

Post-trip activity suggestions:

-Have students that attended the trip write an article for both the local and school newspapers. Usually the paper will allow them to include a photo or two. This kind of exposure is great for world language programs.

-Have students create a DVD that is composed of short video clips and photos that were taken while the group was traveling. This video can be aired on the local cable access station.

-Schedule a day for students to take their pictures and DVD and go to the local senior center to give a presentation. They can discuss what they learned about the language and culture while they were away. Often times we forget to go out and speak with the entire population. Demonstrating the impact that these kinds of experiences have on our students will help to keep the entire community aware of the importance of studying a world language.

-Have older students organize an after-school language program for local elementary students. The program can consist of as many sessions as is feasible in your community. Students can earn community service hours, elementary students will become excited about language, and parents will become more supportive of language learning!



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TURNING A TRIP ABROAD INTO AN ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITY



GENERAL TIPS:

-Be sure to plan ahead and to establish a calendar of events that you plan to follow in the months leading up to your trip. Many teachers begin putting their trip together the year before they actually plan on traveling. Taking the time to plan ahead will make it possible for people to clear their calendars and plan on attending your events. Types of dates that might be on the calendar: parent orientation meeting, prior trip slide show, fund raising planning events, team building activities for the group participating, hosting information meeting if it is an exchange trip...

-Start within your school and generate interest in your trip. Once you have a group of students interested and they begin signing up, you can start meeting with families and promoting activities that you plan to sponsor.

-You should plan on sponsoring both pre-trip and post-trip activities. This will get students excited, and it will also keep the community up-to-date on your trip. Holding more than one event helps to keep your trip in the spotlight.

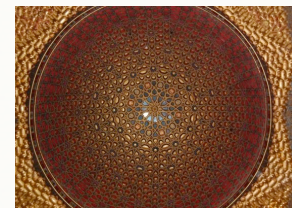
-Whenever you hold an event, be sure to make it something that is family friendly, and to which you can invite many people around town.

-Also, contact the local newspaper when you are planning to host an event. Often they are looking for stories that highlight the positive things going on in local schools.

Every year thousands of teachers take trips both abroad and within the United States in order to help their students experience language in an authentic setting. Little do many of these teachers realize that by taking a few extra steps, this trip can be used as an opportunity to advocate for their language programs. Here are some tips that can be used to organize your trip and let the community know what is going on in your language program:

PRE-TRIP ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS:

-Hold a dinner at the school that is open to community guests in which food from the region that will be visited is served. The students can be the ones to prepare and serve the food. It is also a good idea to decorate your dining space according to the country being visited. Guests should be charged a small amount of money in order to attend. Any funds collected can be used to offset trip costs for students, or to allow students to attend optional excursions while away.



-Work with the local library to hold a foreign film night in the community. Often times library staff is very good at coordinating things like this, and showcasing books that are related to the country and language being studied. This will give community members a chance to learn more about the topics about which the students are learning.