



Center for Responsible Travel

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## 3rd International Travelers' Philanthropy Conference: A core Component of Responsible Travel



MONTEVERDE INSTITUTE

A Sustainable Community  
for a Sustainable World

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**July 20 - 23, 2011 ~ Costa Rica**

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### ***Travelers' Philanthropy Conference Announces Opening Keynote Speaker, Short Course, New Partnerships & Sponsorships***

The 3rd International Travelers' Philanthropy Conference, taking place in Costa Rica, July 20-23, 2011, will be officially opened with a keynote address by Erika Harms, Executive Director of the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC). Ms. Harms, a Costa Rican lawyer, is also a Senior Advisor at the United Nations Foundation.

"We are thrilled that Erika Harms has accepted our invitation to open the conference. As the most prominent Costa Rican involved in promoting sustainable tourism standards around the world, she is the ideal person to address the growing importance of travelers' philanthropy," says Dr. Martha Honey, Co-Director of the Center for Responsible Travel (CREST). The conference is jointly sponsored by CREST, a US-based nonprofit organization connected with Stanford University, and the Monteverde Institute, an educational center dedicated to study abroad, applied research and community engagement.

The four day conference will begin Wednesday, July 20 in San Jose at the Hotel Herradura which has just become Costa Rica's first large urban hotel to earn top rating -- 5 green leaves -- under the country's rigorous Certification for Sustainable Tourism (CST) program.

On Wednesday afternoon, prior to the official opening, the conference will offer a four hour Short Course on the 'nuts and bolts' of travelers' philanthropy. The course will be taught by leading practitioners, including Jane Crouch, Responsible Travel Manager for Intrepid Travel (Australia); Judy Kepher-Gona, CEO, Basecamp Foundation (Kenya); and Martha Honey, editor of the new [Travelers' Philanthropy Handbook](#). The Short Course is open to all conference participants and, for a fee, to others who wish to attend.

On the 2nd day, the conference will move to Monteverde, a mountain top community known for high quality, nature-based tourism. Monteverde as a community has worked hard to maintain the balance between the rapid growth of tourism and its concern for conservation and sustainability. "Traveler's Philanthropy is a way to bridge the gap so that visitors and tourist companies can help to mitigate some of the impacts experienced by many communities who transition from rural economies to tourist destinations," says Monteverde Institute's Executive Director, Jannelle Wilkins. "The Monteverde Institute, as part of its 25th Anniversary year, is proud to partner with CREST to bring this Conference to the area."

The conference will include 21 workshops to be presented in three concurrent streams, entitled:

- Benefiting communities and conservation
- Enhancing the tourism experience
- Building a more engaged and ethical tourism industry

Workshop topics include discussions of voluntourism, why travelers become donors, successful models, and latest trends in consumer and industry demand for travelers' philanthropy.

The conference will showcase Monteverde's many sustainable tourism businesses and attractions, including its world renowned Cloud Forest Reserve. "This is a different and more sustainable conference model where we are striving to involve many local business and certified hotels. It means participants have to get out and about in the community to attend the various workshops instead of spending their time in just one large urban hotel," says Ms. Wilkins. Accommodations are being provided by a number of [CST certified lodges and hotels in Monteverde](#). Hotels must be booked separately by conference participants.

The current Early Bird registration rate of \$395 runs through April. Beginning May 1, registration is \$495. [\(CLICK HERE!\)](#)

A small number of needs-based scholarships will be available. Those interested must complete an [application](#). Scholarships will be awarded by the conference organizers.

Those interested in presenting or moderating panels must complete a [Speaker Request Form](#). Selection of speakers is being handled by the conference's Advisory Committee.

The conference organizers have secured support from a range of leading responsible tourism businesses and organizations in Costa Rica and internationally. [See Our Sponsors!!](#) For details on how to become a conference sponsor, see the [Sponsorship Opportunities](#) or contact David Krantz at 202.347.9203 ext 417 and [dkrantz@responsibletravel.org](mailto:dkrantz@responsibletravel.org).

**Conference website: [www.travelersphilanthropy.org/conference](http://www.travelersphilanthropy.org/conference)**

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