

BROKEN EARTH
ROMANIA 2027 · HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

Hands On Heritage

Detailed Program Guide

June 26 - July 9, 2027 · 14 days / 13 nights · For students and families considering the program

RESTORE · CONNECT · DISCOVER

PROGRAM DATES: JUNE 26 - JULY 9, 2027 | 14 DAYS / 13 NIGHTS

Welcome

Hands On Heritage is not designed as a conventional student tour with a volunteer activity added to it. The program is built around participation: living together simply, contributing to real heritage work, learning directly from the people protecting Roșia Montană, and discovering what happens when a group has to share space, time, effort and responsibility.

This guide is intentionally detailed. We want parents and students to understand the experience before deciding whether it is right for them. Where 2027 operational details are still being finalized, we say so rather than making promises that have not yet been confirmed.

1. Roșia Montană: the classroom

Roșia Montană is a historic mining settlement in Transylvania. Its cultural landscape carries evidence of Roman mining, later mining communities, vernacular houses, churches, public buildings and generations of people whose lives have been shaped by the mountains and the search for gold.

Students will not study this history from a classroom at a distance. They will live in the village, walk through it, work on its buildings and learn how archaeology, architecture, community, economics and conservation overlap in a real place.

2. Our partner: Adoptă o Casă

Adoptă o Casă la Roșia Montană is run by ARA - Architecture. Restoration. Archaeology. The program began in 2012 and connects owners of historic buildings with volunteers and supporters who contribute to the protection and continued use of Roșia Montană's built heritage.

Its volunteer programs combine practical conservation work with learning about built heritage, traditional restoration, history, archaeology and related subjects. Because this is an active conservation program, the exact work available to our students will depend on what needs to be done during our session.

3. Meet Claudia Apostol

Claudia Apostol is an architect with ARA and a coordinator of activities and volunteers connected with Adoptă o Casă. She has been publicly involved with the program since its early years and will be a central program leader and guide for Hands On Heritage in Roșia Montană.

Students will learn not only from Claudia's professional knowledge of architecture and conservation, but from the example of long-term commitment to a place. We want them to see what it means to care deeply about something, to work patiently for it and to remain engaged when change takes years rather than days.

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Before publication, Broken Earth will add a verified link to Claudia's current professional/ARA profile. We have verified her current description as an architect and activity/volunteer coordinator through Adoptă o Casă/ARA; we are not using unsupported promotional titles.

4. Where students live

Accommodation in Roșia Montană is shared dormitory accommodation. This is simple communal living, not hotel accommodation. Participants share sleeping and common spaces and are expected to treat those spaces - and one another - with consideration.

The simplicity is intentional. Students learn to manage with less, take turns, keep their belongings organized, respect other people's privacy and understand that their own habits affect everyone around them.

STILL TO BE CONFIRMED

The final guide will specify room assignments, bathroom arrangements, bedding/towels, laundry, Wi-Fi, phone access, adult room locations, nighttime supervision and any accessibility limitations.

5. What a work morning feels like

Work days begin early. A group sharing facilities cannot operate on individual schedules, so mornings require cooperation. Students will have approximately five minutes for a shower, then get dressed, eat breakfast, gather what they need and be ready to begin the day's program on time.

The purpose is not to manufacture hardship. It is to learn that a comfortable group life depends on everyone using shared time and resources thoughtfully.

Part of the day	Typical rhythm
Early morning	Wake, short showers/get ready, breakfast, prepare for the day.
Morning	Safety check and supervised restoration work.
Lunch	Scheduled work normally pauses for lunch.
Afternoon	Heritage learning, village exploration, workshops, reflection, recreation or an excursion.
Evening	Dinner, group time, preparation for the next day and rest.

6. The restoration work

Students join real conservation work rather than a demonstration created for visitors. The work therefore changes with the needs of the buildings, weather, materials and professional team.

- Possible activities may include traditional plastering, masonry, carpentry, paving, shingles, ironwork or other appropriate conservation tasks.
- Students work under supervision and receive instruction before undertaking a task.
- Students are expected to listen, work carefully, ask questions and respect tools, buildings and the people teaching them.
- Scheduled work generally runs through the morning until lunch.
- On some days a task may benefit from additional hands after lunch. Students sometimes choose to stay and help finish; work beyond the scheduled period will be voluntary and supervised.
- No participant should attempt work they have not been instructed or cleared to do.

7. The village becomes the classroom

The program is designed so that physical work and intellectual learning reinforce one another. Students will explore the Roman mining legacy, the history of gold mining, the architecture and settlement pattern of Roșia Montană, and the modern story of preservation and community.

The aim is not simply to memorize dates. It is to understand why people protect old places, how history survives in buildings and landscapes, and how decisions about development, heritage and community can affect generations.

8. Learning to share space and rely on less

Shared dormitory living is part of the education. Participants will need to compromise, wait their turn, keep common areas usable, help one another and manage without all the conveniences they may have at home.

