



Dominican Republic Trip

July 6th-14th, 2012



Welcome to Courts for Kids. Whether this is your first experience with our organization or you are returning, we are confident that this trip will impact you in ways you cannot even imagine. We work closely with our in-country partner to make sure your basic needs are met, so we can all focus on the task at hand, creating a multi-purpose sports court with the initiative, help and support of the community.

A sports court is a great project because it requires the help of many community members, provides plenty of work for everyone, and becomes an asset that provides not only safe places for children to play, but also various other benefits. The hard work of our team will be a great bridge between us and the community and we will develop a mutual respect that will help provide inroads into a rich cross-cultural experience and first-hand insight into a developing world community.

We are looking for great cultural ambassadors, so please only sign up for this trip if you are willing to step outside of your comfort zone. You will need to work hard, you will be eating different foods, sleeping and bathing in less comfortable environments. But, as they say, if you want to live like you're in America, why leave!

Most importantly, we ask that you enter into this with a great sense of humility. We want you to be eager to learn and grow in this process as we are entering into a different culture with different values and norms. We want you be quick to listen and slow to speak.

We also ask that you have great flexibility. We will not be giving you a detailed itinerary as things are very prone to change with this sort of construction project. But your time will be spent working on the court, taking part in various cultural activities and doing a camp on the court when it is all finished.

Please look through this informational packet and feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

If you choose to go, I can almost guarantee you will look back on this trip as a life-changing experience. You will grow so much in a week it will make you wish you could stay for longer. In fact, you will probably say this was the best week of your year.

Hope you can come!

Derek Nesland
President
Courts for Kids

Site Details

Batey Cuchilla is located in the Southwest of the Dominican Republic. This area of the Dominican Republic is the home of numerous Bateyes. A Batey is a community that was once centered around the sugar cane industry. In the past, Haitian workers (seasonal immigrants) would come into the area during sugar cane season and live in these communities. They consisted of barracks and a few homes. They would work hard days cropping the sugar cane. Over the years, the Bateyes have grown into larger communities and since the sugar cane industry is no longer competitive, finding work is difficult for the people living in Bateyes. Many people living in the Bateyes are of Haitian descent. Children of Haitian immigrants, although born and raised in the Dominican Republic, are often stateless and denied services as their parents are denied Dominican nationality due to their undocumented status. The lack of work, low wages and the education system make Bateyes some of the poorest communities in the Dominican Republic. Batey Cuchilla is a small Batey located in an area that houses a large number of Bateyes. It is a dry, dusty area North of Barahona. There are close to 600 people and about 120 houses. There is a primary school that goes up to fifth grade and only has four teachers, one who also serves as the director of the school. Once you are beyond fifth grade, you go to a neighboring community. It is a trek. The kids get up early and walk to the side of the highway where they hitchhike and wait for someone who is nice enough to pick them up, if they are lucky. They do this everyday. There is a makeshift baseball field where they also play soccer. Electricity changes but usually is on for about half of the day. Twice per day, there are pumps that give water, once in the morning and once in the evening, both for thirty minutes. These pumps are shared between two or three houses.

The court will be used for the entire community, especially the youth. The court will be used as a way for the kids to have a safe area to play. Much of the free time in Cuchilla is centered on sports. Many of the youth leaders in the communities are the ones that play baseball or soccer. Sports in Cuchilla are the only outlet and time they use to enjoy themselves. Many of the youth spend long days working in the house and find their relief by running around barefoot on the makeshift soccer field that is covered in glass, thorns and grazing donkeys. The court would be a place that youth from other Bateyes could come and have friendly competition. Many of the Bateyes have soccer teams and Cuchilla would like to form a basketball team but has no place to play. Occasionally you will see young kids shooting hoops on a makeshift basketball court made from a tire nailed to a tree. The youth in the community could really benefit from having a basketball court. It would be a great place to work on leadership skills, team building and a place for the youth to enjoy themselves.



Trip Costs

In order to participate on the trip, you are required to raise/donate \$1,700.

The price includes airfare, taxes, baggage fees, food, water, lodging, transportation, travel insurance and a portion of the court construction costs. Does not include- passport, immunizations, food at airports and spending money for things like souvenirs, calling cards.

