

OUR HISTORY

2004

AFRICAN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY IS FOUNDED



Terra Education co-founder Fred Swaniker, a Ghana native, TED Fellow, Stanford University graduate, entrepreneur and future Time 100 recipient, envisions opening a pan-African high school designed to nurture future leaders from across the continent, regardless of income or background.

The seeds of this original vision would eventually lead to the development of Global Leadership Adventures summer programs, and later, Terra Education's entire portfolio of immersive experiences.

2004

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ADVENTURES IS FOUNDED



To expand the reach of ALA's curriculum and to show proof-of-concept, cofounders Fred Swaniker, Peter Mombaur and Chris Bradford create a summer program for teens from around the world who want to make a meaningful difference through service-learning and cross-cultural collaboration, all while realizing their true leadership potential by stepping out of their comfort zone.

Global Leadership Adventures is born from the seeds of this pilot program, which runs for the first time in South Africa during the summer of 2005.

2012

DISCOVER CORPS IS FOUNDED



Combining GLA's expertise in group travel and the team's strong partnerships with global nonprofit organizations and social enterprises, the organization branches out and begins offering vacations with purpose through Discover Corps.

DC is born as a way for adults and families to give back to communities abroad and understand different cultures, all while enjoying an unforgettable travel experience.

2012

TERRA EDUCATION IS FOUNDED



With so many programs and trips now operating concurrently within different segments of the company, the team launches Terra Education, an umbrella organization under which multiple program providers such as GLA and DC could be housed.

Terra leverages the team's years of travel experience, operational expertise and global connections to provide memorable immersive travel experiences for teens and families.

2016

SUMMER SPRINGBOARD IS FOUNDED



Realizing that international travel isn't the only way to help grow the next generation of young leaders, the Terra Education team launches Summer Springboard.

SSB is founded to provide high school students a supportive environment where they can explore their personal and academic passions while spending two weeks at top university campuses. The first programs run on the campuses of UC Berkeley and Yale University the following summer.

2022

BEYOND SPORTS JOINS THE TERRA FAMILY



Originally founded in 2010, the team at Beyond Sports joins the Terra Education family as the organization continues to grow its global reach.

Beyond Sports has been closely connected with Terra Education for years, but now is able to share its sports travel programs for high school and college athletes with an even greater pool of participants, across a wider range of global destinations.

2022

TEEN TRAVEL NETWORK IS FOUNDED



The team at Terra Education realizes there is untapped potential in providing teens with a summer program option that places emphasis on immersive travel across multiple international destinations within the same itinerary, especially since so few high school students get the chance to study abroad during the busy school year.

Teen Travel Network is born from that vision, and its first trips to a wide array of destinations, including Europe and Central America, run in Summer 2023.

2023

TERRA EDUCATION TAKES THE LEAD



With five program providers under its belt and nearly 20 years of experience running best-in-class summer programs for teens, the organization begins to invest even more in building a robust alumni community, as well as new opportunities for students to enroll in programs across Terra Education.

Participants can now easily enroll in any of Terra's portfolio of experiences, from service-learning adventures in remote communities, to pre-college programs on university campuses, to trips for the whole family, and beyond.