Spanish Immersion 2026 Travel Contract

I, _____, ("Participant") and _____ ("parent / guardian") have enrolled in the **COMMON GROUND INTERNATIONAL, LLC** ("CGI") Spanish Immersion program in Costa Rica or Ecuador (circle one) during the dates of _____2026. By signing below, participant and parent / guardian understand and agree to the following terms.

1. All payments that CGI receives for the Spanish Immersion Trip, including airline tickets are non-refundable. If, for unforeseen circumstances I cannot participate in this trip, I understand that CGI cannot refund my money.

2. I agree to participate in three pre-departure meetings on dates to be determined. The purpose of these meetings will be to go over important trip details, itineraries, expectations, host families and more.

3. I agree to follow all local regulations, restrictions and advisories related to COVID-19 during my trip. I also agree to follow all rules, requirements and requests from Common Ground International trip leaders while on program. These may include (but are not limited to) masking, social distancing, quarantine & isolation.

4. I agree to complete my mandatory online pre-departure course that will get me prepared for my experience and help me maximize my language learning, cultural understanding and independent personal growth.

5. I am fully aware of my program costs and inclusions.

Your Program Cost includes:

- Host family and hotel lodging during your program
- Private in-county transportation
- Private guide, driver & tips
- All language school tuition, course materials and extracurricular activities
- Most meals. While staying with your homestay family you will be responsible for lunches. On excursions, you are responsible for lunches and dinners
- Included tours, national park entrances, hikes and excursions
- 24/7 leadership and coordination
- Basic travel insurance policy
- Online Pre-departure course and preparation

What you are financially responsible for…

- If COVID-19 test is positive while on program, any and all costs associated with COVID such as but not limited to: testing, treatment, isolation, quarantine, lodging, changes in itinerary, and flight changes
- Any additional travel or trip cancellation insurance not included in the basic policy provided
- Round-trip airfare to and from your immersion country
- Some meals (lunches while with homestay families, lunches and dinners while on excursions)
- Additional baggage fees as determined by airlines
- Optional activities such as surf lesson, canopy adventure tour, etc.
- Souvenirs and snacks

_____ Participant's Initials

By signing below, I affirm that I have read, I understand, and I agree to the above travel terms,

_____ _____

Participant Date

_____ _____

Participant Name (Please Print)

_____

_____

Address and Tel. No.

_____

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if participant is under 18 years of age)

Participant Liability Waiver Form

Common Ground International Spanish Immersion 20____

I, _____, ("Participant") have enrolled in the **COMMON GROUND INTERNATIONAL, LLC** ("**CGI**") Spanish Immersion trips during the dates of _____ 20

1. Travel may be arranged by **CGI**, a travel agent, or myself; and that all transportation and services are subject to the laws of the countries visited. All prices are based on current tariffs and current exchange rates and are subject to confirmation and adjustment.
2. I am/We are the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) for Participant with all decision-making authority to make this Participant Liability Waiver Form binding upon Participant and all custodians.
3. In consideration of my application and permitting Participant to participate in the above trip, I hereby take action for my child, myself, all other parents/legal guardians with intent to bind all persons with authority to act for Participant, all executors, administrators, heirs, next of kin, successors, and assigns as follows:
    a. **ASSUMPTION OF RISK**: I acknowledge and understand that participation in international travel involves a number of serious risks including, but not limited to, the following:
        i. death, serious bodily injury, or property loss;
        ii. possible exposure to and illness from infectious diseases including but not limited to COVID-19. While particular rules and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious illness and death does exist;
        iii. costs or loss mandated by quarantine;
        iv. all risks associated with air or water travel (including but not limited to delay, cancellation, loss of value paid for ticketing, lost or damaged baggage, air sickness, mechanical malfunction, plane crash, sinking),
        v. strikes, war, weather, quarantine, sickness, terrorists' actions, government restrictions or travel bans, government regulations;
        vi. any act or omission of any ship, airline, railroad, sight-seeing, hotel, transportation company;
        vii. harm resulting from crime and illegal activity
        viii. harm resulting from negligence or carelessness on the part of any of the persons coordinating or chaperoning this trip, from dangerous or defective equipment or property owned, maintained or controlled by them or harm resulting even without fault,
        ix. any wrongful, negligent, or unauthorized acts or omissions on the part of any supplier;
        x. any wrongful, negligent, or unauthorized acts or omissions on the part of any employee of any of these suppliers;

xi. any defect in or failure of any vehicle, equipment, or instrument owned, operated or otherwise used by any supplier;

xii. any wrongful or negligent acts or omissions on the part of any other party not under the supervision and control, direct or otherwise, of **CGI**, its officers or agents; or

xiii. any self-directed/planned activities/travel that I choose to undertake before, during, or after the trip.

