



New Mexico
Human Rights Projects

ATTENTION NEW MEXICO HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS AND SENIORS



Be among the first NM high school students to participate in an educational trip to Cuba March 23 – April 1, 2016

*If we are going to take advantage of the assumption that
all people want peace,
then the problem is for people to get together and to leap governments — to work out not one method but thousands of methods by which people can gradually learn a little bit more of each other.*

President Dwight D. Eisenhower, September 11, 1956

WHAT IS THE PROJECT ABOUT?

On December 17, 2014, President Obama announced historic changes to the U.S. policy toward Cuba. With hopes for long-awaited normalized relations between Cuba and the United States, New Mexico Human Rights Projects (NMHRP) is anxious to assist in enhancing the U.S. goal of increasing people-to-people contact envisioned by President Eisenhower.

NMHRP is recruiting 10 NM high school students to participate in a 10-day trip to Cuba that will help to build bridges between our two nations.

An interactive service-learning program designed for NMHRP by Cuba Educational Travel will allow NM students the opportunity to learn about a country in transition through lectures, site visits, community service projects, museums, nature hikes, exposure to art and music and engagement with Cuban high school students. Students will learn about the country's unique political and economic system.

Upon returning from Cuba, the students will be expected to share their experiences with their peers and with the community at large.

Students must be at least 16 years old and have a valid passport.

Students will need to cover the approximate \$3000 cost of the trip which includes round-trip travel from Miami to Havana, all meals, accommodations, entry visas, medical insurance, guide services, and full-time program of activities. NMHRP will cover round-trip travel from Albuquerque to Miami. A deposit of \$1500 is due by Tuesday, December 1, 2015.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

If you are interested in this once-in-a-lifetime educational experience, please respond to the two-part essay below in approximately 500 words double-spaced. **(Your entire response should not exceed 500 words.)** Attach a separate cover sheet with your name, age, school, phone number and email address (this information cannot appear on your essay). A NMHRP committee of judges will review the essays. The top 15 applicants will be interviewed to determine the 10 most suitable students. Send your response via email to regturner@aol.com; it must be received by midnight November 1, 2015.

ESSAY:

Some people feel that the United States' trade embargo with Cuba should be lifted. Write a mock letter to your congressman in favor of lifting the embargo (briefly listing your reasons), and then write another similar letter in favor of keeping the restrictions in place.

NMHRP will notify the finalists the weekend of November 13, 2015.

Please contact NMHRP Founder & Executive Director Regina Turner at 505.730.1060 or email regturner@aol.com if you have questions.