



THE NATIONAL
ITALIAN AMERICAN
FOUNDATION

Frequently Asked Questions 2012 Voyage of Discovery Program

Who is eligible?

The Voyage of Discovery is open to all Italian American college students ages 18 to 23. Entering college freshman are eligible to apply. Students can be no older than 23 at time of travel.

Past participants are not eligible.

What if I am older (or younger) than the age requirements?

Unfortunately, the program is designed as a peer educational trip and we can not make any exceptions.

How do I apply?

You must 1) submit an online application no later than **Friday, January 20, 2012 11:59 p.m. (EST)**, 2) mail in your transcript, and **two** (unopened, signed across the envelope opening) teacher recommendations. The transcript and recommendations must postmarked by **Friday, January 27, 2012**. Please make sure that all envelopes are **clearly marked** with your name.

Can I fax or mail in my application?

No. Applications must be submitted via our online application.

Where do I send my transcript and recommendations?

National Italian American Foundation
2012 Voyage of Discovery Program
Attn: Alexandra Dall
1860 19th Street NW
Washington, DC 20009

If I am a college freshman, can I submit my high school transcript?

Yes.

Can a guidance counselor, work supervisor, mentor, etc. write my recommendation?

Yes.

When is the application deadline?

The deadline for applications is **Friday, January 20, 2012**. The application will be taken offline at **11:59 p.m. EST**. Your transcript and 2 recommendations must be *postmarked no later than Friday, January 27, 2012*.

When will I be notified of the selection results?

All students will be notified via email on **Monday, March 3, 2008**.

Where and when does the program travel?

The region changes every year. This year the destination and specific dates are to be determined. The program generally travels from late May to early June.

If I am selected to participate, what documentation will I need?

You will need a valid passport (if you do not have one, you will need to obtain one) at time of travel, an International Student Identity Card, refundable trip deposit, proof of student status, and signed paperwork (which we will send you).

Students selected to participate must accept by Friday, March 2, 2012.

If I am not selected for the Voyage of Discovery, can I pay to participate?

No; you must be selected to participate in the Voyage of Discovery.

What are the odds of being selected?

There are between 35 and 40 students selected each year to participate in the Voyage of Discovery (depending on the donor funds). The odds of being selected depend on the number of applicants. Last year we received nearly 400 applications.

How are students selected to participate?

Students are selected by a variety of factors, including essays and recommendations.

What qualifies an applicant as "Italian American"?

To be considered "Italian American" for the NIAF scholarship program, the student must have at least one ancestor who has emigrated from Italy (any region). We do not require proof of Italian ancestry.

What if I have been to Italy before? Am I still eligible?

Students who have traveled to Italy before are still eligible to apply.

Is the Voyage of Discovery a vacation? Do participants have free time?

The Voyage of Discovery program is an educational, enlightening, and cultural experience. The program is packed with activities, although there is scheduled free time. Participants are required to stay with the group throughout the entire program and participate in all scheduled activities.

Do I have to depart for Italy with the group? Or can I meet the group in Italy? Will there be time to visit friends and family in Italy?

Each participant is required to depart for Italy with the group. Although there are no free days during the program, each participant is given the opportunity to extend his/her stay after the program ends.

If I am older than the age requirement, can I be a chaperone?

No; we select our chaperones through our staff and travel agency.

What does the Voyage of Discovery include?

- Round-trip airfare between US and Italy
- Nine (9) nights hotel accommodations
- Hotel accommodations are 2/3/4 same-gender participants to a room)
- Nine (9) continental breakfasts, 5 lunches, 5 dinners
- 2 full-day and 3 half-day escorted tours (subject to some variation)
- Motorcoach transfers
- Escorts and tour guides

Trip does not include:

- domestic flights to/from international departure city
- items of a personal nature and spending money
- meals not included in itinerary
- purchase of International Student Identity Cards