

Matt Tapley, BA, MA Psychology

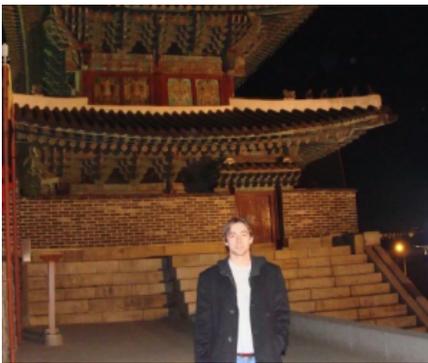
S2S Young Adult Program Mentor



I am a graduate and an intern from the University of West Georgia with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and psychology and a master's degree in psychology. My central focus is ecopsychology and the rejuvenation and integration of society, people, and nature into sustainable forms of community. This focus is inherently therapeutic for the individual and society. My basic therapeutic philosophy is an unconditional positive regard for the client and a holistic perspective in healing. I am also very passionate about restructuring education in a way that is more active in the community and in nature to teach values of community, social involvement, and an appreciation for all life.

I have also taught in South Korea to a very wide age range. I fully understand the benefits of becoming familiar with the world with live in, and this has become an emphasis when working with students. Developing a strong and flexible self while becoming engaged in the global society is an integration I have sought for myself and what I hope to facilitate in the students.

Here at the Bridge, I seek to truly and genuinely be a part of the students' lives during their stay. I want to be side by side with them working together while being sure that all of us (students and staff) are fully engaged in each learning opportunity that arises throughout the process. I want to help develop a sense of self-worth and confidence in the students so that each student can go out into the world and see each challenge they face as an opportunity for growth, wisdom, and fulfillment.



The most essential and basic way to accomplish these goals is intentional experience. We have lots of opportunities to experience a plethora of unique activities here in Costa Rica, but we must be sure that these activities are done in a mindful and open way. I want to help guide the students in saying "yes" to experience and then give ourselves the chance to reflect on the many experiential connections we can make in order for the experience to be truly embodied and remembered in a way that is authentic and life-changing. No matter the content of experience, I hope to facilitate an awareness of these experiences so that meaningful growth can occur. This requires attention and awareness to each student and their process during activities and adventures we embark on while in beautiful Costa Rica.