Traveling Science Teacher

Opportunities are at your Fingertips!

Victoria Obenchain The Saklan School Moraga, CA

Today:

- Who am I?
- What lead me to want to travel and do science?
- Cool opportunities and timelines
- Tips
- Questions?



I am...

- A STEM/Science teacher at a Prek-8th grade school in Moraga, CA.
- I am constantly looking for ways to bring science into my students lives.
- I love growing as a professional.
- And I am passionate about our planet, our environment, our understanding of real science and being a role model for students.



So after going to a lot of day long conferences:

- I started wanting opportunities that were longer
- More focused in different area I felt were not my strengths
- Gave me expertise in different areas of science and perspective
- & I wanted to be able to answer growing questions my students had

1st Opportunity was with the FDA in DC









This is now a free online course after COVID

Fulbright TGC: Senegal









NOAA TAS: Alaska



Which lead to so many more



Aircamp for Teachers: Dayton, Ohio



Workshop for Wildlife Conservation: San Diego

Zoo



Science in Zero G: Embedded Teacher Program from Carthage College, Wisconsin Ecology Project International: Costa Rica



Ecology Project International: Costa Rica Leatherback Sea turtle conservation

Understanding the EU decision making: Brussels, Belgium



2021 GROSVENOR TEACHER FELLOW



VICKIE OBENCHAIN MORAGA, CA

Grosvenor Teacher Fellow: Antarctica



I also LEAD tours with my students using a tour company

- There are many out there, I use EF Tours
 - We have gone to: Iceland, many parts of Europe, Galapagos, Costa Rica, Peru, Japan, and heading to Vietnam this summer



Leading tours

- I recommend looking into this option.
 - Great for yourself and your students plus many offer rewards through their program
 - No applications to apply to, just recruiting for your trips
- Also offer professional development credits and tours for teachers

EF Tours**: Nobel Summit in Stockholm



These and other opportunities!

- Are all possible for you
- Plus, listed: links to the different programs, where and when they take place, timelines for applying, and why I think you should apply!

 Obviously, more can be learned about each by going to their sites and learning more

Tips for your Essays

- Proofread!! Seriously!
- Try not to sound arrogant about your skills, be grateful for the experience.
- Show how your students and school will benefitmost organizations want their work will get known and shared; how will you do that?
- Use the word count, be concise/direct but show you have ideas! Too few words doesn't look like you cared.
- Answer the questions asked!!
 - If it helps, use their keywords when you write your responses to help

Tips for Lesson Plans (if required)

- Make the lesson about the topic/area of the world you would be learning about/traveling to
- Add in different activities to learn about the topic/area
 - Internet search, lab/engineering project to show understanding, presentation to lower grades, etc.

Tips for References- these matter!!

- Meet with the person you wish to have write your reference
 - Let them know about the fellowship and what the letter should entail
- If your reference doesn't know you, provide them your resume, and relevant information they can use for your letter



Apply again!

 Some fellowships are extremely hard to get

 Ex: 15 spots but get 2000 applicants



Other ways to find fellowships

- Facebook groups:
 - Scholarships, grants and summer institute for teachers
 - Teachers on the Move:
 Programs, Grants, and
 Scholarships for K-12 Teachers

