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A ROAD SCHOLAR CHARTER PROGRAM TAKES ALL THE WORK OUT OF AN EDUCATIONAL ADVENTURE

BOSTON (July 27, 2010) — Texan Jerry Hall wanted to go on a birding adventure along the Maine coast with members of his local birding club — but he didn't want the hassle of arranging the transportation, lodging and meal details for group members who would be traveling from Texas.

As a participant of Road Scholar programs in the past, Hall decided to look into reserving a Road Scholar charter adventure for his birding group's next excursion. Elderhostel, Inc, the not-for-profit world leader in lifelong learning since 1975, is the creator of Road Scholar educational adventures.

"My wife and I had gone on Elderhostel programs for years," he said, "and then our birding club was looking for their next trip — so we looked into it and organized a trip for the club. It's much easier."

A blog writer at the San Marcos Daily Record, Hall and his birding group have continued to utilize Road Scholar as a resource for their birding excursions — journeys that have led from spotting Atlantic Puffins in Rockport, Maine to more exotic species in Nicaragua. "We've had some really great sightings on these programs," Hall remarked.

With more than 8,000 learning adventures to choose from, Road Scholar charter programs offer a wide range of topics and locations to suit nearly any group outing. As with any Road Scholar program, not only are meals, lodging and group activity expenses included, but participants can also rely on seasoned experts to add learning to their adventures.

"Our bird club has enjoyed numerous charter programs — in Maine, California, Arizona, Montana and Uruguay," Hall enthused. "All have been outstanding. Excellent organization, terrific instructors and lots of friendly, helpful folks made for some great birding experiences."

Full and partial charters are available, and broadened age eligibility enables these programs to be ideal for family reunions, alumni group gatherings, church and temple group outings. Other groups, including hiking or gardening clubs, can find a wide variety of programs based on their interests in numerous locations around the world.

Ronald Konieczynski, the chief pathfinder for the Cleveland Hiking Group, found that Road Scholar charter programs were an ideal way to find fresh activities for an experienced group of hikers.

“We are a large hiking club and have chartered nine hike-oriented Road Scholar programs so far,” he said. “These programs often take us on hikes we couldn't have found for ourselves. Hikes also mean more to us because the instructors tell us about the places and things that we are seeing as we go.”

Konieczynski said that members of his hiking group are all ears when they get wind of a new Road Scholar charter hiking adventure. “Our biggest problem,” he said, “is that these programs have gotten so popular with the membership that they fill in minutes,” meaning the members of his club do some pretty fast footwork even before heading off on their next hike.

For more information on arranging a charter program, call toll free at (877) 209-4634 or go to www.roadscholar.org/charter.

About Elderhostel and Road Scholar

Road Scholar is the name for the programs developed and offered by Elderhostel, Inc., the not-for-profit world leader in lifelong learning since 1975. Our mission is to empower adults to explore the world's places, peoples, cultures and ideas, and in so doing to discover more about themselves. A fellowship of learning and the joy of discovery are the hallmarks of the Road Scholar experience.

Road Scholar programs bring together instructors and participants from diverse backgrounds to foster dynamic interaction, engaging discourse and warm camaraderie. In a world that seems to shrink smaller by the day because of technology, we believe that true insight and understanding are still sparked by hands-on experience and open discussions that stimulate the senses, energize the body and challenge the mind. We are committed to continually developing new program destinations, topics and formats to reflect the shifting realities and emerging trends of our ever-changing world.

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