

Connexpedition 2024: New Taipei City

A program by Wisdom Culture and Education Organization (WCEO)

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Introduction

Since 2011, more than 700 high school students have volunteered with Connexpedition overseas in Taiwan, teaching English and sharing their American culture while exploring the traditions, lifestyle, and values of the island nation. The program aims to provide meaningful service-learning experience combined with leadership development and cultural exchange opportunities. Members are invited to deepen their understanding of themselves and the world they live in while serving in a foreign community.

Program outcomes:

1. Members will develop and grow as a young leader in the San Francisco Bay Area community. Members will display effective leadership within a team environment and learn to be responsible for their own actions.
2. Members will plan and lead a comprehensive 10-week online English program for the students of New Taipei City, acting as an academic role model for their students.
3. Members will successfully plan and execute a summer English program for the students of New Taipei City. This summer program will positively impact the students' motivation towards English education and show them that learning English can be fun.
4. Members will enjoy an international experience curated by program staff, host schools, and host students that will include many opportunities to participate in the local culture, cuisine, and lifestyle.

Program Timeline

Training and Preparation	February 2024 – June 2024
Online English Program	March 2024 – June 2024
Service Trip	July 1, 2024 – July 12, 2024
Post-Trip Reunion and Award Ceremony	October 2024

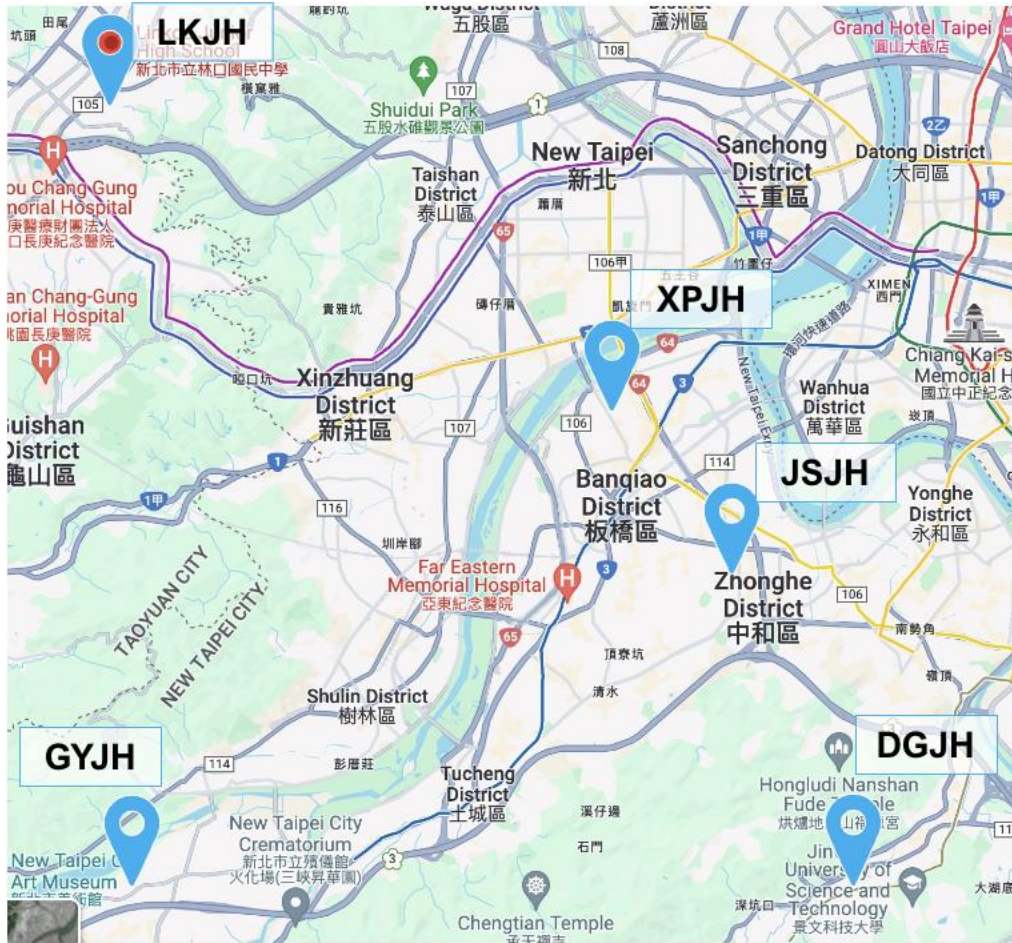
Program Staff

For any inquiries or concerns, please contact us via our staff email address, connexpedition@wceo.org.

