

# 7 Montessori Adolescent Summits 2017



**March 1-4, 2017**

Topic: Air  
Cagayan de Oro,  
Philippines  
Host School:  
The Abba's Orchard



**March 15-18, 2017**

Topic: Humans  
Vienna, Austria  
Host School:  
Montessori Campus  
Wien Hüttendorf



**March 22-25, 2017**

Topic: Land  
Chihuahua, Mexico  
Host School:  
Colegio Montessori  
de Chihuahua



**April 5-8, 2017**

Topic: Plants  
Houston, Texas  
Host School:  
School of the Woods



**May 8-11, 2017**

Topic: Energy  
Huntsburg, Ohio  
Host School:  
Hershey Montessori  
School



**May 22-28, 2017**

Topic: Water  
Brittany, France  
Host School:  
Collège Montessori  
Amorique



**May 26-June 1, 2017**

Topic: Animals  
Costa Rica  
Host School:  
MISP and Natural  
Solutions' Peace and  
Biodiversity Program

***Alternate date for  
Humans topic  
April 19-22, 2017***

Topic: Humans  
Dundas, Ontario,  
Canada  
Host School:  
Dundas Valley  
Montessori School/  
Strata

Registration information available December 2016.

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# 7 Montessori Adolescent Summits 2017



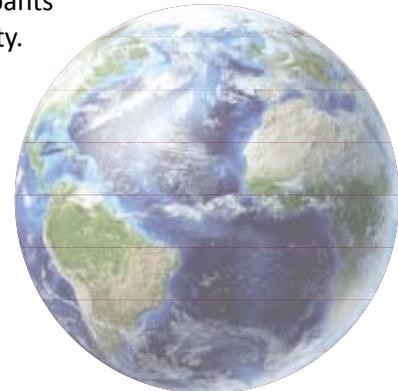
*“The essence of this social life is work...in this sensitive period he is prepared to take up his part in the social life of humanity.”*

—Maria Montessori

Adolescents are uniquely suited to address the critical issues of the world. Only by directly experiencing the complexities of society and working in a global community will adolescents develop an authentic understanding of the human condition as their social and moral selves evolve.

To encourage hope and positive action for the future, the adolescent needs to feel that they are part of the solution by their efforts to solve one problem at a time. When a group of Montessori students from different parts of the world collaborate, they become advocates for what is true human progress. This is their developmental task.

Join Montessori adolescents from around the world in tackling major global issues. Our areas of focus are based on the interdependent elements: water, air, land, plants, animals, humans, and energy. All summit locations are home to a dynamic project related to their theme. Each summit will focus on one of these themes. The work can be thought of in three parts. First, participants explore the theme as is relevant to their local community. They then travel to the summit to connect and deepen their knowledge with other Montessori adolescents. Finally, they return home and enact a project born out of their research. The seven summits will culminate at the 2017 AMI Congress in Prague, where adolescents will present their summit work to highlight the interdependence of the issues at hand and the mission to work towards change for the future.



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**March 1–4, 2017**

**Topic: Air**

**Cagayan de Oro,  
Philippines**

**Host School:**

**The Abba's Orchard**

**Dates: March 1–4, 2017**

**Topic: Air**

**Location: Cagayan de Oro, Philippines**

**Host School: The Abba's Orchard**

The Erdkinder students of the Abba's Orchard have embarked on a long-term project to turn a government-owned, 4-hectare, barren, and sloping terrain near its campus into a rainforest. While rainforests inhale carbon dioxide and exhale oxygen for humans to breathe, they also contribute to the formation of rain clouds. Rain naturally cleanses the air of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas. The project was started last school year, as one of the action plans after the MISP summit on water in Washington, DC. The student leaders have already visited with the regional director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to make known their intentions. A memorandum of agreement has already been signed with the designated steward of the area. Seedlings of the calandria tree are being propagated. They will be planted first to naturally take out the cogon grass presently covering the slopes. The canopy of the calandria tree will block the sunlight causing the cogon grass to die. In the dry season, the cogon grass serves as fuel for forest fire and can endanger the forest trees to be planted. When the cogon grass is naturally gone, indigenous forest trees will be planted in place of the calandria trees.