**All donations are non-refundable. If you raise/donate more than the above amount, you can choose to apply the excess to your passport or immunization costs, the court construction costs, sports equipment, toward the balance of another trip participant or towards Courts for Kids in general.*

Flight Itinerary

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Date	Fl. #	Airport Code	Dep.	Code	Arrival
7/6	Cont. 1627	PDX	9:30 pm	EWR	5:24 am
7/7	Cont. 1470	EWR	7:20 am	SDQ	11:10 am
7/15	Cont. 1473	SDQ	12:25 pm	EWR	4:21 pm
7/15	Cont. 1416	EWR	6:50 pm	PDX	9:56 pm

PDX= Portland

EWR= Newark

SDQ= Santo Domingo

*You will be eligible for frequent flier miles on Continental or United. To enroll, go to www.continental.com or www.united.com.

Trip Checklist

Passport- Make sure you have a passport that will not expire before December 15, 2013. If you need a passport, go to the nearest post office for assistance. **In order to avoid the headache and stress, make sure you get your passport on time, do it ASAP.**

2. Payments- Fill out the sign-up form and turn in your *non-refundable* deposit of \$100 ASAP and by **April 1, 2012** at the very latest (check payable to Courts for Kids). (The deposit will go towards the total cost).

Amounts Due:

- Turn in the deposit of \$100 by **April 1, 2012** at the latest (space is limited to the first 24 people who sign up)
- Turn in the first amount of \$500 by **April 15, 2012**.
- Turn in the second amount of \$500 by **May 15, 2011**.
- Turn in the remaining cost of \$600- by **June 15, 2011**.

** All donations are non-refundable unless the entire project is canceled.*

3. Vaccinations- The recommended vaccinations for travel to The Dominican Republic according to the Center for Disease Control are the following (**keep in mind these are recommended, not required. Check with your local doctor and make the decision best for you**):

Hepatitis A

Hepatitis B

Typhoid

Routine (DPT, MMR, Polio)

**Malaria pills are recommended for The Dominican Republic, but cases are not common where we will be going. Use your and your doctor's discretion*

** The passport and immunization costs will be your own responsibility. If you raise more than the total cost, however, you can use the surplus to apply to these extra expenses. Just make sure to keep your receipts and turn them in to Derek.*

Additional Info

- **Team meeting(s)-** There will be one or two mandatory meeting prior to the trip. Meeting date TBA.
- **Social Guidelines-** Each participant will agree to abide by Courts for Kids behavioral policy which includes: 1. No drugs/alcohol, 2. No inappropriate relationships, 3. No violent behavior.
- **Courts for Kids Representative-** A representative from Courts for Kids will accompany the team and facilitate trip logistics along with other adult leaders.
- **Questions/concerns-** Please do not hesitate to contact Derek with any questions regarding the trip. Contact information is found on the cover page.

Sign-up form

To ensure your spot on our Dominican Republic Open trip, please return this form with a \$100 non-refundable deposit made out to Courts for Kids that will go towards your trip costs to:

Courts for Kids
Attn: Derek Nesland
PO Box 873786
Vancouver, WA 98687
360-521-0592
derek@courtsforkids.org

Name (IMPORTANT... spelling must match your passport including middle name(s))

Email _____

Secondary Email (Parent's) _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____

Emergency Contact Name _____

Emergency Contact Number _____

Beneficiary name and relationship (for insurance) _____

Fundraising Help

Support Letters– Best proven method

- Come up with a list of friends and family members who might support you on this trip. Don't rule people out too quickly. You will be very surprised at who will support you. Get their addresses.
- Type up a support letter for people to make a tax-deductible donation on your behalf. (use the sample on the next page for an idea)
- Send the letter, pledge card and a return-addressed envelope (to your house) to everyone on your list.
IMPORTANT- Get this letter out ASAP to make sure you get your support raised in time.

Online Appeal

- Send an email or facebook appeal to friends and family members.
- Option 1- Direct people to www.courtsforkids.org/donate.htm. They will give through our PayPal account. A 3% charge will be deducted from the transaction. 97% will go towards your trip.
- Option 2- Create a personalized Givamajig through *SignMeUp* that you can post online or on a facebook page. This will track your donations so you and your friends and family can stay up to date with your latest donations. Go to <https://www.signmeup.com/site/services/campaign/give2.aspx>. (4.5% + 50 cents will be charged per transaction).

