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Road Scholar Offers Companionship for Older Adults Over the Holidays

BOSTON (December 1, 2020) – The holiday season is normally a time to share with friends and loved ones, but because of the global pandemic America’s older adult population is forced to put their annual holiday traditions on hold. For many, staying safe means staying alone at home during this most social time of year.

To combat the silent second epidemic of loneliness, not-for-profit Road Scholar is bringing a virtual world of learning and companionship into the homes of senior citizens across North America.

Using a videoconferencing tool, Road Scholar’s day-long and multi-day online programs reflect a typical Road Scholar learning experience, with expert-led lectures, virtual field trips, discussion and even social time so participants can connect with their peers throughout the United States and beyond. While there are many options for at-home, virtual learning, the social peer-to-peer aspect and group bonding are what set Road Scholar’s experiences apart.

“The pandemic is keeping most of us at home,” said Road Scholar President James Moses. “But that hasn’t changed our community’s excitement to learn about and discover a world of topics and to meet and share ideas with others who are interested and curious about learning.”

Inspired by the success of its initial online programs, Road Scholar is now offering more than a dozen online learning opportunities in the month of December. There are traditional holiday-themed topics to discover, such as Yuletide in Colonial Williamsburg and a behind-the-scenes look at the Boston Pops’ holiday celebration, as well as non-holiday themed topics like espionage, murder mysteries and the art and culture of Paris.

“We have seen the positive impact these experiences have had in the lives of participants, and we are very excited to create new ways to engage with and enrich the lives of older adults, particularly during these difficult times,” said Road Scholar President James Moses, “and we’ll continue to offer these virtual experiences even after travel resumes. It’s a way for us to engage with and serve those who are physically unable to manage the rigors of travel. The virtual world offers endless opportunities for learning, friendship and fun — no matter one’s age.”

To learn more about Road Scholar's holiday and other online learning opportunities, visit:
<https://www.road scholar.org/virtual-campus/>

About Road Scholar

Road Scholar is the nation's largest not-for-profit educational travel organization for adults – a true university of the world. It offers thousands of programs throughout the United States and around the world.

Road Scholar educational adventures are created by Elderhostel, the world leader in educational travel since 1975. Learn more at press.road scholar.org.