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# SanPietro Summer Travel Prize

2026

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## About the FASA Office

Location: 3rd floor, room 319, Center for  
Student Services

FASA Office Library – Rm 319

SanPietro Website:

<https://fasa.caltech.edu/fellowships/sanpietro>

# Craig SanPietro '69

“Since leaving Caltech in 1969, I have traveled through more than 50 countries, mostly in the third world. This travel has greatly enriched my life and I want to make similar experiences available to Caltech students. Hopefully, this travel can immerse you in unusual cultural and physical situations that challenge you and make you feel more alive.”

Mr. SanPietro earned his M.S. from Caltech and built an off-road VW where he spent three months driving the Pan-American Highway. He designed a 1,000 chip spacecraft telemetry system for NASA, and contributed to the programming for the Lunar Landing Module

Mr. SanPietro passed away recently and made an additional gift to the prize endowment because of how strongly he believed in travel and the benefits travel on the scientific community.

# Travel expands your horizons.

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*Challenge yourself by going to new locations that are not familiar to you. Do not be afraid to think outside the box! You can travel in the U.S.*

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**Check out in detail what there is to see in a location – don’t miss important sites you are not aware of.**

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**Think about camping versus all hostels or hotels. Use public transport, but also consider walking or cycling as part or the primary part of your experience.**

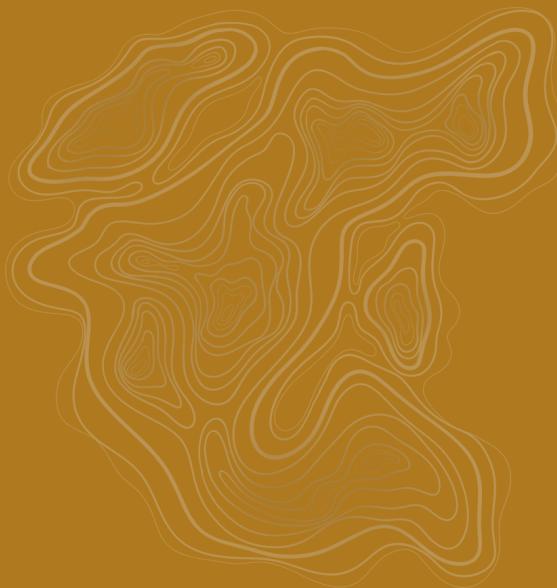
- Current sophomores, juniors, and seniors
- Must be 18 years of age by application deadline
- Must be enrolled at Caltech for **all terms in current academic year and enrolled fall term after** your trip.
  - Seniors exempt from fall enrollment after return.
  - Sophomores & Juniors must be enrolled for **fall term 2026**
- No GPA or citizenship requirement -- **keep visas in mind**
- Must be in good academic and disciplinary standing throughout prize process– cannot be on leave. For winter and spring terms you must be enrolled & on campus. The prize is forfeit if you go on leave or leave Caltech, for either an individual or for pair travelers; **trip is forfeit if one traveler backs out of trip.**

- Can travel alone or in a pair
- 2 - 12 weeks (14 days on the ground minimum - not counting arrival & departure day!)
- Start date: After Commencement seniors or completion of work for spring term. End date - weekend prior to start of fall CIT instruction
- Interesting & well thought out travel
- Feasible, intriguing, & well-planned proposal!



## No “double dipping” for travel

If you are working abroad or doing research abroad, we only pay for your travel from the work or research location to your SanPietro proposed destination provided it is on the same continent.



- Travel to/from a work or research, etc. destination is not covered.
- If you propose travel to a continent different from the foreign work, research, etc. location, departure must be Home or California unless foreign travel departure is less expensive.

**Example 1.** *If you are doing research at CERN and want to do a post or pre-CERN trip to Italy, your travel by train, bus or flight to your first destination in Italy and return to Geneva, SZ is paid only—not the travel to and from Geneva from Caltech, other California major airport, or your US home.*

• **Example 2.** *You work at CERN and want to travel to Belize, only fare from a Calif. or US home destination will be covered—not travel from Geneva to Belize unless cheaper or same!*

- Applicants need to check with their insurance policies to make sure they are covered for emergency health coverage in the proposed SanPietro travel countries.
- Applicants must also confirm they have evacuation insurance coverage in case of natural disaster, serious injury, pandemic situation, etc.
- Cannot travel to a country that has a quarantine requirement over 48 hours.
- Travel cannot be deferred to another year for any reason.
- Travel **MUST** take place during the Caltech summer term.

