

# FACT SHEET

## TRAVEL IMPROVES EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT & FUTURE SUCCESS



Research from the Wagner Group has found that adults who took educational trips in their youth earn 12 percent greater personal income annually and were significantly more likely to graduate from college than those that did not take such trips. A new survey, "Travel Improves Educational Attainment & Future Success," explores the impact of learning-focused travel on academic performance and career growth. The findings demonstrate travel's power to transform how students approach learning, deepen their understanding of the world and expand their career possibilities.

### REGARDLESS OF GENDER, ETHNICITY OR SOCIOECONOMIC CLASS, CHILDREN WHO TOOK EDUCATIONAL TRIPS HAD HIGHER GRADES AND WERE SIGNIFICANTLY MORE ENGAGED IN LEARNING, BOTH IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL

- Among those that traveled, 86 percent believe educational trips made them more intellectually curious inside and outside the classroom.
- The experiences provided by these types of trips were a vital part of a complete education according to 83 percent of respondents.
- Travel helped more than half (59%) achieve better grades.

“When you're someone like myself, who wasn't always the best student, going on these trips is a break from textbooks. I remember seeing the Egyptian mummies and going to the school library to check out books about them. The librarian was shocked because I had never checked a book out before. I guess the trip motivated me to learn more.”

“The one trip that impacted me was the Smithsonian Museum. It was huge and I couldn't get over the different planes used during the U.S. wars, like World War II. I remember going home and reading all about the wars and the planes and the ships. Without that trip, I would not have done that on my own.”

### ACROSS DEMOGRAPHICS, STUDENTS WHO TOOK EDUCATIONAL TRIPS WERE MORE LIKELY TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL, ATTEND COLLEGE AND GO TO GRADUATE SCHOOL

- A majority of adults (57%) who took educational trips as children and teens attained a college degree or went on to do post-graduate work, compared to those who did not (33%).

- With each trip, the positive effect of educational travel grew stronger. Nearly all (95%) adults who traveled five or more times were more likely to graduate from high school, and nearly two-thirds (63%) of that group went on to graduate from college.

“I wasn't always the best student, but I always enjoyed the school trips. My family didn't travel much, so this was a way for me to see places I normally wouldn't see. It made me want to graduate so I could see more places.”

“It made me want to learn more and helped me get motivated to study meteorology in college. It made me realize how valuable nature and the environment is.”

### EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL ADDED CONTEXT AND DEPTH TO CLASSROOM DISCUSSIONS AND PROMOTED INFORMATION RETENTION AND ENTHUSIASM – REGARDLESS OF SOCIOECONOMIC CLASS

- Respondents said their trips were more than simply educational. Learning-focused travel was also fun (98%), engaging (87%) and inspiring (87%).
- For 80 percent of those surveyed, educational travel sparked greater interest in what they were taught in school.
- Travel enhanced the education of 62 percent of respondents.
- More than half said that educational travel was “transformative” (54%).

“As a teacher, I often see my students losing interest in my explanations of scientific things, but after a trip to a science museum or a planetarium or a hike, they come back to the class with questions and are eager to learn about what they personally experienced.”

“These trips made us realize that there was a whole world around us, outside of school and home. It makes it real and then it's not history class, it's a story about your relatives and your friend's relatives. It becomes exciting.”

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## ADULTS WHO TRAVELED AS STUDENTS EARN MORE AND SAY THAT EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL INFLUENCED THEIR CAREER PLANS

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- Adults who went on a domestic educational trip between the ages of 12-18 earn 12 percent greater personal income annually than non-travelers.
- Of the adults surveyed who traveled in their youth, 89 percent felt that educational trips had a positive impact on their education and/or career.
- Educational travel influenced the career choices of more than half (52%) of those surveyed.

“ We took a trip to Lake Mead. We went swimming and when we got out of the water, because of the humidity, our bathing suits were dry...my teacher explained the scientific reason for the dry bathing suits. I was fascinated by the explanation and this started my career goal to become a high school science teacher.”

“ Education that happens within the classroom is very limited. It helps to see, smell, hear and touch different places. It opens your mind to many different cultures. [Educational trips] increased my understanding of different ways of living and being. It also expanded my knowledge of job options for my future. I became a bilingual teacher partly because of the different places and cultures I got to see on these trips.”

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## TRAVEL HAD A LASTING IMPACT ON STUDENTS, EXPANDING THEIR PERSPECTIVES, INCREASING THEIR CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE AND MAKING THEM BETTER CITIZENS – REGARDLESS OF GENDER, ETHNICITY OR OTHER DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS

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IN ADDITION TO AN EFFECT ON GRADES, PARTICIPANTS BELIEVE:

- Educational travel encouraged a connection to American heritage and history (85%);
- Experiencing local culture and history on their trips had a lasting impact (77%); and
- Travel made them a better person (34%).

“ When you experience another culture, it's something you never forget! Experiencing economic diversity, seeing where we came from, how we evolved as a people – it certainly influenced my thinking. Especially when I started working and meeting other people from different backgrounds.”