



Dominican Republic Trip

March 27th - April 3rd, 2010

Any Questions: Contact Derek Nesland- derek@courtsforkids.org, 360-521-0592

Thank you for your interest in joining our group's trip to Mexico. We have completed seven projects throughout Latin America. The Dominican Republic is a place of natural beauty and vibrant culture, yet also great need. Please read through the following packet to learn more about this experience. Hopefully you can share in what promises to be an incredible opportunity.

The purposes of our trip are twofold:

1. We will work with a community to help create a basketball/volleyball court in partnership with a Peace Corps Volunteer.
2. Second, we will go over there with humility and a willingness to learn. We tend to look at people in less developed countries as less fortunate. Economically, this is true. However, in terms of relationships, community solidarity, and other aspects, we in America can be less fortunate. We seek to learn and grow through this experience so that we will be changed as we come back.

In addition to the court, we will have many more opportunities to get involved with the community and serve, get engaged, and take part in other cultural experiences. This will not be a touristy, comfortable trip. The food will be different, our lodging won't be five-star, the heat and humidity will be overwhelming at times, and you will often feel uncomfortable.

However, 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.

Will you join us on an adventure?

Derek Nesland
President and Founder
Courts for Kids

Trip Details

Trip cost- \$1750 (Includes airfare, food, lodging, all transportation and travel insurance. Does not include- passport, immunizations, food at airports and spending money for things like souvenirs, calling cards,)

To-Do List

1. Make sure you have a passport that will not expire before October 3, 2010. 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. Set up a meeting with at least one parent to go over our trip policies and guidelines with Derek in person. This will be a great chance to get questions answered.
3. Fill out the sign-up form and turn in your non-refundable deposit of \$100 (check payable to Courts for Kids). (The deposit will go towards the cost of \$1750).
4. Turn in the first amount of \$500 by **January 10, 2010.**
5. Turn in the second amount of \$600 by **February 10, 2010.**
6. Turn in the remaining cost of the trip- \$550 by **March 20, 2010.**
For #2 through #5, see fundraising help
7. 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**):
 - a. Hepatitis A
 - b. Hepatitis B
 - c. Typhoid
 - d. Tetanus, and MMR (make sure yours is up to date)
 - e. Malaria Pills

* The passport and immunization costs will be your own responsibility. If you raise more than \$1750, 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.

Flight Itinerary

Delta 744	March 27th	PDX 625A	JFK 241P
Delta 549	March 28 th	JFK 705A	STI 1109A
Delta 550	April 3 rd	STI 1209P	JFK 436P
Delta 745	April 3 rd	JFK 715P	PDX 1114P

PDX= Portland, JFK= Washington DC, STI = Santiago, Dominican Republic

Location Details

Reparadero, Dominican Republic is a community of 1,500 located in between 3 of the principle cities, (Santiago, Moca and La Vega) of the Cibao region. It is a community based around agriculture and artisans (mainly pottery) which was founded over 100 years ago. The community's strengths are the 3 functioning community groups who meet on a weekly basis (Grupo de Jovenes, Amas de la Casa, Junta de Vecinos), Compassion International (organization that helps support children within the community), and the citizens themselves. However Reparadero lacks positive activities for youth and a place to practice basketball, volleyball and other sports other than the streets.

The court will benefit the members of the community as well as the grade school. The grade school does not have a court and currently the community members who want to use a basketball or volleyball court have to walk to a neighboring community grade school when it is not in session, find a person with a key and then only play until dusk. With a court in Reparadero, it will be available for all of the community to use whenever it is needed.

The community has designated this plot of land to be for a sports court for 7 years. Now, through a complete partnership, we will all be able to see it through to completion. Since the community has such a strong desire for this project to be completed, they are excited to host our team and make our stay enjoyable.

We will work very hard working on completing the court, but we'll also have a chance to take part in some cultural activities as we are immersed into their community life.