We hope students discover that living more simply does not have to mean living poorly. Good food, useful work, time outdoors, friendship, laughter and a sense of purpose can create a rich experience with relatively little.

9. Standing for something

Students will spend time with people who have devoted years to the protection and revival of Roșia Montană. Claudia's work offers a particularly powerful example of sustained commitment.

We will not tell students what they should believe. We will ask them to observe what conviction, persistence and civic responsibility look like in practice, then consider their own questions: What do I care about? What is worth protecting? What am I willing to work for? How do I disagree responsibly and still contribute?

10. Food and daily life

Meals are part of the communal rhythm of the program. We expect food to be straightforward, nourishing and connected where practical to local cooking and ingredients. Students eat together and should arrive prepared to try unfamiliar foods respectfully.

STILL TO BE CONFIRMED

The final guide will specify which meals are included, who prepares them, drinking-water arrangements, snacks, allergy procedures and the dietary needs that can be accommodated safely.

11. Who is looking after the students?

The Broken Earth team will be present to look after participants and provide day-to-day support. Claudia and the Adoptă o Casă team lead the heritage and restoration components; Broken Earth retains responsibility for the student experience, group support and the operational arrangements we communicate to families.

Before enrollment is finalized, families will receive the names and roles of the adults traveling with the group, supervision arrangements, emergency contacts and the procedure for reaching the team.

IMPORTANT

Final staff-to-student ratios, overnight supervision, background-check requirements, first-aid coverage and safeguarding procedures are still to be finalized and must be published before families are asked to rely on them.

12. Health, safety and the worksite

Heritage restoration is a real work environment. Safety expectations will be explained before students begin. Appropriate footwear, clothing and protective equipment will be required for relevant tasks.

- Students must follow instructions from worksite leaders and Broken Earth staff.
- Tasks will be assigned according to the work available and what is appropriate for participants.
- Weather, site conditions or professional judgment may change the day's activity.
- Students must tell an adult immediately about injury, illness, medication concerns or anything that makes them feel unsafe.
- A participant may be moved away from a task when staff believe that is the appropriate safety decision.

FINAL SAFETY INFORMATION

The published guide must add verified procedures for medical forms, medications, allergies, insurance, first aid, nearest medical care, emergency transport, parental notification and evacuation.

13. Phones, communication and home

Students are not being cut off from home, but the program works best when phones do not become an escape from the group. We expect to establish reasonable phone and communication expectations while maintaining a clear way for families to reach the team in an emergency.

STILL TO BE CONFIRMED

Final phone-use expectations, Wi-Fi availability, routine parent updates and the 24-hour emergency contact process.

14. Group expectations

- Be on time and ready for the group.
- Treat roommates, staff, local residents and fellow participants with respect.
- Care for shared rooms, bathrooms, tools and workspaces.
- Participate in scheduled activities unless excused by staff for health or another legitimate reason.
- Respect privacy and personal boundaries.
- Follow safety, curfew and supervision rules.
- No bullying, harassment, intimidation, illegal drugs or unauthorized alcohol.

- Do not leave the group or accommodation without permission.
- Use social media responsibly and do not post other participants without appropriate consent.

A full participant agreement and behavior policy will be provided before enrollment is completed. Serious or repeated violations may require a participant to leave the program; the final policy will explain how families are contacted and how associated travel costs are handled.

15. What to bring

Students will need practical clothing rather than a large travel wardrobe: sturdy closed-toe footwear, work clothes that can get dirty, layers for changing mountain weather, rain protection, a small daypack, reusable water bottle and personal essentials.

SEPARATE PACKING LIST

A detailed packing list will be issued once the exact work program, accommodation facilities and travel arrangements are finalized.

16. What students should take home

- A deeper understanding of Roșia Montană, Roman mining and the history of the region.
- First-hand exposure to conservation and traditional restoration.
- Experience sharing space and resources with a group.
- Greater confidence working with unfamiliar people and routines.
- A practical understanding of responsibility, patience and contribution.
- Questions about what they value and what meaningful commitment looks like in their own lives.

17. Talk to us before you decide

We want families to ask questions. Hands On Heritage is intentionally different from a conventional student tour, and both parents and students should understand the experience before deciding to join.

Please email or call Broken Earth and arrange a conversation with Raja and Smara. Students are encouraged to join the meeting. Ask us about the dormitory, work, supervision, bathrooms, food, phones, homesickness, safety, travel or anything else that matters to your family.

OUR APPROACH

There are no unimportant questions when you are deciding whether this is the right experience for your child. Contact details and a scheduling link will be inserted before publication.

Sources used for partner information

Partner facts in this draft were checked against Adoptă o Casă / ARA public materials current in September 2026, including the program description, 2026 volunteer call and recent annual/project

updates. Broken Earth operational details in this guide come from the program framework supplied for this draft and still require final confirmation where marked.