



Black Land Matters *A Gullah-Geechee Field Study*

Overview

During this three-day program, explore the historical systems and contemporary policies that impact Black land ownership with a specific focus on the Gullah-Geechee descendants of Sapelo Island and Savannah, Georgia. The Gullah-Geechee people are descendants of formerly enslaved people from the West Coast of Africa, captured because of their agricultural knowledge of rice. Their culture is distinctive and found only in the Lowcountry of the Southeast.

Through cultural immersion, learn how different communities and heritage organizations have worked to preserve Black land ownership in the Lowcountry, historically and today. Focusing on the themes of race, slavery, and Black land ownership, this program considers the impact of Field Order 15 (40 acres and a mule), reparations, banking inequity, gentrification, redlining, and heirs property law on the development of community values and culture by looking at two different experiences: the urban environment of Savannah and the rural Gullah-Geechee culture on Sapelo Island.

During this program learn how to establish reciprocal partnerships with similar organizations back in your home community for future collaboration within the classroom. Receive a professional development certificate for training in creating a culturally responsive classroom, and using the Nobis Global Action Method to guide students in completing culturally focused service-learning projects.

Trip Highlights

- Trace the history the African-American experience and land ownership in the Lowcountry from slavery to present day.
- Visit historical sites such as the Savannah slave market, secret schools, 1st African Baptist Church (the oldest Black church in the US), a Geechee community on Sapelo Island.
- Hear from Gullah-Geechee descendants about the value and struggle of land ownership within their community from emancipation to today.
- Learn how to develop reciprocal service-learning partnerships between your classroom and museums or heritage sites.
- Explore creative ways to empower your students to document projects.

Cost \$450

This fee includes select meals (see itinerary below), excursions, activity fees, gratuities, and professional development training. Your additional costs include travel to Savannah, lodging, remaining meals and any spending money you want to bring to purchase snacks or gifts while traveling.

Contact Nobis Project Staff for Recommended Accommodations

Airport Information

Participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from the program location. **Participants should not make travel arrangements until receiving written confirmation from Nobis Project.** Nobis Project is not responsible for travel arrangements made by participants before receiving written confirmation.

Suggested Reading

- “God, Dr. Buzzard, & the Bolito Man” by Cornelia Walker Bailey
- “Daughters of the Dust” by Julie Dash
- “Mama Day” by Gloria Naylor

DAY ONE – SATURDAY	
	Breakfast on Your Own
8:00 am	Welcome, Introduction to Nobis Global Action Model & Big Ideas Activity
9:00 am	Big Ideas Activity
11:15 am	King-Tisdell Cottage Tour
12:30 pm	Box Lunch at King-Tisdell Cottage
1:30 pm	African American History Tour
3:30 pm	Free Time
5:30pm	Group Reflection
7:00 pm	Welcome Dinner – Lowcountry Boil
DAY TWO – SUNDAY	
	Breakfast on Your Own
6:45 am	Depart for Sapelo Island
9:00 am	Tour of Sapelo Island
Noon	Catered lunch on Island
1:00 pm	Meet with Descendants
2:00 pm	Return to Savannah
3:30 pm	Free Time
5:00 pm	Big Ideas Activity & Group Reflection
7:00 pm	Dinner on Your Own
DAY THREE – MONDAY	
	Breakfast on Your Own
8:30 am	Action Planning Workshop
10:15 am	Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum Tour
12:00 pm	Final Group Reflection
1:00 pm	Program Ends