Leo King, Connexpedition Program Manager
Vionna Huang, Assistant Program Manager
Katherine Yeh, Social Media and Training Management
Emma Lu, BBnA Program Manager

Chi Kang, Connexpedition Team Leader
Vesta Huang Connexpedition Team Leader
Betty Lu, Connexpedition Team Leader
Alex Wang, Connexpedition Team Leader

2024 Service Locations



XPJH – Xinpu Junior High School (新埔國中)

JSJH – Jisui Junior High School (積穗國中)

DGJH – Daguan Elementary and Junior High School (達觀國中小)

GYJH – Ganyuan Junior High School (柑園國中)

LKJK – Linkou Junior High School (林口國中)

Tentative Itinerary

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Below is the tentative itinerary for this summer's trip. Please note that this itinerary is still fluid and subject to change. All times local.

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Participants traveling from the US meet at San Francisco International Airport at 9:00 PM

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Possible flights you may book:

- United Airlines UA853 – 11:45PM departure *

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Possible flights you may book:

- China Airlines CI 3 – 1:05 AM departure
- EVA Airlines BR 17 – 12:50 AM departure
- EVA Airlines BR 27 – 1:15 AM departure *
- Starlux Airlines JX011 – 12:50 AM departure

**denotes staff will be present on these flights*

Thursday, June 27, 2024

Arrive in Taiwan – 6:00 AM

- Participants arriving on the aforementioned flights will arrive at or before approximately 6:30 AM
- We will arrange charter bus transportation from the airport to Taipei Hero House 臺北國軍英雄館

Meet at Taipei Hero House lobby – 8:00 AM

- Participants already in Taiwan prior to July 1 will check in to the program at Taipei Hero House
 - No. 20, Section 1, Changsha St, Zhongzheng District, Taipei City, Taiwan 100
- We will arrange charter bus transportation from Taipei Hero House to the separate schools

Please report to the check-in location early, as it is important for our following events. They may miss crucial information if they are late.

Orientation and settling into rooms at Taipei Hero House – 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Begin final preparations for classes

Friday – Saturday, June 27-28, 2024

Continue preparation for classes

Sunday, June 30, 2024

Travel to assigned schools

- Charter bus transportation will be arranged for the teams to travel to their assigned schools in New Taipei City

Continue preparation for classes

Monday – Friday, July 1-5, 2024

English Summer Program

- Classes from 9:00 AM through 4:30 PM
- Continue preparation in the afternoon and evening

Saturday, July 6, 2024

Exploring New Taipei City and Taipei City, each team will have a curated itinerary for the day, or we will travel as a group to various locations

Sunday, July 7, 2024

Morning – set up conference venue and prepare for conference

Afternoon – exploring New Taipei City and Taipei City with their teams

Monday – Thursday, July 8-11, 2024

English Summer Program

- Classes from 9:00 AM through 4:30 PM
- Continue preparation in the afternoon and evening

Friday, July 12, 2024

New Taipei City BBnA Conference – all students and volunteers gather to review the outcomes of program

Saturday, July 13, 2024

Morning: Clean up and pack up

Approx 10:00 AM: Each team leader will plan a day trip around New Taipei City and Taipei

Member and staff closing celebration dinner

7:00 PM: Meet at Banqiao Station for check out

- Participants remaining in Taiwan will need to be picked up by parents or family members at Banqiao Station
- Participants returning to the US will have arranged transportation and supervision to the airport

Possible flights you may book (unfortunately no staff will be available on these flights, but we will supervise them until they pass through security):

- China Airlines CI 4 – 11:30 PM departure
- EVA Airlines BR 28 – 11:30 PM departure
- Starlux Airlines JX012 – 11:50 PM departure

Sample Schedule

Below is a sample schedule for the English program in Taiwan. This view is for reference only for Training 1 (Orientation) and is not the final schedule.