I knowingly and freely assume all risks such as those listed, including those related to illness and infectious diseases, such as COVID-19, even if arising from the negligence or fault of the parties released herein. I hereby knowingly assume the risk of injury, harm and loss associated with participating in the **COMMON GROUND INTERNATIONAL, LLC** ("**CGI**") Spanish Immersion trip, including any injury, harm and loss caused by the negligence, fault or conduct of any kind on the part of the parties released herein.

b. **RELEASE AND WAIVER**: I HEREBY RELEASE, WAIVE AND FOREVER DISCHARGE ANY AND ALL LIABILITY, CLAIMS, AND DEMANDS OF WHATEVER KIND OR NATURE AGAINST **COMMON GROUND INTERNATIONAL, LLC; RORY FOSTER, LESLIE FOSTER, TRIP LEADERS and, ANY OTHER COMMON GROUND EMPLOYEE, CONTRACT EMPLOYEE, OR VOLUNTEER** EITHER IN LAW OR IN EQUITY, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMISSIBLE BY LAW, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO DAMAGES OR LOSSES CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE, FAULT OR CONDUCT OF ANY KIND ON THE PART OF CGI, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO DEATH, BODILY INJURY, ILLNESS, ECONOMIC LOSS OR OUT OF POCKET EXPENSES, OR LOSS OR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY, WHICH I, MY HEIRS, ASSIGNEES, NEXT OF KIN AND/ OR LEGALLY APPOINTED OR DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVES, MAY HAVE OR WHICH MAY HEREINAFTER ACCRUE ON MY BEHALF, WHICH ARISE OR MAY HEREAFTER ARISE FROM PARTICIPANT'S PARTICIPATION IN THE SPANISH IMMERSION TRIP.

c. **HOLD HARMLESS**: I agree to hold harmless **CGI**, including its officers, agents, employees, contractors, representatives, and successors, from any liability arising from my participation in the Spanish Immersion Trip including without limitation any injury, loss, damage, accident, delay, irregularity, or expense arising from use of a vehicle or other services arising from:

i. strikes, war, weather, quarantine, sickness, terrorists actions, government restrictions, or regulations; or

ii. any act or omission of any ship, airline, railroad, sight-seeing, hotel, transportation company; or

_____ Participant's Initials

iii. any wrongful, negligent, or unauthorized acts or omissions on the part of any of the suppliers; or

iv. any wrongful, negligent, or unauthorized acts or omissions on the part of any employee of any of these suppliers; or

v. any defect in or failure of any vehicle, equipment, or instrument owned, operated or otherwise used by any of these suppliers; or

vi. any wrongful or negligent acts or omissions on the part of any other party not under the supervision and control, direct or otherwise, of CGI, its officers or agents; or

vii. any self directed/planned activities/travel that I choose to undertake before, during, or after the trip.

4. I hereby both authorize and agree to indemnify Common Ground International, LLC to take any measure necessary to procure recommended medical care on Participant's behalf in the event of injury, accident and/or illness during this trip.

5. I understand that the **CGI** trip reserves the right, in its sole discretion to cancel or discontinue the trip (the initial deposit is nonrefundable; but all other payments may be refundable in whole or in part) or to make such alternations in the itinerary as is necessary or desirable in its sole discretion.

6. I agree that I will be fully responsible for my luggage and personal effects; provide the Trip Director with all my personal travel arrangements, medical insurance arrangements while a member of the Trip; and provide the Trip Director with complete information if I make accommodation changes.

7. This Participant Liability Waiver Form shall be construed broadly to provide a release and waiver to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law. I hereby certify that I have read this document; have had the opportunity to consult with or have questions answered by legal counsel; and, I understand its content and choose to sign and binding Participant and all custodians.

8. CHOICE OF LAW AND ARBITRATION CLAUSE: Any and all disputes arising from or relating (in any way) to this trip shall be subject to the laws of the State of Colorado. All disputes which cannot be resolved amicably through mediation shall be resolved through binding arbitration using Judicial Arbiter Group in Denver, Colorado pursuant to the then current rules of the American Arbitration Association. The arbitrator's decision and award shall be binding upon all parties. No court shall have any subject matter jurisdiction for any suit at law or in equity based on any dispute, claim or controversy arising from or relating (in any way) to the CGI Spanish Immersion Trip instituted by either party, except to enforce the award of the arbitrator.

