



Frequently Asked Questions 2019 Voyage of Discovery Program

Who is eligible?

The Voyage of Discovery is open to all Italian American college students ages 18 to 23 that have never previously been to Italy. Students can be no older than 23 at time of travel (June 2019).

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 cannot make any exceptions.

How do I apply?

You must 1) submit an online application no later than **Friday, February 1, 2019 11:59 p.m. (PST)**, 2) e-mail your transcript and **two different** letters of recommendation to voyageofdiscovery@niasf.org. All documents are to be received by Friday, February 1, 2019 at 11:59 p.m. (PST).

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?

All documents are to be e-mailed in PDF format to: voyageofdiscovery@niasf.org.

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.

Can my recommendation provider e-mail my letter of recommendation?

Yes. All letters of recommendation are to be emailed in PDF format to voyageofdiscovery@nias.org.

When is the application deadline?

The deadline for applications is **Friday, February 1, 2019 at 11:59 p.m. (PST)**.

The application will be taken offline at **11:59 p.m. PST**. Your two letters of recommendation, transcript and application must be received by that time.

When will I be notified of the selection results?

All students will be notified via email on **Friday, March 1, 2019**

Where and when does the program travel?

The 2019 Voyage of Discovery Program will take place in the 2019 NIAF Region of Honor. The trip will take place in June 2019.

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 the time of travel, non-refundable trip deposit, student international trip insurance, proof of student status, and signed paperwork (which we will send you once you accept the position on the trip).

Students selected to participate must accept by Friday, March 8, 2019.

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 20 students (10 male; 10 female) selected each year to participate in the Voyage of Discovery. The odds of being selected depend on the number of applicants. In the years past, we've received 200 to 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", 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 not 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. Participants are required to stay with the group throughout the entire

program and participate in all scheduled activities. The program is packed with activities; however there is one free day.

**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. Each participant is given the opportunity to extend his/her stay after the program ends. Visits with friends and family in Italy are to be arranged for your free time.

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

No. The NIAF Director of the Program is the chaperone.

What does the Voyage of Discovery include?

- Round-trip airfare between US and Italy
- Hotel accommodations
- Hotel accommodations are 2/3 same-gender participants to a room
- All meals; except where noted on the itinerary
- Motorcoach transfers
- English-speaking 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
- Trip insurance

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Processing fee and deposit policy

Students Selected to Participate: Proof of student status and a \$150 non-refundable processing fee and current credit card will be requested of **only those students accepted into the program**. Any non-refundable costs incurred by NIAF before or during the program will be charged to the student's credit card. Additionally, any costs incurred due to violation of the "Code of Conduct" resulting in early termination of the student's participation in the Voyage of Discovery program will be charged to the participant's credit card.

Before travel, students will be required to purchase a student travel insurance.