Time/Day	Mon, 7/3	Tues, 7/4	Wed, 7/5	Thurs, 7/6	Fri, 7/7
7:15 – 8:30	Morning Routine (Wake up, breakfast, preparations)				
8:30 – 9:00	Enrollment				
9:00 – 9:50	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1
10:00 – 10:50	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2
11:00 – 11:50	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch and Nap				
13:00 – 13:50	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4
14:00 – 14:50	Period 5	Period 5	Period 5	Period 5	Period 5
15:00 – 15:50	Period 6	Period 6	Period 6	Period 6	Period 6
16:00 – 16:30	Clean Up				
16:30 – 17:00	Students Return Home				
17:00 – 18:00	Team Meeting				
18:00 – 18:30	Dinner				
18:30 – 21:30	Preparations				
21:30 – 22:30	Showers, Laundry, Team Meetings, Reflections				
22:30	Lights Out				

2024 Tentative Lesson Plans and Curriculum

We will be teaching lessons that are designed to help NTPC students build strong foundations in conversational English and vocabulary to help them deliver their presentation in week 2. The topics will be chosen by the students themselves at the beginning of the week, with guidance from the members, focusing on lifestyle-related topics.

New Taipei City Conference and Presentations

The ultimate goal of this program is to guide and mentor students while they create a 10-minute group presentation in English about a topic of their choosing. Their presentation and materials will be judged during the 1-day conference in the second week of the program.

Connexpedition 2024 Tentative Packing List

The below is a tentative list of required and recommended items for participants of the Connexpedition 2023 service trip. We will finalize this list again prior to the service trip. Items to bring include, but are not limited to the following...

Sleeping

- Sleeping bag and/or blankets
- Sleeping pad (Optional)
- Pillow (one inflatable pillow will be provided)

Backpacks

- Hiking backpack
- Day backpack

First Aid Kit and Health

- Bandages
- Neosporin
- Antiseptic wipes/Alcohol wipes
- Tylenol or Aspirin
- Anti-itch, mosquito bite relief
- Mosquito repellent

Toiletries and Hygiene Essentials

- Toothbrush, toothpaste, floss
- Deodorant
- Body wash, shampoo, conditioner
- Shower towel and washcloth
- Feminine hygiene items

Other Helpful Hygiene and Health Items

- Reusable and disposable masks
- Small packs of tissues
- Hand sanitizer
- Sunscreen
- Face wash
- Razors
- Nail clippers
- Hairbrush, hair bands
- Chapstick, face and body lotion

Extras and Accessories (Recommended)

- PE Whistle
- Watch

- Flashlight

Electronics/Recreational Items

(Participant assumes responsibility - electronics will be confiscated during the service portion of the trip)

- Cell phones and chargers
- Power banks
- Digital cameras, film cameras
- Books, kindle, card games, etc.
- Laptops (Only members authorized by team leaders should bring computers)

Apparel (Approximately one week's worth of clothes)

- Connexpedition T-shirts
(Distributed in Taiwan)
- Additional shirts or tops
- Shorts and/or pants
- One jacket, sweatshirt, or long-sleeved shirt (Recommended)
- Rain jacket, poncho, or umbrella (Recommended)
- Pajamas
- Closed-toed active shoes
- Shower sandals
- Socks and underwear

Living and Travel Essentials

- Dining kit (Bowl and utensils)
- Reusable water bottle
- Passport
- Another form of ID (such as school ID, driver's license, photocopy of passport, etc. to carry on person)
- Money (Note: If exchanging with WCEO, only \$200 USD will be exchanged to NT)

Classroom and Team Essentials

- Notebook/paper, pens, and pencils
- Connexpedition binder
- Lesson plans
- Final Connexpedition packet
(Distributed at final meeting)
- Any introductory lesson materials
- Other lesson or classroom materials
- Check with your team leader if there are any additional items you may have to pack

Connexpedition 2024 Tentative Training Schedule

This training schedule is still tentative and subject to change!

Please review the below training schedule to ensure you can attend a majority of the below dates.

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
Orientation (Training 1)*	Sunday, March 3, 2024	1:00pm – 4:00pm	San Jose High School 275 N 24th St, San Jose, CA 95116
Parents' Meeting		4:00pm – 5:00pm	
Training 2	Sunday, March 24, 2024	1:00pm – 5:00pm	San Jose High School
Training 3	Sunday, April 14, 2024	1:00pm – 5:00pm	San Jose High School
Online Lesson	Tuesday, April 23, 2024	TBA	Online
Training 4	Sunday, April 28, 2024	1:00pm – 5:00pm	San Jose High School
Training 5	Sunday, May 19, 2024	1:00pm – 5:00pm	San Jose High School
Online Lesson	Tuesday, May 21, 2024	TBA	Online
Training 6	Sunday, June 2, 2024	1:00pm – 5:00pm	San Jose High School
Pre-Trip Final Logistics Meeting (Parents' Meeting)		4:00pm-5:00pm	San Jose High School
Online Lesson	Tuesday, June 4, 2024	TBA	Online
Training 7* (Post-trip)	End of August	TBA	In person, TBD

* Denotes mandatory attendance

Please note: Times and locations subject to change at any time.