_____ Participant's Initials

THIS IS A LEGAL INSTRUMENT, WHICH AFFECTS YOUR RIGHTS. IF NOT UNDERSTOOD, CONSULT LEGAL COUNSEL BEOFRE SIGNING.

By signing below, I acknowledge I have had the opportunity to consult legal counsel and agree to the above conditions.

_____ _____

Participant Date

_____ _____

Participant Name (Please Print)

_____

_____

Address and Tel. No.

_____

Signature of Parent or Guardian

_____ Participant's Initials

High School Spanish Immersion Behavior Contract

Parents:

Our goals for this trip are to learn, have fun, stay safe and offer a once-in-a-lifetime experience for all travelers regardless of beliefs, identity, orientation and race. In order for this to happen, we need your support regarding our behavior policy.

Students:

As a program participant, you are representing the United States, Common Ground International, your high school, your community and your family name! We expect your behavior to reflect that responsibility. You will be living in another country and culture for a short period of time, please exercise good judgment and DO NOT participate in illegal activities. We ask that you be respectful of the local culture and other travelers on the program.

We also expect you to have a positive, encouraging and respectful attitude toward all of your fellow travelers, your trip leaders, your host family and others from the host culture. You must be willing to fully engage in this opportunity to enjoy the experience. You will have hard days, interesting experiences and possibly a difficult time adjusting to certain aspects of immersion. We will be there to help you through this natural process, but please don't lead with negativity!

To ensure an amazing and safe experience, your behavior should in no way disrespect others, endanger yourself or anyone else, nor have a negative impact on the group. If you experience a conflict or need help resolving a problem, we expect you to bring it to the attention of the program leaders.

You must not engage in illegal activity while on immersion. Participants are required to abide by local laws, respect and follow the guidelines and rules set forth for them at the language school, in their host families and Common Ground's no-tolerance policy. Minor infractions will be dealt with on an individual basis and in an appropriate manner. However, serious offenses such as those below will not be tolerated and will result in immediate dismissal from the trip and subsequent return to the United States at the parent / guardian's expense. Such offenses include:

- Engaging in illegal activity in Costa Rica, Ecuador
- Purchasing, posessing, or consuming illegal drugs (including marijuana and vaping) or alcohol while on program
- Sexual activity
- Sneaking out at night while living with host family or after "room-checks" at hotels
- Neglecting program obligations such as group activities, attending class, community service work, host family activities and meals, and check-in's with leaders
- A negative, disrespectful attitude that is having a detrimental impact on the group as a whole
- Any action that endangers or could potentially endanger others

While we do not anticipate any such problems, we wish to make our policy clear.

I, _____clearly understand and agree to accept the conditions of the Immersion Program Behavior Contract.

_____ _____

(Signature of participant) (Date)

_____ _____

(Signature of parent/guardian) (Date)

Smart Phone Contract

Smart phones are amazing tools that make the world a lot smaller and communication streamlined and easy. However, they are also a double-edged sword.

When used as a tool on immersion they can be:

- Efficient, effective means of communication
- A resource to improve Spanish language learning. For example, as a dictionary, looking up correct conjugations of verbs, etc.

They can also be a detriment to immersion and a distraction to taking full advantage of this unique opportunity:

- They can transport you back in one instant into your social scene in the US and rob you of the opportunity to be in the "here and now" on immersion.
- The can be a major roadblock to your contentment on immersion and your language learning goals as they steal time, brain power, and energy from you that you could be using to invest in new friendships, new experiences, and life long lessons.

Let's face it! Your smart phone and all of it's amazing (and not so amazing) apps will be there when you complete this program, and yes, you may miss out on a few great social media followings, likes, comments, pics. But consider all the things you are gaining from this immersion exerience. There will be a time to update status, post, add filters, etc., but on immersion is NOT the time!

As an immersion particpant you have 3 options with your smart phone:

1. Go old school, leave it at home and opt to bring a camera and a dictionary
2. Bring it and adhere to CGI's appropriate uses of smart phones by signing the contract below
3. Bring it, don't adhere, and we will CONFISCATE it!