- Go somewhere you've never been before –can do US travel
- Quality not quantity
- Get off the beaten path
- Research, research, research!  
Books, blogs, online articles
- Budget, budget, budget
- Check U.S. Dept. of State Travel  
Warnings: [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov)

- Outbound & return airfare (LAX, SFO or US home airport). Exceptions are if return to home abroad is cheaper than return to Caltech. No breaks in return trip
- Intra-country (within the country), intra-city (within the city), inter-city (travel between cities)
- International travel between countries
- Bus, train, metro/subway/trolley, Uber, walking, cycling, flights, ferry, etc.
- There are many ways to research routes and costs online

### Accommodations

- AirBnB & similar OK
- Hostel prices are listed per person
- Small hotels/B&B's can be less expensive than hostels
- Consider *legal* camping
- Cannot stay with relatives or friends

There are a number of great examples in the library.

- Remember to list everything in **USD**.
- Consider rate and fee changes. *During the summer months, prices may change for activities.*
- Meals, accommodation, museum tickets, day tours reasonably priced activities that enhance the trip and roundtrip airfare and local within a city and between destinations travel are covered items.

For further information, attend the SanPietro Budget meeting and/or visit the FASA Library for past examples.

## The SanPietro is taxable.

Tax for US citizen or resident will be based on IRS and State Supplemental Income Tax Regulations, which require 22% Federal and 6.6% CA-State withholding.

FICA tax (7.65%) and CA-SDI (1.2% *for 2025*) is required to be withheld unless the recipient is a student enrolled full time at time of payment.

### **Non-Resident:**

Subject to 22% Federal and 6.6% State tax withholding.

Not subject to FICA or CA taxes.

## DUE March 10

### Application:

1. Essay – all applicants
2. Travel proposal, which includes:
  - Cover page
  - Itinerary
  - Very clear annotated Map of proposed route
3. Budget in US dollars
4. Cost breakdown-round to tens
5. Unofficial transcript
6. TWO letters of reference
7. Optional 3rd peer reference

**- Pairs will send in 2 separate application documents**



**These proposals must be purely your own work:**

- Do not copy itineraries from the blogs, the internet, or books
- Everything must be your writing/own words

- “Tag-along” trips are discouraged
- Stay in one geographic region (one to two countries recommended)
- No adding extensions onto pre-existing travel plans
- No political or business-oriented trips
- No expensive activities or luxury travel, etc.
- Trip is not specifically “adventure” travel but should be adventurous for you within your comfort zone.
- No car or motorcycle rental

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SanPietro  
2025

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SP '25

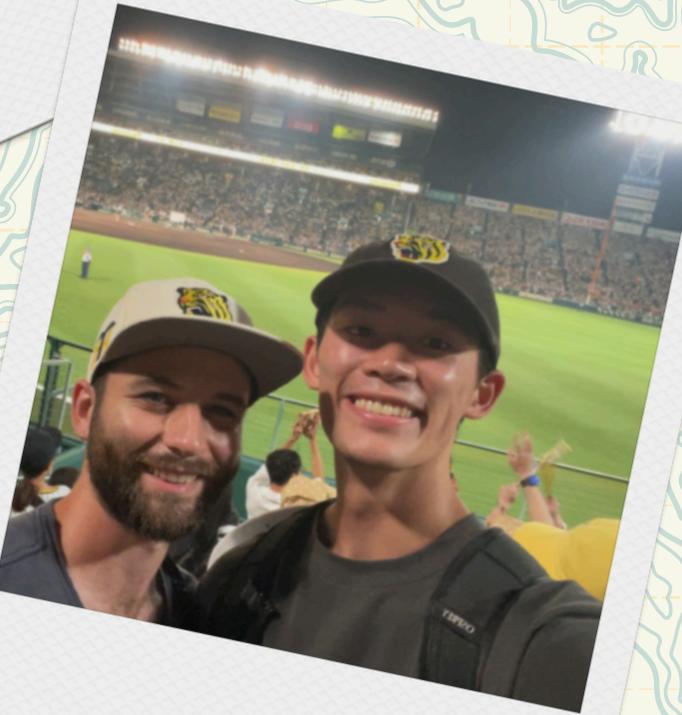
# Otis, Miles, Edward & Ryan

NEW  
ZEALAND



SWITZERLAND,  
GERMANY,  
AUSTRIA

JAPAN



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Questions?

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