



Jesse Pearson, KWHS, with his group in France.

Jeremy Wilkerson, Summer Program Coordinator

Take Stock in Children

305-293-1546

Jeremy.Wilkerson@keysschools.com

Chris Frantz, Deputy Director

The Experiment in International Living

800-345-2929

chris.frantz@worldlearning.org

For Immediate Release

For further information please visit www.experimentinternational.org

or call Jeremy Wilkerson (305) 293-1546

Twenty-two Monroe Students to Study Abroad This Summer

It is not too late to join the twenty-two students from Monroe County High Schools to become Ambassadors from the Florida Keys to the Experiment in International Living (EIL) cross-cultural experience. These adventurous students will visit 15 different countries this July and August.

“There are still openings for this summer in the groups being formed going to 29 different countries around the world,” Chris Frantz, Deputy Director of EIL, announced today from the EIL headquarters in Vermont. “Interested students should call 1-800-345-2929, or go to: www.experimentinternational.org”

This year's EIL Ambassadors are:

- **Key West High School:** Kiyoshi Casey, France; Michael Brown, Mexico; Kimberly Alvarez, France; Elizabeth Darce, Spain; Brittany Ferreti, France; Anika Yasmin, Scotland; Zachary Stratton, China; Suzann Slaunwhite, Ecuador; Sarlota Mareckova, Australia; Shathi Islam, Poland; Rachael Dietrich, Ecuador; Allison Griffiths, China; Harley Roles-Douvier, New Zealand.
- **Marathon High School:** Katelyn Boyden, Costa Rica; Alaina Boyden, Italy; Jesse Bonilla, Morocco; Mecca Seide, Korea; Daniela Ortiz, Spain; Hannah Denny, Japan; Sarah Dodamean, Botswana.
- **Coral Shores High School:** Alexis Salvatore, Italy
- **Keys Center Academy:** Paola Cisneros-Montes, Poland

“Seventeen of these high school students are in the Take Stock in Children (TSiC) program,” according to Jeremy Wilkerson, Summer Programs Coordinator. “These scholars completed written applications, and went through the interview process before being awarded their travel scholarship. It was like applying for college.”

“Our students worked hard on their applications and are very excited about this chance to be ambassadors from the Florida Keys,” said Dresdin Edwards-Bray, TSiC County Coordinator. “EIL has partnered with the Monroe County Education Foundation (MCEF) since 2006. These 22 additional Ambassadors follow in the footsteps of 85 Monroe students who traveled around the world during the last five years.”

Wilkerson continued, “MCEF president John Padget and other board members have provided pivotal support for what is arguably a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for international learning.”

“I believe strongly in the effectiveness of experiential learning,” Padget said. “The EIL program offers one of the best frameworks for responsible development of young minds and hearts. Students see from new perspectives, respond to unfamiliar challenges and solve problems with initiative and good judgment. It's life-learning that tests their assumptions and broadens the mind.”

Founded in 1932, EIL has become the leader in cross-cultural education for high school students. Each summer, 800 to 1,000 students from across the United States participate in 3, 4, and 5-week EIL programs that include cross-cultural orientations, home stays, language training, arts, ecology, and/or community service components. There are programs in 29 different countries, plus the Navajo Nation here in the U.S.

High school students from around the United States come together to form travel groups and meet at three gateway airports: New York, Los Angeles, and Miami. These 10 to 15-member groups travel and live together during the entire program, guided by a trained adult group leader.

EIL has sponsored more than 70,000 participants over its 75 years. Its purpose is to challenge young people to open their hearts and minds to the world.