

TOP 10 TIPS TO CELEBRATE YOUR GLOBAL NAVIGATORS

Global Navigators have done something extraordinary:

They've stepped out of their comfort zones to spend the summer studying abroad.

They've discovered new cultures, gained fresh perspectives, grown proficiency in another language, and increased their global competence.

Now you have the opportunity to tap into their expertise and grow the global mindset of everyone at your school. Here are our Top 10 Tips . . . but don't stop there!

1. "Welcome Back" Banner

At the school entrance, set up a welcome message and a place where Global Navigators and other students who had an international experience last summer can add pictures of the country visited and a message in its language. The principal can encourage conversation by mentioning a different country each day in the opening announcements and acknowledging that students who visited that country are a resource for the school.

2. Speakers' Bureau

After interviewing the Global Navigators to find out about their new areas of expertise and willingness to share, distribute a list of student speakers to faculty, staff, and community partners. Encourage invitations like these:

A science teacher studying water shortages can globalize her lessons by inviting the Global Navigator who did watershed research in Botswana to present to her class.

The Spanish Club might invite a panel of Global Navigators who studied abroad in Madrid, Seville, and Pisac to join an "Ask Me!" panel that discusses cultural differences in the Spanish-speaking world.

At an assembly about community projects or service opportunities/requirements, Global Navigators who attended a Service & Leadership program last summer can be invited to share their stories and insights.

Organizers of a community event or a community club, like Rotary, can invite a group of Global Navigators, especially those who participated in the Global Entrepreneurship program, to share their perspectives on crossing cultures in the global marketplace..

3. College and Career Night

Students who study abroad have an edge on college applications. At this fall's fair, set up a table where former and current high school students who have studied abroad, including the Global Navigators, can share their international experiences and how they have or plan to leverage them to get into the college of their choice.

4. Global Citizens in the News

Use conventional and social media for sharing:

Enlist reporters for the school newsletter/newspaper or for the radio/TV channels to interview Global Navigators for a recurring Global Connections column or spot. Promote the interview articles to local media organizations, too.

Ask each Global Navigator for a short quote and picture that captures the international experience.

Post each combo on Facebook, Twitter (incorporating #GlobalNavigators), and throughout your school's social media networks in a Global Citizens theme.

5. Ambassador's Program

Pair older students who have had a positive international experience with freshmen. The Ambassador acquaints the freshman with the foreign country – its geography and food, its customs and culture, and its language and contributions to the world. These one-on-one interactions and a discussion panel led by Ambassadors at the school's ninth-grade orientation can spur interest in world language courses, community projects, and study abroad.

6. Info Exchange

Organize a school forum or a Parents' Night dedicated to study abroad, and invite returning Global Navigators and their families to share their pictures, videos, and stories. Connect those who want to serve as resources with those who are considering study abroad.

7. Cultural Celebrations

Involve Global Navigators in everything from the School Fair to the International Festival. For example, Global Navigators can host booths where they display mementos from their study abroad experience, cook and share food from their host country, play its music, and answer questions about their international experience.

8. First-Hand Account

Whether it's a discussion on culture in the language class or the study of a global issue in math or history or science, ask Global Navigators to contribute first-hand accounts from their international experiences. Many stayed with host families, and they can also be in touch with them to get answers to class questions or perspectives on current events.

9. School Board Presentation

Arrange for the Global Navigators to present on how the experience increased their global competence and/or changed their perspective. Prompt students to reflect on their experience with the questions below:

- What can you do now that you couldn't do before you studied abroad?
- Did the way you think about things change in any way? How?
- How will you use your international experience to make people at our school more aware of different cultures and global issues?
- How can our district grow the number of global citizens?

Ask the Global Navigator Program coordinator for a Power Point template provided by CIEE to facilitate creating slides for the presentation. Tape the presentation and release the video on the district TV channel and to local media outlets.

10. Official Recognition

On school award nights, in assemblies, at pep rallies, and during graduation ceremonies, when students are receiving recognition for academic achievement, athletic accomplishments, or service, be sure to include the Global Navigators for their achievements in global and intercultural competence.

