

Talooli Expeditions announces our annual trip to explore....

Caribbean Island & Coral Reef Ecology

US Virgin Islands National Park on St. John

Feb 17-27, 2018 (11 days during Winter School Break)

- Snorkel coral reefs
- Swim with endangered sea turtles
- Explore archeological ruins
- Hike tropical forests & deserts
- Study tropical ecology
- Live in a remote, jungle basecamp in the National Park
- Give service to the National Park

Where?

The US Virgin Islands National Park preserves the tropical beauty of over half of the island of St. John. The park is covered by neo-tropical dry forest and desert ecosystems and the island is surrounded by some of the most beautiful and secluded beaches and coral reefs in the world. Virgin Islands Environmental Resources Station (VIERS) will be our basecamp. The University of the Virgin Islands operates this research station on a beautiful and remote beach.



Basecamp Life:

VIERS provides camp-style cottages, home-cooked meals in the dining hall, hot showers, clean beds, evening campfires and a 5-minute walk to the beach. www.islands.org/VIERS/

Experiential & Service Learning:

Throughout this educational expedition, our team members will work in teams to share what they are experiencing. We will also volunteer one half-day in service to the National Park.

Who Can Join This Expedition?

We are forming a group of 24 students and parents from around CNY. Most of the students will be 14-18 and students under 14 are welcome if accompanied by a parent. Past expeditions have included team members from 7-67 years old. Camp Fire Central NY is a nonprofit educational agency whose mission statement is: *"Camp Fire builds caring confident youth and future leaders"*. For over 70 years that mission has guided the programs of the council's own Camp Talooli in Pennellville. This Camp Fire expedition is organized under that mission statement and history and is directed using best practices set forth by Camp Fire and the American Camp Association. All youth, adults and leaders on this expedition must agree to follow the behavioral standards of that organization. Camp Fire membership is very inclusive. On previous trips, most of the participants have been high school students but about one third have been parents, grandparents and younger children. Everyone on this trip will function as part of a team. We will travel, eat and explore together under the leadership of Jeff and Jan Peneston. We will complete a half-day service project for the national park. The experience of the team will depend on the actions of each member.



Leaders:

Jeff Peneston

Camp Talooli Director of Educational Programs,
2011 NY State Teacher of the Year,
Retired Liverpool HS* Earth Sci. teacher,

Jan Peneston

Executive Director of Camp Fire Central NY
Director of Camp Talooli, since 1986

...Jeff & Jan have led trips to St. John for
over 20 years...



Check Us Out:

Videos on "Talooli Expeditions" Channel of YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9c80ojvO9R8wmDYnZJieA>

Camp Fire Central New York
www.campfireusacny.org

MORE INFO? Contact Jan at Camp Fire 934-4051

Or Jeff at jeff@campfireusacny.org



Pre-Trip Training?

Members will attend a series of pre-trip meetings where a detailed trip handbook will be distributed and discussed. At least one of the meetings will be at a local pool so that we can test our snorkeling equipment.



Cost:

\$2350 Includes almost everything
--airfare, room, meals & tours.

No passport is needed!

You will need: Snorkel gear, personal money & sunscreen.

Booking Conditions?

A completed application and \$400/person deposit is required to register for this expedition. This money will be used to pay deposits on airfare and lodging. Another \$600 is due by 10/1 and the remaining payments are due by 2/1. If you need to cancel, Camp Fire will attempt to refund as much of the payments as possible. Some portions of the fee such as payments made for airfare and housing are not refundable. Our current fee estimate is subject to revision if airline and fuel costs change unexpectedly.

Payment?

A \$400 deposit will reserve your spot on the team. \$600 more is due by 10/3. Final payment is due by 2/1. Payments will be made to **Camp Fire CNY**.

MORE INFO?

INFO MEETINGS? Meet Jan & Jeff. Check the Camp Talooli web page for the dates of information and sign-up meetings from May-Sept.

Draft Trip Itinerary

Sat 2/17

Fly to St. Thomas USVI. Transfer by taxi & ferry to St. John and VIERS.

Sun 2/18

Learn to snorkel from the beach at Little Lameshur Bay. Explore shallow reefs and search for sea turtles in the seagrass beds. Short hike to Yawzi Point.

Mon 2/19

Hamilton's Around the Island Tour. Hamilton Eugene is a native Caribbean islander. He will load all of us into his truck and share the culture, history & nature of his island. We will also have time for snorkeling, shopping & an authentic West Indian lunch with our friend Esther. She owns a roadside, open-air restaurant where she cooks all of the food and makes homemade ice cream with local fruit flavors.

Tue 2/20

Reef Bay Hike/ Boat Trip.

Hike 3 miles down the Reef Bay trail to explore the history of sugar plantations along a slave trail, pre-Columbian petroglyphs at the waterfall, tour sugar mill ruins. Then we will be picked up by **Boat** that will bring us back to VIERS.

Wed 2/21

Ram Head Hike, Salt Pond Bay, Blue Cobblestone Beach & Drunk Bay

Hike through the a desert on the dry, South side of the island, and climb 200 feet above the sea to a 360° view of the Atlantic Ocean from Ram Head Point. Snorkel a remote beach. Build a sculpture at Drunk Bay.

Thu 2/22

National Park Service Project Day. We will volunteer for half of today and complete a series of service projects for the Virgin Islands Environmental Resources Station. Afternoon snorkel at Lameshur Bay

Fri 2/23

Waterlemon Cay and Dinner at Esther's

A day of hiking, snorkeling & West Indian Culture begins as we explore the coral gardens all the way around a small deserted island. Then we will explore the ruins of the 18th century Annaberg sugar plantation. We will then drive back to Coral Bay for a little tourist shopping and an authentic West Indian dinner at Esther's.

Sat 2/24

Snorkel Off-Shore Islands and the Mangroves

Today we will be picked up by boat and spend all day snorkeling remote, off-shore islands. Our ultimate goal will be to snorkel the rare and beautiful mangrove shorelines in Hurricane Hole.

Sun 2/25

Francis Bay & Mary Point. Relax under the maho trees on this beach and then snorkel the shallow sea grass beds for green sea turtles & southern stingrays. We will then snorkel out to Mary Point in search of octopus and moray eels.

Mon 2/26

Mystery Beach and Island Culture Day! Today we will have time to take a short hike to a "Mystery Beach" that offers great beach-coaming. This evening our friend Ital Anthony will lead a presentation on local plants, St. John culture and Afro-Caribbean drumming.

Tue 2/27

Travel home. Depart VIERS by taxi, ferry transfer to St. Thomas, taxi to airport. Fly home.

MORE INFO? Contact Jan at Camp Fire 934-4051

Or Jeff at jeff@campfireusacny.org