



New Book Chronicles Vestavia Hills Family's

Global Adventure

WHEN THEIR DAUGHTERS WERE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, KELLIE AND DALE MCINTYRE SET A GOAL TO EXPLORE EVERY CONTINENT EXCEPT ANTARCTICA BEFORE THEY GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL.

Over the years, the McIntyre family didn't just meet their goal, but they also made travel a way of life, twice taking their daughters out of school for months-long global excursions and visiting almost 40 countries together. Their global travels became not just a family bonding activity, but a powerful educational experience.

Today, the McIntyre girls, Delaney and Riley, are in college, and Kellie McIntyre has written a book about the family's adventures. The Passport Project: Two Sisters Ditch Middle School for a Life-Changing Journey Around the World, was published in March by Shamrock House.

Of all the lessons her daughters learned through their

family travels, McIntyre says, the two most important are:

- 1) Life is richer when we get outside of our bubbles.
- 2) As Americans, we enjoy more freedoms and privileges than most of the world.

However, traveling teaches so many more lessons than just those two, McIntyre says. That's why each country's chapter in her book includes a "Passport Lesson."

"Whether it's surviving public nudity in Iceland or outsmarting scammers in Italy, each chapter reveals an important life lesson," she says. "For instance, we can tell our kids to be tolerant and accepting of people of different races and religions. But when you are the person who is different, that lesson stays with you forever. Or we can talk about valuing American freedoms and liberties. But when you find yourself detained in a communist country because of an itinerary mistake, you stop taking those liberties for granted."

While McIntyre never had any plans for writing a book, COVID changed everything. As a brand-new empty nester, she was trapped at home, classified as a "non-essential" worker. "People were so angry and divided and scared," McIntyre says. "I felt called to share the important life lessons learned through travel, with a story that would unify humanity rather than divide."



Beginning in the fall, *The Passport Project* will be part of the seventh-grade geography curriculum at Liberty Park Middle School. Learn more about the McIntyre family, the book, and get global travel planning tips at 4WornPassports.com.

McIntyre started listening to podcasts about writing and learning the craft of story writing. As she learned, she realized she needed to tell the family's story from Delaney's and Riley's perspectives, "first because there were no existing 'round-the-world memoirs for teens and tweens, and she also thought telling the story from middle schoolers' perspectives would be entertaining."

After writing the first 100 pages in secret, McIntyre let Delaney, her oldest daughter read it. "When she told me all of her middle school anxiety came flooding back and that I had nailed her and Riley's characters, I knew I was onto something," McIntyre says.

McIntyre spent three months writing the first draft, then hired three editors, including a former National Geographic editor and two editors of middle grade books. After receiving their feedback, she spent a year editing. Beginning in the fall, *The Passport Project* will be part of the seventh-grade geography curriculum at Liberty Park Middle School. Learn more about the McIntyre family, the book, and get global travel planning tips at 4WornPassports.com.

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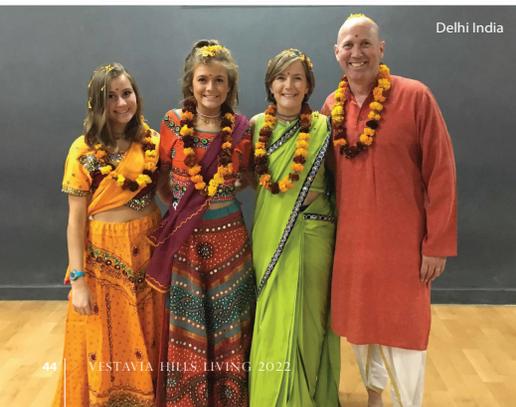
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Author Visit, Kellie McIntyre with Passport Project Book



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