Online Introductory Lessons – April to June 2024

Before embarking on the service trip to Taiwan in the summer, you will first meet your students online. You will be paired up with a partner to lead three online lessons for one class of about 8-10 students. Through these one-hour lessons, you will help your students build confidence in their English fluency and become familiar with their skill levels.

Online English Program – September to December 2024

After embarking on the service trip to Taiwan in the summer, you will continue to meet your students online in the fall. There will be one training session in September to prepare you for teaching online lessons. You will be paired up with a partner to lead 10 online lessons for one class of about 8-10 students to continue to build confidence in their English speaking and listening.

These online lessons will run from September through December. If you share the workload with your partner, you will teach online approximately once a month – only about four or five times over four months. You and your class will be assigned one set time and day of the week (Monday through Thursday). The lessons will be scheduled in the evening (Pacific time) to correspond to your students' lunchtime in Taiwan.

This schedule may still be adjusted according to various holidays and testing periods in the US and Taiwan.

Tentative Online Class Schedule

Week beginning	Class occurrence	Notes
September 2	1	8:00PM - 9:00PM, Labor Day
September 9	1	
September 23	1	SAT
October 7 or 14	1	
October 21	1	
October 28	1	Halloween, SAT
November 4	1	9:00PM – 10:00PM, Daylight Savings (Fall Back)
November 11	1	Veterans Day
December 9	1	

Refund Policies

- I. The Program Fee and Refundable Deposit will be collected before or at Training 1, after applicants are accepted.
- II. The \$40 application fee is non-refundable; it is an application fee that is required for everyone.
- III. The Refundable Deposit (\$200) will be returned in halves (\$100) in two phases:
 - a. First refund eligible following the completion of the training and service trip (July 2024)
 - b. Second refund eligible following the completion of the online lessons (Dec 2024)
- IV. Members who are dismissed or withdraw from the program are eligible for a complete or partial refund of the Program Fee and Refundable Deposit depending on various conditions. Percentage values below indicate the portion of fees eligible for refund.

Withdrawal or Dismissal Time Frame	Conditions					
	<i>Member performance does not meet expectations</i>		<i>Member violates Program Policies or Code of Conduct</i>		<i>Member voluntarily withdraws from the program</i>	
	Program Fee	Refundable Deposit	Program Fee	Refundable Deposit	Program Fee	Refundable Deposit
Before Training 2	100%	100%	100%	0%	75%	75%
During training period	50%	100%	50%	0%	50%	50%
During service trip	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Updates During the Service Trip

Photos and videos: You may visit our website for uploads of trip photos and videos during the service trip. We will do our best to update our albums daily, but please know that we may be extremely busy and may not upload photos or videos until the following day.

No news is good news: No news is good news! Please do not worry and allow your child to develop, mature, and grow independently with our trained and experienced staff.

Emergencies: In the case of emergency, we will contact parents first. If the parents cannot be reached, we will call the emergency contact listed in your registration form. We will do a final information check before we depart to Taiwan to ensure all contact information is accurate and up to date.

Cell Phone Policy: There will be very limited free time for personal cell phone usage. At times, we may also request volunteers to turn in their cell phones to allow for greater team collaboration and bonding time. Calling home will be allowed as a final option for volunteers who may feel homesick. Our camp staff will provide counseling and guidance first before calling home.

Communication and Reminders

Connexpedition staff will use the following channels to communicate official reminders and updates regarding all programs **to members**.

Important updates requiring the attention of parents and guardians will be emailed. After team assignments, team leaders may request members to adopt a communication channel not from the below list.



connexpedition@wceo.org

Email is our primary method of contact. We will send meeting recaps, reminders, and all important information via email. Please add connexpedition@wceo.org to your contacts list.

Email us to request an excused absence or with any questions you may have.



Instagram @Connexpedition

Members, please follow us on Instagram @Connexpedition for the latest updates and reminders.



connexpedition.com/2024

This site is a member portal for you to review important information, access links, and turn in assignments.