Sign up Form

To ensure your spot on our DR trip, please bring this form with a \$100 non-refundable deposit made out to Courts for Kids that will go towards your trip costs with you to the meeting with Derek (see page 3). You can also send to:

Courts for Kids
Attn: Derek Nesland
PO Box 61874
Vancouver, WA 98666
360-521-0592
derek@courtsforkids.org

Name (as spelled on passport) _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____

Emergency Contact Name _____

Emergency Contact Number _____

*Beneficiary Name and relationship _____

**Need this information for travel insurance*

Fundraising Help

1. 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.
2. Type up a support letter for people to make a tax-deductible donation on your behalf. (use the sample provided for an idea)
3. 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.**
 1. \$100 deposit made out to Courts for Kids ASAP
 2. Turn in the first amount of \$500 by **January 10, 2010.**
 3. Turn in the second amount of \$600 by **February 10, 2010.**
 4. Turn in the remaining cost of the trip- \$550 by **March 20, 2010.**
4. If applicable, schedule a meeting to talk to your pastor to see if your home church will support you.
5. Make sure people give you checks made out to Courts for Kids. When you receive a check, put the name and address of the donor onto the worksheet provided. (This page is for your records, so you can send a thank you note when you receive the check as well as a summary afterwards).
6. When you have raised enough for your airfare or for your total trip, turn in the checks directly to Derek Nesland (360-521-0592) at the address on the back page of the packet.
7. 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.
8. Other fundraising ideas (Send out support letters first as this is the best, proven way to fundraise for a trip like this)-
 1. Sell poinsettias this Christmas- ask Derek for more info.
 2. Have friends or family members attend a timeshare meeting to raise \$100, while they receive dinner and \$50 cash. Ask Derek for more info.
 3. A big car wash-Instead of doing the car wash in a parking lot, approach a local car wash and ask if you can pre-sell tickets and get the proceeds for the time you are there helping.
 4. Ask people for in-kind donations. Either have a big garage sale or sell them on ebay.
 5. Pursue grant opportunities at local, larger businesses. For example, Walmart and some grocery stores regularly give away grants around \$500-\$1,000.
 6. Do a marathon event and get sponsors. Example- an all night free throw shooting marathon and get people to sponsor per made free throw. Be creative and find a good fit for your group.

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

November 30, 2009

Dear _____,

I am excited to share with you about an upcoming service project I will be doing in The Dominican Republic this upcoming March. I need to raise \$1750 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 be heading to The Dominican Republic on January 9th to a small community outside of Santiago, named Reparadero, where we will build a basketball/volleyball court. There is no safe place for their kids to play. They have had land designated for a court for 7 years, but not the means to complete it. In a partnership between our group, a local Peace Corps Volunteer and the community members, we will work together to make this a reality for the children of their community. Currently the community members who want to use a basketball or volleyball court have to walk to a neighboring community grade school when it is not in session, find a person with a key and then only play until dusk. With a court in Reparadero, it will be available for all of the community to use whenever it is needed.

Our primary project will be to build this court, but we will also take part in other service and cultural learning activities as well. We will be staying part of our time with host families so we will get a unique firsthand glimpse into a culture far different from our own. Our main purpose for going is to serve the local 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. I view this as a unique, potentially life changing experience.

Would you consider supporting me as well as the Dominican Republic community in this project? I need to raise **\$1750** 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.

Sincerely,

o Yes, I would like to support _____ on the Dominican Rep. 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 _____
 Address _____

 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.



o Yes, I would like to support _____ on the Dominican Rep. 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 _____
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Please make your **tax-deductible** contribution out to **Courts for Kids**, and return using the return-addressed envelope as soon as possible.



o Yes, I would like to support _____ on the Dominican Rep. Courts for Kids project in the amount of:

_____ \$500
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 _____ 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 _____
 Address _____

 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.



o Yes, I would like to support _____ on the Dominican Rep. 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 _____
 Address _____

 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.



Donor Giving Worksheet

Name of Participant _____

Donor Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contribution Amount _____

Donor Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contribution Amount _____

Donor Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contribution Amount _____

Donor Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contribution Amount _____

Donor Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contribution Amount _____

Donor Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contribution Amount _____

Total Amount on page _____

Keep this page for your records and then turn in checks to Derek Nesland (360-521-0592, derek@courtsforkids.org) with the checks made out to Courts for Kids.

**Courts for Kids
PO Box 61874
Vancouver, WA 98666**