

BROKEN EARTH
ROMANIA 2027 · HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

Hands On Heritage

Parent & Student FAQ

June 26 - July 9, 2027 · 14 days / 13 nights · Straight answers before your family decides

RESTORE · CONNECT · DISCOVER

This FAQ is written for both parents and students. We have answered what is currently known and clearly marked details that are still being finalized for 2027.

What exactly is Hands On Heritage?

June 26 - July 9, 2027 · 14 days / 13 nights · Roșia Montană, Romania

Is this a sightseeing tour?

No. There will be exploration and cultural activities, but the program is built around participation. Students spend meaningful time living in Roșia Montană and contributing to the ongoing work of Adoptă o Casă.

Where will students sleep?

In shared dormitory accommodation in Roșia Montană. It is intentionally simple communal accommodation rather than a hotel. Final room configurations, bathroom arrangements, bedding and nighttime supervision details are still to be published.

Do students really only get five minutes to shower?

On work mornings, students should expect approximately five minutes for a shower so a group sharing facilities can get ready, eat breakfast and start together. It is part of learning to share limited time and resources respectfully.

What time does the day begin?

Work days begin early. The exact daily clock schedule will be published with the final program, but students should expect to be up, ready, fed and prepared before the restoration work begins.

What kind of work will students do?

The exact work depends on the active conservation projects. Adoptă o Casă's volunteer programs can include traditional plastering, masonry, carpentry, paving, shingles, ironwork and related heritage tasks. Students will receive instruction and supervision and will only take on appropriate work.

How long do students work?

Scheduled restoration work generally runs through the morning until lunch. Afternoons are used for learning, exploration, workshops, reflection, recreation or other program activities.

Will students ever work after lunch?

Sometimes a project may need extra hands to finish a task. Students may choose to stay and help when appropriate. Additional work beyond the scheduled period will be voluntary and supervised.

Who is Claudia Apostol?

Claudia Apostol is an architect with ARA and a coordinator connected with Adoptă o Casă. She will be a central program leader and guide in Roșia Montană, helping students understand the buildings, conservation work and the long-term effort to protect and revive the area's heritage.

What will students learn besides restoration?

They will learn about Roșia Montană's Roman mining heritage, gold-mining history, architecture, archaeology, community and modern preservation story. The village itself becomes part of the classroom.

Is the program trying to teach students a political point of view?

No. Students will encounter people who have strong commitments to heritage and community, but they will not be told what to believe. We want them to ask questions, examine evidence and consider what responsible commitment looks like in their own lives.

Why make the accommodation so simple?

Because shared, simple living is part of the experience. Students learn to wait their turn, keep common spaces usable, respect roommates, organize their belongings and discover that a meaningful life does not require every convenience of home.

What is the food like?

Meals will be straightforward and nourishing, with local food and shared meals forming part of the experience where practical. Exact meal inclusions, allergy procedures and dietary accommodations are still being finalized.

Who supervises the students?

Broken Earth staff will be present to look after participants and provide day-to-day support. Claudia and the Adoptă o Casă team lead heritage/restoration components. Final staff names, roles, ratios, overnight arrangements and safeguarding procedures will be provided before enrollment is finalized.

What happens if my child gets sick or injured?

Students must tell staff immediately about illness or injury. The final family information package will state first-aid coverage, medical facilities, emergency transport, insurance requirements, medication procedures and how parents are notified. Those operational details are still being finalized.

Is restoration work safe for high-school students?

It is a real work environment, so it requires rules, supervision and appropriate protective equipment. Tasks can change because of weather, site conditions and professional judgment. Students must follow instructions and may be removed from any task staff consider inappropriate for them.

Does my child need construction experience?

No. Students are expected to arrive ready to learn, listen and work carefully. The program is not based on prior trade skills.

Does my child need to be very fit?

Students should be comfortable with active mornings, standing, walking, uneven terrain and practical work. We will publish more specific physical expectations once the 2027 work sites and activities are confirmed. Families should tell us about any condition that could affect participation.

Can students bring their phones?

Yes, but phone use will have reasonable limits so it does not undermine the group experience. Final phone rules, Wi-Fi availability and communication windows will be provided before departure.

How will parents reach their child in an emergency?

Broken Earth will provide a direct emergency contact procedure before departure. The exact number and escalation process are not yet published.

What if a student gets homesick?

Homesickness is normal. The Broken Earth team will support students, help them stay connected to the group and communicate with parents when appropriate. Our goal is to respond to the individual rather than treat every student the same.

What if my child has dietary restrictions or allergies?

Tell us before enrollment. We will confirm what can be safely accommodated once final food arrangements are established. We will not promise an accommodation until we know it can be provided reliably.

What are the behavior expectations?

Students are expected to respect others, follow safety and supervision rules, participate in scheduled activities, care for shared spaces and avoid bullying, harassment, illegal drugs, unauthorized alcohol and leaving the group without permission. A full participant agreement will be provided.

What should students bring?

Expect practical work clothes, sturdy closed-toe footwear, layers, rain protection, a daypack, reusable water bottle and personal essentials. A detailed packing list will follow when work and accommodation details are final.

How much spending money is needed?

To be confirmed after the final inclusions and itinerary are set. We expect personal spending needs to be modest.

What is included in the program price?

The final inclusions list is still being finalized. We will publish exactly what is included and excluded before accepting a family's financial commitment.

What happens before we book flights?

Families should wait for Broken Earth's final arrival/departure instructions. Do not book international travel based on this draft.

Can parents speak with the program team before deciding?

Yes - and we encourage it. Parents and students should arrange a call or meeting with Raja and Smara before making a decision. Bring every question you have, including questions about bathrooms, work, food, safety, supervision, phones or homesickness.

What if we have a question that is not answered here?

Please ask us. We would rather discuss a concern before enrollment than have a family make assumptions. Contact information and a scheduling link will be added to the published version.

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

Before publication: details still being finalized

- Final arrival/departure travel windows.
- Final accommodation room/bathroom details and overnight supervision.
- Staff names, staff-to-student ratios, safeguarding and background-check procedures.
- Medical, medication, first-aid, insurance and emergency-response procedures.
- Meal inclusions, allergy process and dietary accommodations.
- Phone/Wi-Fi expectations and parent communication schedule.
- Exact work sites, physical requirements and PPE.
- Program inclusions/exclusions, payment terms and cancellation policy.
- Emergency contact number and scheduling/contact links.