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The Lodge at Pico Bonito's New Educational and Philanthropic Summer Series Encourages Family Travel, Known to Give Children an Academic Edge

La Ceiba, Honduras, March 05, 2013 – Named among the world's top eco-lodges by National Geographic Traveler, The Lodge at Pico Bonito is launching a new Family Summer Series for parents and children to discover the pristine jungle and diverse ecosystems of Honduras' second largest national park. The new program will give families the opportunity to participate in exciting educational and philanthropic activities ranging from junior bird watching courses to nature photography lessons.

In encouraging learning through eco-conscious travel, the Family Summer Series is in line with a Clemson University analysis of a US Department of Education study, which found that children who travel over summer break had an academic advantage over those who did not. "The data is clear – and gives hard-working parents another reason not to put off a summer vacation trip," said Dr. Bill Norman, Clemson University. "Providing kids with the experience of travel broadens their horizons and opens up their minds to learning."

Pico Bonito's Summer Series Allows Families to Bond, Develop and Give Back

A haven for endangered flora and fauna, the eco-lodge sits on 400 acres of unspoiled rainforest, between two roaring rivers, and features bird watching towers, a pool and private hiking trails of varying length and difficulty. From philanthropic trips to deliver toys and clothes to a nearby orphanage to lessons into the endangered species of Pico Bonito National Park, this is one learning adventure that is not to be missed. As an added incentive, the Lodge at Pico Bonito will offer families a 30% discount off of regular room rates for travel between April 8 and December 20, 2013. Rooms that typically start at \$215 per night will start at \$150.50 with the special discount.

Highlights of the Family Summer Series include:

- **Junior Bird Watching** – With over 420 different species of birds on property, young explorers with their binoculars in hand can marvel at the world's most colorful, brilliant birds, as they learn to identify different species and listen for the rainforest's most common bird calls. Led by expert naturalist guides, your entire family will discover and learn how to help protect the region's most endangered birds. By the end of the trip, your young birdwatcher will have ample understanding of bird's diets and know how to recite the Spanish names for birds including toucans, motmots and parrots.

- **Nature Photography for Beginners** – A photographer’s dreamscape, The Lodge at Pico Bonito offers endless, vibrant flora, endangered fauna, stunning birds, and cascading waterfalls to make for the perfect shot. Join an onsite photographer to learn the art of composition, tips for focusing and finding the perfect light, and how to best approach birds and wildlife for photos. Your family is guaranteed to leave Pico Bonito with a collection of stunning photographs to savor for a lifetime!
- **Donate to the Local Orphanage** – For those vacationers looking to give back on their journey, the Lodge at Pico Bonito offers the opportunity to deliver toys, old clothes, deflated soccer balls, art supplies, new tooth brushes and other donations from home to children at a nearby orphanage. Stop by for an afternoon and spend some quality time connecting and playing with the local children.

The Lodge is accessible from major American gateway airports. For further info visit www.picobonito.com or call 888-428-0221.

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