Corporate Overview

Company Background

Hammock Expeditions, LLC was established in 2020 as a U.S.-based educational travel company, building on decades of experience in international tourism and educational travel. Today, the company operates STEM Study Tours, providing immersive educational travel programs for schools and student groups across the United States and around the world.

STEM Study Tours creates learning experiences that connect the classroom with the wider world. Programs are designed around meaningful, hands-on opportunities in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, conservation, design, culture and other interdisciplinary fields, giving students the opportunity to explore their subjects in real-world environments.

Our educational programs are organized into three distinctive program families:

- **Bio-Treks** – Programs centered on biology, ecology, conservation, marine science, wildlife and the natural world.
- **Tech-Fusion** – Experiences connecting students with engineering, technology, mathematics, physics and innovation.
- **STEM-Quest** – Interdisciplinary programs exploring STEAM, design, creativity, culture, innovation and global perspectives.

STEM U extends this educational focus through immersive summer programs and specialty expeditions for students and families, creating opportunities for deeper learning, exploration and shared discovery beyond the traditional school trip.

Leadership & Key Personnel



Michele Hammock – Founder & Chief Executive Officer

Michele brings more than three decades of experience in tourism, hospitality and travel operations to Hammock Expeditions. Her career began in hotel and resort management, with experience including Ritz-Carlton Hotels, Sheraton Hotels & Resorts, Harrah's Entertainment and the American Skiing Company. In 2003, she transitioned into tour operations, ultimately holding senior leadership roles overseeing international operations and North American operations for international travel companies.

Her experience encompasses educational travel, international tourism, hospitality, operations, client services and program development. Prior to her tourism career, Michele also served as a licensed Private Investigator in multiple states and as a court-appointed Guardian Ad Litem in Florida, experiences that helped shape the detail-oriented approach to responsibility, planning and traveler care she brings to the company today.

A Master Diver and experienced international traveler, Michele founded Hammock Expeditions in 2020 and leads the development of STEM Study Tours and its educational travel programs. Throughout her career, she has also served on community and nonprofit boards and received recognition for leadership, service and excellence within the hospitality and tourism industries.

Izzy Franckewitz – Co-Founder & CMO

Izzy brings a lifelong background in hospitality and tourism to Hammock Expeditions, having begun working in the industry as a teenager. Her professional experience has included tour guiding, tourism sales, operations and management, giving her firsthand understanding of both the traveler experience and the operational planning behind successful programs.

An experienced international traveler and Master Diver, Izzy combines her tourism background with a strong interest in marine science and conservation. She is currently pursuing advanced studies in Marine Biology with a focus on coral

reef conservation and marine fungi, providing an additional connection between the company's travel expertise and the science-focused experiences offered through STEM Study Tours.

Christina Tolar – Corporate Director of Operations & Finance

Christina joined Hammock Expeditions in 2023 and plays a central role in the day-to-day operations and financial administration of the company. With a professional background in client service and operational support, she helps ensure that programs are carefully coordinated and that schools, educators and travelers receive responsive support throughout the planning process.

Known for her attention to detail and commitment to client care, Christina works closely with clients and partners to keep the many moving pieces of educational travel organized from planning through operation. Her dedication to service and behind-the-scenes coordination makes her an integral part of the Hammock Expeditions and STEM Study Tours team.

Taylor Franckewitz - Corporate Director of Adventure Sports

Taylor Franckewitz provides specialist support for STEM Study Tours' adventure-based programming, with particular expertise in scuba diving, skiing, rock climbing and other outdoor pursuits. A PADI-certified scuba instructor with extensive specialty training, Taylor brings practical knowledge and firsthand experience to programs where technical adventure expertise is important.

Professionally, Taylor's background is in resort and vacation sales, where he has developed strong experience in guest relations, destination travel and the hospitality industry. He supports STEM Study Tours on a consulting basis, contributing his expertise to selected programs, particularly adult expeditions and itineraries incorporating adventure sports.

Dana Aumiller – Corporate Director of Safety & Risk Management

Dana provides specialized risk assessment support for STEM Study Tours, conducting individual reviews of programs and itineraries to help identify and evaluate potential risks associated with destinations, activities and travel logistics.

A retired Fire Chief with extensive experience in emergency management and disaster response, Dana brings a valuable emergency preparedness perspective to the company's travel planning process. His expertise provides an additional layer of professional review as STEM Study Tours develops and operates educational programs in destinations across the United States and around the world.

Responsible Tourism

At Hammock Expeditions, responsible travel is an important part of how we design and operate our programs. We believe travel should benefit the people and places we visit while giving our travelers meaningful opportunities to experience different cultures, environments and ways of life.

Whenever possible, we work with local guides, suppliers and community partners who bring authentic knowledge and perspective to our programs while helping tourism revenue remain within the destinations we visit. We encourage travelers to respect local cultures, traditions and environments, and we carefully consider how our activities interact with the communities and natural areas that welcome us.

Environmental responsibility is equally important. From wildlife and conservation experiences to outdoor adventures and cultural programs, we seek opportunities that promote respect for the natural world and avoid unnecessary negative impacts on the places we explore. We also believe education plays an important role in responsible travel,

particularly for our student programs, where firsthand experiences can help young people better understand conservation, sustainability, cultural diversity and their connection to the wider world.

For Hammock Expeditions, responsible tourism is not about simply seeing a destination. It is about traveling thoughtfully, supporting the people who call these places home, respecting the environments we enter and helping ensure that the experiences we value today remain possible for generations to come.

Giving Back

We believe travel has the power to make a positive difference, not only in the lives of our travelers, but also in the communities that welcome them.

Whenever possible, our programs incorporate a meaningful mission, service or community-based project that gives participants an opportunity to contribute to the destination they are visiting. These experiences vary by program and location, but the goal remains the same: to create a genuine connection with the local community and leave something positive behind.

Beyond our individual programs, Hammock Expeditions also supports organizations and initiatives that align with our commitment to education, youth, communities and responsible travel. Current partnerships and charitable initiatives include:

SYTA Youth Foundation – Wingman Designation
Waves of Grace Community Church – Cozumel, Mexico

Whether through service, charitable support or simply choosing to work with local organizations, we believe even small actions can have meaningful impact. Travel gives us an opportunity not only to experience the world, but to give something back to it.

Corporate Policies & Standards

Hammock Expeditions maintains a comprehensive framework of policies and procedures designed to support the safety, privacy and well-being of our travelers, employees and partners. These policies are reviewed and updated as appropriate to reflect our operational standards and responsibilities.

Key corporate policies include:

- Safety Management System
- Privacy Policy
- Equal Employment Opportunity & Affirmative Action Policy

Additional policies, procedures and supporting documentation are available upon request.

CONTACTING US
If you have any questions, we welcome your contact. Please contact us at:
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