I _____ (student name) acknowledge that I will follow these appropriate uses of my smart phone on immersion:

- As a camera
- To stay connected with my immersion leader and group on our immersion chat
- In an emergency
- As a phone to communicate with my friends and family back home during my allotted Wi-Fi time, 30 min. a day built into program itinerary

- To access Spanish learning apps
- To listen to music on a limited basis during appropriate times as determined by trip leaders.

I _____, (student name) also acknowledge that these are inappropriate uses of my smart phone while on immersion. Using my phone…

- During group / family meals
- During Spanish classes (except when accessing a dictionary)
- During volunteer work
- Hours upon hours in the evening scrolling, playing games etc. instead of interacting with my host family
- On social media during classes, during volunteer work, cultural activities and any other group time

If my phone becomes a distraction to my program goals, isolating me from group activities, limiting my participation, my trip leader will confiscate my phone.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parents/Guardians, By signing below, you give Common Ground International trip leaders permission to confiscate your son/daughter's phone if your s/he is not following the above guidelines for appropriate uses of smart phones.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

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Leaders in industry-specific Spanish and English Language training and experts in Spanish Immersion

Media Consent and Release Form

DATE:_____

COMMON GROUND INTERNATIONAL, LLC

PO Box 174

Lafayette, CO 80026

COMMON GROUND INTERNATIONAL, LLC has requested permission to use my name, biographical or occupational description, phrases regarding me (or incidents or anecdotes concerning me substantially as set forth in an attachment which is made a part of this release), portrait, picture, likeness, or voice or any or all of them, in a recording, videotape, television production or reproduction, soundtrack recording, film strip, still photograph, DVD, podcast, on an Internet site, blog, vlog, or other social media site or site with user-generated content including but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Youtube and X, in a printed publication or otherwise.

I hereby grant to COMMON GROUND INTERNATIONAL, LLC, its successors, assigns and anyone acting under its authority or permission the right to make originals where appropriate and to use for any lawful purpose (including publicity and other trade purposes) throughout the world and reproduce at any time in any form or manner and to copyright any of the items referred to in the preceding paragraph.

I hereby release COMMON GROUND INTERNATIONAL, LLC, its successors and assigns of and from any claim which I might otherwise have as a result of any such use, copyright or publication.

NAME_____
(please print)

Signed_____ Minor ____ Adult____

IF A MINOR:

Signed:_____ Parent____ Guardian____

Residence:_____

City:_____ State:_____ Telephone:_____

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Leaders in industry-specific Spanish and English Language training and experts in Spanish Immersion

Character Recommendation Form

To be completed by the applicant:

Applicant Name: _____

Teacher / Adult Name: _____

How do you know this person? _____

I will not seek access to this confidential recommendation.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

To be completed by the teacher:
The above named student is applying for a **Spanish Language Immersion Program** with Common Ground International**.** The program emphasizes language learning through homestay and formal language training, and also includes volunteer work and adventure travel components.

Please tell us about your experience with this applicant, and how suited you think s/he is for this immersion program in terms of their maturity, social skills, responsibility, leadership and academics. We appreciate your candid appraisal of this applicant, and welcome any additional comments. Please consider these questions:

1. If you are a teacher, is this student academically motivated? Please provide an example.
2. Would this student be a good ambassador of his or her school and country?
3. What would you tell a colleague that they could expect from this student?
4. Would you want to have this student as a member of a group you were in charge of?
5. Would other students on the trip benefit from having this applicant as part of their group?

You may use the back of this form to write your recommendation, attach a separate sheet, or send your recommendation via email (as long as this form is also submitted).

Please submit your recommendation one of the following ways:

1. Return this form & your recommendation to the applicant in a sealed, signed envelope.
2. Email it to Common Ground International: support@commongroundinternational.com
3. Mail it to: Common Ground International, PO Box 174, Lafayette, CO 80026

Teacher / Adult Signature _____ Date _____

Teacher / Adult Name _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Thank you for taking the time to complete this confidential recommendation!

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Leaders in industry-specific
Spanish and English Language training
and experts in Spanish Immersion

Consent to Travel with a Minor

To whom it may concern:

This letter is in relation to my child, _____, a minor born on _____/_____/_____ whose passport number is _____.

I do hereby grant full authorization and consent for my child to travel outside the United States to _____ between _____, 2026 and _____, 2026 with Common Ground International.

I authorize trip leaders with Common Ground International to make any changes to the travel plans in case of delays, cancelations or situations that are out of their control.

Father / Guardian		Mother / Guardian	
Name		Name	
Address		Address	
Phone		Phone	
Signature		Signature	
Date		Date	

Signature and Seal of Notary below: