



**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TRAVELER  
NAMES NEW YORK TEEN BOOKER MITCHELL  
"TRAVELER OF THE YEAR"**

*New York, November 26, 2012* - B Travels Network and our team at **Booker Travels** – a unique web series about traveling that explores global trends through skateboarding and surfing - are proud to announce that our host, **Booker Mitchell**, has been named **"Traveler Of The Year"** by **National Geographic Traveler** magazine.

This inaugural award celebrates the accomplishments of ten travelers around the globe who are visiting far-flung places and doing astonishing things. At fifteen years old, Booker is the youngest of the winners and the only teenage traveler.

The "Travelers of the Year" are featured in the December 2012 / January 2013 issue of National Geographic Traveler Magazine, available on newsstands December 4<sup>th</sup>, and online today at <http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/travelers-of-the-year/booker-mitchell/>.

***About Booker***

"I have the freedom to choose where I go and what I do, and so each trip is an expression of who I am at the time," says Booker Mitchell. "I can always make myself feel at home wherever I go."

Booker represents a new generation of travelers.

Booker is a native of New York City where different languages and cultures are part of his life. He is half Brazilian and speaks both Portuguese and English at home. He has studied Mandarin Chinese for nine years and Spanish for five.

Booker has been traveling since before he could walk. As he grew, his parents encouraged him to choose his own destinations – and to be a traveler rather than a tourist. His trips became personal journeys where he immersed himself in local life. His travel journals

turned into a blog and then the inspiration for a web series produced in collaboration with his mother, Tania Cypriano, a documentary filmmaker.

### ***Booker on Booker Travels***

Booker is the host of **Booker Travels**, a series of weekly episodes about traveling and living life outside. Booker Travels was launched by B Travels Network in April of 2012 and is available on the internet at [www.bookertravels.com](http://www.bookertravels.com) and its YouTube Channel <http://www.youtube.com/user/btravelsnetwork?feature=mhee>.

Teenage travelers are the new explorers of the world we live in, the re-discoverers of our planet.

This original series uses a combination of professionally shot footage and video diaries. Its dynamic, documentary style highlights leisure and cultural travel from a unique point of view – that of a teenager. Music, art, food, and sports are some of the themes we feature.

**Booker Travels** encourages kids to explore, to learn from new cultures and to meet new people beyond the world of Facebook and the walls of a classroom.

"So many kids just spend their days inside playing video games and watching TV," Booker says, "But Booker Travels shows kids how to get out of the house and experience the world. I am inspired by the people I meet and how they live. Travel expands our world and influences our lives."

When a teenager respects the locations he or she visits – and opens up to the experience of the place - travel becomes a journey of both pleasure and learning.

### ***About Booker and National Geographic "Travelers of the Year"***

In addition to the 10-page feature story in their December 2012/January 2013 edition, National Geographic Traveler will provide supplementary iPad and online content (published at [nationalgeographic.com](http://nationalgeographic.com)) which includes a Q&A session with Booker as well as additional imagery.

Booker has also been invited to a "National Geographic Live!" lecture presentation in Washington, DC, in February/March 2013 to introduce some of the winners. Exact dates to be announced.

"When you go and see the world up close with your own eyes, it stays in you forever."

■ *Booker Mitchell*

### **CONTACT**

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