Montana Education Delegation/India Trek 2025

Educational diplomacy plays a vital role in building a more connected and peaceful world by fostering mutual understanding, empathy, and cooperation across cultures. When students engage in international exchanges like the India Trek, they move beyond textbooks to experience the realities of life in another country—its challenges, triumphs, and traditions. These immersive experiences humanize global issues, break down stereotypes, and create lasting bonds between people and nations. By fostering dialogue, promoting shared learning, and cultivating cultural respect, educational diplomacy equips young leaders with the skills and perspectives necessary to navigate and enhance an increasingly interconnected world. Through these bridges of learning, we lay the foundation for global citizenship and a more harmonious future.

The students who participated in the India Trek 2025 were selected based on their performance in the Montana World Affairs Council's youth conferences EconoQuest and Academic WorldQuest. They excelled as ambassadors for the Montana World Affairs Council, the State of Montana, and the United States. Their genuine curiosity, thoughtful questions, and eagerness to engage in meaningful dialogue demonstrated their maturity and global awareness. They represented their communities with warmth, respect, and openness, readily sharing aspects of American culture while embracing every opportunity to learn about Indian traditions, languages, and daily life. Whether participating in formal meetings or informal cultural exchanges, the students consistently brought a spirit of goodwill and collaboration. Their presence left a lasting impression on every host and partner they met, embodying the values of diplomacy, cultural exchange, and friendship.

Throughout the trip, the students deepened their global awareness and built lasting connections with their Indian peers. From morning yoga in the rose garden to visits to zoos, botanical gardens, and arts centers, each experience highlighted the power of cultural exchange, education, and friendship. The India Trek 2025 not only provided a transformative perspective on international cooperation but also planted seeds for future academic and career pursuits rooted in global engagement. Many students returned home with a renewed interest in international studies, diplomacy, and cross-cultural collaboration. The connections made during this journey have the potential to spark future partnerships between Montana and India in education, business, and innovation. Above all, the experience cultivated a greater understanding of the world and a commitment to contributing to a more compassionate, connected global community.

I want to thank our sponsors, supporters, guides, drivers, hosts, and friends we met along the way.

With Sincere Gratitude,

Allison DePuy, Inspired Classroom Chaperone and MWAC Education Consultant



On behalf of the Consulate General of India in Seattle and all those hosts in India eager to foster global ties and mutual understanding, a warm and heartfelt welcome to the distinguished members of the Montana delegation embarking on your maiden journey to India.
As you set foot in a country celebrated for its rich tapestry of cultures, ancient heritage, and dynamic innovation, may your visit be filled with meaningful dialogue, vibrant exchange, and the forging of lasting partnerships. This is more than a diplomatic mission—it's the beginning of a shared story between Montana and India, one built on collaboration, goodwill, and the promise of a brighter future.
Wishing you a fulfilling and memorable experience on this important voyage. Namaste and safe travels!






Meet the Delegation


Jason Smith, Chaperone
MWAC Board Member
Bozeman, Montana


Alli DePuy, Chaperone
MWAC Education Consultant
Missoula, Montana


Clara DePuy, Chaperone
Hellgate High School,
Montana State University
Missoula, Montana