**March 15-18, 2017**

Topic: Humans

**Vienna, Austria**

Host School:

Montessori Campus  
Wien Hüttendorf

*Alternate date  
for Humans topic*  
**April 19-22, 2017**  
**Dundas, Ontario,  
Canada**

**Dates: March 15-18, 2017**

**Topic: Humans**

**Location: Vienna, Austria**

Host School: Montessori Campus Wien Hüttendorf

“Inclusion through Solidarity and Collaboration”

The civil war in Syria has created a large population of refugees to migrate to Europe, including into Austria. Last year, as a way to better understand the controversial issue of migration to their country, the adolescent students of Montessori Campus worked with refugee groups to create visual art projects and cooked meals together. Their goal was to come together with these groups to create human understanding and solidarity through collaborative work. This year, Montessori Campus will be continuing their mission of inclusion through a drama project and once again cooking and sharing meals. The work of this summit will focus on migration, particularly that of refugees seeking a new home due to a number of factors prevalent in parts of our world today, including war and political conflict. Sharing in this mission with the students of Montessori Campus, visiting students will take their experiences from the summit in Vienna as a jumping point for working with homeless or refugee populations in their local communities.





**March 22-25, 2017**

**Topic: Land**

**Chihuahua, Mexico**

**Host School:**

**Colegio Montessori de Chihuahua**

**Dates: March 22-25, 2017**

**Topic: Land**

**Location: Chihuahua, Mexico**

**Host School: Colegio Montessori de Chihuahua**

The forest of Majalca is a small but important piece of land. Located 47 kilometers from Chihuahua, it provides the city with water, helps regulate the temperature, and provides the city with clean air. Therefore, it is called “the city’s green lung.” Majalca is also the closest forest to Chihuahua City, so it provides the urban population the opportunity to be in contact with nature. The work that adolescents do at Majalca contributes to control four major aspects that concern the local settlers. These are reforestation, erosion, over-grazing, and trail maintenance. If students continue helping the associations in charge to control these aspects, their work will have a meaningful impact on the park’s life.

Students plant and take care of the trees. They are guided by experts on this matter, providing them with information and workshops on how to transplant the trees properly. Other activities aside from planting include watering the trees, digging water pits, and isolating cattle from the newly planted areas.





**April 5-8, 2017**

**Topic: Plants**

**Houston, Texas**

**Host School:**

**School of the Woods**

**Dates: April 5-8, 2017**

**Topic: Plants**

**Location: Houston, Texas**

**Host School: School of the Woods**

The School of the Woods will partner with Blackwood Educational Land Institute to provide students the opportunity to contribute to a unique farming program. Blackwood Educational Land Institute is a farm on a quest to model the indispensable role of sustainable food systems, to explore and practice resilient agriculture techniques, to create better ways to grow and source food, and to inspire and prepare the next wave of farmers and ecologists. Located on a 33-acre teaching farm in Waller County, Texas, Blackwood has nearly four acres of cultivated land, and the remainder is preserved in three distinct ecosystems: coastal prairie, post-oak savannah, and pine barrens. Students will learn about perennial grains, polyculture, and tilling practices through their farm work and through work with Blackwood's unique seed bank.





