAPYEAR group. Feel free to introduce yourself in a way that is creative and that will give them a clear sense of your essence.
4. What single event or experience of your life had the most positive impact on your life? In what way?
5. What do you worry about?
6. Drugs, alcohol and tobacco are big problems for many people - please describe your relationship with each one. Are you willing to completely abstain from these substances during the entire duration of LEAPYEAR?

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LEAPYEAR PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS & RULES:

For any group of human beings to thrive while living together, basic guidelines of behavior and expectation are needed. The following are the basic non-negotiable rules that govern our community, and that you will have to embrace if you want to be part of it.

1. LEAPYEAR is for those who are willing to challenge themselves physically, culturally and socially. If you are willing to work hard, take on challenges, and make a difference, this is a program for you. **If you are looking for a vacation, trip or party, please look elsewhere!**
2. We expect all group members to treat one another with basic respect and consideration. LEAPYEAR staff will help group members work through any issues or conflicts that arise during the program.
3. In general, the following behaviors are out-of-bounds, and if you engage in these behaviors and are unable to make positive changes after receiving feedback, you will be asked to leave the LEAPYEAR program: If you engage in behavior that puts **the program** at risk; If you engage in behavior that puts **another group member or leader's** health, safety, or well-being at risk; If you put **your own** health, safety or well-being at risk; or, If your behavior is negatively impacting someone else's experience.
4. The program is a DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE ZONE. Any drug or alcohol use, purchase or possession will result in immediate termination from the program and invokes our Second Chance Policy. This includes abuse of prescription medication as well as use of tobacco. If you bring drugs or alcohol at the start of the program, the Second Chance Policy will not be available to you.
5. If you create a “mess” during the program, it will be your responsibility to make amends within 48 hours. This must be done without the prompting of the group leaders. A “mess” can be a physical mess, a problem for another group member, host family, leader or program sponsor, or other problem that an adult would clear and clean up – to restore harmony and make amends.
6. The following are not tolerated during the program: unwanted sexual advances, verbal abuse, physical violence, property damage, or theft. If not rectified immediately, each of these may result in the termination of participation in LEAPYEAR.
7. As a general rule, participants are expected to act responsibly. The program leaders are not babysitters or parental surrogates. Their first priorities are your safety, and the viability of the program.
8. Women need to use more discretion about behavior and dress while traveling abroad than they do in the United States. It is vital to your health and safety that you stay within guidelines given during orientations. If a group member is unable to do so, and is endangering herself, she may be sent home.

Second Chance Policy: Since LEAPYEAR is a long program, and people make mistakes, there is a way to re-enter the program if you have stepped out-of-bounds and have been asked to leave. We want each participant to complete and benefit from the entire program. Mis-steps are to be expected – learning from them is optional and is up to you. If you are asked to leave the Group Semester in South America or Asia, you forfeit the rest of the abroad portion of the First Semester, and must complete the re-entry process in order to re-join the program during the 2nd retreat week. If you are asked to leave during a retreat portion of the program, you must depart and begin the re-entry process. The Second Chance policy is at the discretion of LEAPYEAR staff and may not be available in instances where our staff consider the risks of re-entry too great for the participant or the program.

The Re-entry Process: To be considered for re-entry to the program, you must leave and complete 120 hours of volunteer service work with an organization that you and the LEAPYEAR staff agree upon together. During this time, you must check in with a LEAPYEAR staff member each week, and receive a satisfactory report from the volunteer agency about your attendance, attitude, and hours worked. You will also have to do a re-entry interview with a LEAPYEAR staff member, create a strategy and support system for not making the same mistake again, and make up coursework that the rest of the group has done. Re-entry is at the discretion of LEAPYEAR staff.

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MEDICAL & HEALTH DISCLOSURE:

Please answer the following questions by circling YES or NO. *If you answer yes to any of them, please add another page to describe the situation or condition at greater length.* We reserve the right to request further information and to speak with doctors, counselors, etc. All medical information and personal disclosure will be kept strictly confidential.

1. Have you ever been asked to leave a school or previous program? _____ YES NO
2. Do you have any physical, psychological or chronic condition that limits your participation in any physical activities? _____ YES NO
3. Have you been treated for a psychological condition in the past 3 years? _____ YES NO
4. Do you take prescription medications for any health or psychological conditions? _____ YES NO
5. Have you been or are you currently being treated for substance abuse? _____ YES NO
6. Do you now or have you ever smoked or used chewing tobacco? _____ YES NO
7. Do you have any special dietary needs or restrictions? _____ YES NO
8. Have you used alcohol during the past 12 months? _____ YES NO
9. Have you used drugs during the past two years? _____ YES NO
10. Have you committed a crime within the past 3 years? _____ YES NO
11. Have you been hospitalized in the past 5 years? _____ YES NO
12. Are you UNable to swim? _____ YES NO
13. Do you have or have you ever had any of the following?
 - Allergies? _____ YES NO
 - Learning Disability? _____ YES NO
 - ADD or ADHD? _____ YES NO
 - Epilepsy? _____ YES NO
 - Diabetes? _____ YES NO
 - Asthma? _____ YES NO
 - Heart or Lung Disease? _____ YES NO
 - Hepatitis or Jaundice? _____ YES NO
 - Intestinal Problems? _____ YES NO
 - Foot, Leg, Back Problems? _____ YES NO
 - Motion Sickness? _____ YES NO
 - Eating Disorder? _____ YES NO
 - Clinical Depression? _____ YES NO

*****REMINDER: If you answer yes to any of the questions, please add another page to describe the situation or condition at greater length.*****

I take full responsibility for my medical, psychological and physical condition for the duration of the LEAPYEAR 2010. I am unaware of any further medical, psychological and physical problems that might inhibit my ability to successfully complete the program. Should any problems arise during the course of the program, I will promptly notify a LEAPYEAR staff member. I have read and understand the Program Expectations and Rules set forth on the previous page. I understand that if I withhold or misrepresent vital information from my past, I may be asked to leave the program.

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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PARENTS:

I have reviewed my son or daughters LEAPYEAR application, have read and understood the LEAPYEAR Program Expectations and Rules set forth above, and have reviewed my son/daughters Medical & Health Disclosure. I am unaware of any further medical, psychological and physical problems that might inhibit their ability to successfully complete the program.

Name: _____ Relationship to Applicant: _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____

I further understand that, as an integral part of the LEAPYEAR program, parents are *required* to attend the Rite of Passage days in order to support their son or daughter in their passage into adulthood. This is only for parents and step-parents - **not** siblings or friends. The following people (*a maximum of 3, please*) are planning to attend:

Name: _____ Relationship to Applicant: _____
Name: _____ Relationship to Applicant: _____
Name: _____ Relationship to Applicant: _____

STUDENT REFERENCES: Please give us the names and phone numbers of 2 adults who know you well who are not related to you. One of them must be a former teacher or employer.

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Relationship to you: _____
Name: _____ Phone: _____ Relationship to you: _____

APPLICATION FEE: The application fee for the program is \$50, and is non-refundable. Please check off your mode of payment:

_____ I have enclosed a check for \$50 with my application, payable to "LEAPNOW, Inc."

_____ Please bill my VISA or MasterCard for \$50

Card #: _____ Name on Card: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Signature of Cardholder: _____