Isabel Besel,
Lockwood High School,
Montana State University
Lockwood, Montana


Laira Larson
Lockwood High School
Yale
Lockwood, Montana


Aiden Gitto
Sentinel High School,
Montana State University
Missoula, Montana


James Reynolds
Sentinel High School,
Montana State University
Missoula, Montana


Emily Brandenburg
Lockwood High School,
University of Montana
Lockwood, Montana


Nathan Mizner
Sentinel High School
Missoula, Montana


Ben Mulet
Sentinel High School,
University of Montana
Missoula, Montana

India Trek Itinerary June 25 - July 10, 2025

June 25- Arrive in Seattle, tour the Indian Consulate, Indian lunch at Clove, visit a Hindu Temple, board flight for India
June 27 - Arrive in India, walk through Lodi Gardens, visit the Red Fort, and dinner with the Ministry of External Affairs
June 28- Visit to Akshaya Patra Foundation Kitchen and ISKCON Vrindavan Temple, trip to Agra and Taj Mahal
June 29- Fly to Bhubaneswar, tour of KIIT and KISS University and school, tour of Falcon Shrimp Processing Plant, Dinner with host Dwiti Vikramaditya
June 30- Campus programming including a Language Lab, meeting with the Hon'ble Founder of KIIT and KIIS, Dr Samanta, pampered at Looks Salon, dinner at Odraa to experience reimagined traditional dishes of the region
July 1- Yoga in the Rose Garden, visit to Nandankanan Zoo, Wildlife Sanctuary, and Botanical Gardens, Vocational Arts Lab, Engage with students, and sports demonstrations
July 2- Yoga, Patachitra painting class, meetings with KIIT International Relations Team, Consul General of US Jennifer Larson, and Public Health program at KIIT
June 3- Meditation with his Eminence Gyetrul Jime Rinpoche, meeting and discussion with Hon'ble Governor of Odisha Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati, visit to Shanti Stupa, Jagannath Temple in Puri, Bay of Bengal, the Sun Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
July 4- Yoga, cultural program with students from KISS, Goodbye luncheon, and 4th of July Celebration with Dr. Samanta, fly to Lucknow, dinner, musical performance, and fireworks with CMS Lucknow Manager and host Geeta Gandhi Kingdon
July 5- Meet with executive faculty members of CMS Lucknow, meet with students at Campus 1, visit Amir-ud-Daula Public Library, a traditional Indian dance school, local art exhibit, and shopping
July 6- Visit to Shri Ram Janmbhooni Temple, pizza, and game night
July 7- Ribbon cutting for new courtyard and robotics center at CMS Aliganj Campus I, cultural performances, student-to-student global conversation, visits to Bara Imambara, Chota Imambara, Chowk Market, Lucknow Picture Gallery, Sri Radha Raman Bihari Ji Mandir Temple
July 8- Cultural program with students from CMS Rajajipuram, farewell lunch with local mangos, leave for Lucknow Airport
July 9- Arrive in Seattle for ribbon cutting and celebratory dinner with Consul General Gupta at Jashn Restaurant, board planes to Montana
July 10- Arrive in Montana





Media Links

Bhubaneswar and Delhi

India Trek:
https://youtu.be/z6c1xHe3lrI?feature=shared

Kalinga TV:
https://youtu.be/3e_0yBAbUG0?feature=shared

India Trek Official:
https://www.instagram.com/p/DLz1VLKBfaK/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

ANI News:
https://youtu.be/8gLlOB09vV0?feature=shared

Lucknow

Governor Uttar Pradesh:
https://www.facebook.com/100057013016779/posts/1319183213325433/?mibextid=rS40aB7S9Ucbxw6v

Department of Culture, Uttar Pradesh:
https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1301829601464995&rdid=3GD32i8wThZjy7vg

CMS Lucknow:
https://www.instagram.com/p/DL2Zte7pTfm/?igsh=MXFxenBuc3Vtanc4Mw%3D%3D

The Voices Podcast:
https://youtu.be/bG0y2r6a2Kg?feature=shared








MONTANA WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Consulate General of India
Seattle
Serving the States of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington

INDIA TREK
BY KIIT & KISS

CMS
CITY MONTESSORI SCHOOL











"The newly opened Indian Consulate in Seattle was honoured to partner with the Montana World Affairs Council in arranging this wonderful visit for these brilliant school students from Montana to India.

We wanted them to experience the warmth of Indian hospitality, its diversity of cuisines and cultures, and most importantly, witness (at first hand) the love and affection which Indian youth have for their Montana counterparts.

As we gradually deepen our bilateral engagements with Montana, this visit led by the Montana World Affairs Council will go a long way in promoting young brand Ambassadors for India in the US Midwest and hopefully promote a better understanding and appreciation of contemporary India in young American minds."

Message from Prakash Gupta,

Consul General of India in Seattle

Dear Delegates,
On behalf of the entire City Montessori School, Rajajipuram Campus I, we extend our deepest gratitude to the Montana World Affairs Council for your enlightening and inspiring visit. Your presence at our campus was not just a cultural exchange—it was a celebration of shared values, global understanding, and educational harmony.
Your interactions with our students sparked curiosity, broadened perspectives, and beautifully reflected the essence of international collaboration. The conversations, insights, and warmth you shared left a lasting impact on the hearts and minds of our young learners. They were deeply moved by your openness, your stories and your encouragement to view the world as one interconnected family.
Such visits are more than ceremonial—they are bridges of peace, purpose, and partnership. Thank you for taking the time to connect with our school community and for contributing to our mission of nurturing global citizens with enlightened minds and compassionate hearts.
We look forward to continuing this spirit of cultural and educational exchange in our future endeavours, building bridges of knowledge and friendship that extend across continents.

Mrs.Nisha Pandey
Senior Principal,
CMS, Rajajipuram











We extend our deepest gratitude and lasting friendship to all who made this trip possible, including the Consul General of India, Seattle, KIIT and KISS University, Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Dwiti Vikramaditya, Vikas Kumar Sabata, Geeta Gandi Kingdon, Saksham Mishra, Prakriti Kumari, Dr. Debendra Kumar Samal, the Montana World Affairs Council, and everyone who showed such kindess and hospitality to our delegation.

-The Montana Education Delegation, 2025