**April 19-22, 2017**

Topic: Humans

**Dundas, Ontario,  
Canada**

Host School:  
Dundas Valley  
Montessori School/  
Strata

*Alternate date  
for Humans topic*  
**March 15-18, 2017**  
**Vienna, Austria**

**Dates: April 19-22, 2017**

**Topic: Humans**

**Location: Dundas, Ontario, Canada**

Host School: Dundas Valley Montessori School/Strata

Food, a fundamental human need, weaves itself through our lives: from individual dietary choices we make, family traditions, a culture's customs, to the practices of businesses and institutions. Supporting local farmers, sustainable farming practices, and learning how to prepare balanced wholesome meals affects not only the environment but human society. At Strata, our young adolescents are challenged to view the issue of global food security through the lens of our own daily lunch program and the choices we make as a community about the food we eat everyday. Our Farm to School project's focus is to explore and understand the impact humans have on global sustainability by putting responsible food choices into practice. The modern food system's impact on our health, society, and economy is also examined. The aim of the project is to create a community where its members are cooking and eating clean, healthy meals with whole foods and fresh produce, straight from the land that surrounds us.





**May 8-11, 2017**

**Topic: Energy**

**Huntsburg, Ohio**

**Host School:**

**Hershey Montessori  
School**

**Dates: May 8-11, 2017**

**Topic: Energy**

**Location: Huntsburg, Ohio**

**Host School: Hershey Montessori School**

*“Pathway to Sustainable Energy”*

The United Nations has identified “access to affordable and clean energy for all” as one of their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the year 2030. While access to energy has expanded in recent years, global leaders are still faced with the challenge of balancing growing energy consumption needs with the negative effects of burning fossil fuels and other non-renewable energies. Meeting the emission targets of the Paris Agreement will require expanding global use of alternative energy sources like solar, wind, hydro-electric, and biomass. The summit, hosted at Hershey Montessori School, will explore how communities can contribute to this SDG through energy reduction strategies and the application of alternative energy technologies. Energy conservation has always been a focus of Hershey Montessori’s farm campus. Visiting students will be able to investigate several types of alternative energy technology including geothermal heating, photovoltaic cells, biofuels, as well as learn about the construction of a new building on the property using the principles of passive house design.





**May 22-28, 2017**

**Topic: Water**

**Brittany, France**

**Host School:**

**Collège Montessori  
Amorique**

**Dates: May 22-28, 2017**

**Topic: Water**

**Location: Brittany, France**

**Host School: Collège Montessori Amorique**

**“Consequences of Marine Pollution on Man and His Environment”**

Marine pollution is caused by the waste, substances, and energies that have harmful effects on living resources and marine ecosystems. There are multiple pathways of pollution, often the result of human activities, such as wind-blown debris, atmospheric pollution, oil spill, and agricultural runoff. The result is a range of serious effects on the environment and human health that are easy to identify on a local or global level. The purpose of this summit is to study causes of marine pollution and to find solutions on a short- and long-term basis. Marine pollution is a tangible issue and this summit offers students the chance to explore the topic and realize the responsibility they have in society to fight pollution.





**May 26-June 1, 2017**

**Topic: Animals**

**Costa Rica**

**Host School:**

**MISP and Natural  
Solutions' Peace and  
Biodiversity Program**

**Dates: May 26-June 1, 2017**

**Topic: Animals**

**Costa Rica**

**Host School: MISP & Natural Solutions' Peace and Biodiversity Program**

Founded in 1987 by Swedish school children, the Children's Eternal Rainforest (CER) is 54,000 acres and represents the maximum expression of life on Earth in terms of biodiversity. It is a forest created by children for children and a forest that needs study and support. In this way, it provides an opportunity for Montessori schools to take a leading effort in original research and stewardship of a global treasure. Adolescents from around the world will collaborate with international scientists as contributors to research, data, and funds for preservation, conservation, and expansion of the CER. MISP's local tropical ecologist, in collaboration with a variety of local scientists and experts, will assist the students in designing independent research projects. These scientific experiments serve the dual purpose of generating essential baseline data about CER and providing a mode of meaningful student-directed interaction with the forest. The CER provides limitless potential for uncovering new knowledge, which not only offers endless possibilities for research but also perspective and appreciation for local (knowable) biodiversity back home. Integrating the Costa Rica experience into the disciplines pre- and post-trip is important because this work is most impactful when it builds upon the local study of biodiversity and gives relevance to the real work being done, locally and globally. The students leave the CER with an ingrained sense of responsibility.