Other ideas

- Sign up for Click. Buy. Help. where you can get donations for your trip when people shop online. Visit them at <http://www.clickbuyhelp.org/> and click on "Contact Click. Buy. Help." to get started.
- If applicable, schedule a meeting to see if your home church, service club, or other organization will sponsor you.
- Pursue grant opportunities at local businesses. Some grocery stores regularly give grants
- Ask people for donations you can sell in a garage sale or on e-bay.
- Make a craft, shirt, or food item that you can sell.
- Sell first aid kits and get 50% of sales. Contact Derek for more info.
- Time share fundraiser– get people to attend a time share presentation and receive \$100 for your trip while they receive a gift worth \$50. (Only valid in various parts of West Coast– contact Derek for more info).
- Sell Christmas poinsettias and receive 50% of the money (Only valid in the Portland/Vancouver area).
- Make sure people give you checks made out to Courts for Kids. When you receive a check, keep a record of the names and addresses so you can be sure to thank them.
- Be creative, go online– there are many fundraising ideas out there.

When you have checks to turn in, send them to the address below. If the donors included their email address, please send that so we can save printing and mailing costs.

Make sure you send a thank you letter to all your sponsors. Then, bring their addresses on the trip so you can send them a postcard.

(IT IS BEST TO REWRITE THIS LETTER ADDING YOUR OWN WORDS TO GIVE IT A PERSONAL TOUCH. USE THE FOLLOWING AS A GUIDE)

December 1, 2011

Dear _____,

I am excited to share with you about an upcoming service trip to The Dominican Republic that I really would love to be able to participate on. I need to raise \$1,700 in order to make this a reality so I am asking friends and family members to consider helping out with a tax-deductible contribution.

We will head to The DR on July 6th and make our way to Batey Cuchilla, where we will build a basketball court in the Southwestern DR. Bateys are communities that were once centered around the sugar cane industry and have grown in size, but are some of the poorest communities in the country. This court is part of an ongoing effort by community members to provide a safe place for their kids to play. It will also provide for the first sports teams from this community, the ability to host games with other communities, a site for PE classes for the school and reduce delinquent behavior among the youth. We are coming down with a team of Americans and are going to be working right alongside the locals to complete it.

Our primary project will be to build this court, but we will also take part in other service and cultural learning activities as well. Our primary purpose for going is to serve the Dominican people, but also to grow and learn as we get out of our comfort zone. I am excited for the change I am sure will happen in my life and the impact we can have.

Would you consider supporting me as well as the DR community in this project? I need to raise **\$1700** for this trip to be possible. If you are interested, please make a check out to **Courts for Kids** and return it in the enclosed envelope. Could you please return this envelope as soon as possible in order to make sure I hand everything in with enough time to spare? Your donation is **tax-deductible** and **100%** of what you give will go directly to this trip.

(If you are taking part in any other fundraisers, this could be a good option to make mention of those as other ways people can support you). Keep it short and sweet.

Sincerely,

- Yes, I would like to support _____ on the DR Courts for Kids project in the amount of:
 - _____ \$500
 - _____ \$200
 - _____ \$100
 - _____ \$50
 - _____ \$25
 - _____ other amount

○ Please check this circle and write your email to the right if you want your donation receipt e-mailed to you to help us save costs and resources.

Name _____
 Ad-
 dress _____

 City _____ State _____
 Zip Code _____
 Phone Number _____
 Email _____

Please make your **tax-deductible** contribution out to **Courts for Kids**, and return using the return-addressed envelope as soon as possible.



- Yes, I would like to support _____ on the DR Courts for Kids project in the amount of:
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Name _____
 Ad-
 dress _____

 City _____ State _____
 Zip Code _____
 Phone Number _____
 Email _____

Please make your **tax-deductible** contribution out to **Courts for Kids**, and return using the stamped, envelope as soon as possible.



Courts for Kids
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Vancouver, WA 98687
www.courtsforkids.org
(360) 521-0592
derek@courtsforkids.org