



Philippines Trip

July 31– August 11, 2012



Welcome to Courts for Kids. Most likely, this is your first trip with our organization and 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 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

The place is called Mt. Zion, located in Mahayahay, Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte, Philippines. Mt. Zion is owned by MCN-Philippines which runs a literacy program for Mamanwa families. The Mt. Zion campus is on the edge of the village of Mahayahay and the vast NE Mindanao forest. It does have electricity and water, and a dormitory in which older Mamanwa children reside during the school year. The Mamanwa are a Negrito (look very much like tribal people of New Guinea or SE Pacific Islands). They have been traditionally hunters and gathers but are now trying to inter-grate into greater Philippine society. However because of their skin color, tribal, low educational and economic status they have been very much segregated from mainline Filipino culture. MCN has been working with the Mamanwa for the past 22 years in church planting and literacy development. Since 1993 MCN has sponsored more than 600 Mamanwa children in Elementary and High School and a few to college. The literacy rate among Mamanwa is now significantly higher and they are now beginning to inter-grate into Philippine society.

A court will be used by the Mamanwa literacy children, the Mamanwa church that is on the property, the Mamanwa village (70+ families) which is on the property, Mamanwa Youth Rallies and for inter-barangay (village) basketball leagues and tournaments. Prior to 2009 the Mamanwa were excluded from any inter-barangay basketball leagues or games because of the general prejudice of mainline Filipinos for them. In 2009 the director of the Mt. Zion Mamanwa Center, Lem Matiga, organized the local Mamanwa young men into a team and persuaded the local league to accept them. The Mamanwa team under Lem's coaching went onto win that league thus making them the team to beat and elevating their status among the local society. They were given the nick name 'Mamanwa NBA'. Having a court of their own will help further elevate them in inter-barangay basketball and in general among the greater Filipino community. The court will also most likely be used from time to time to dry the rice and coconut harvest that Mt. Zion produces that helps feed the Mamanwa children and staff who reside there.



Trip Costs

Total trip cost per person= \$2,450

This price is based on 12- 24 participants. Spots are reserved to the first 24 participants to turn in registration and deposit.

The price includes airfare, food, lodging, all transportation, travel insurance and special activities. It does not include- passport, immunizations, food at airports and spending money for things like souvenirs, calling cards.

In addition to the trip costs, the group as a whole will work to raise \$5,000 of the court construction costs.

**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
7/31	AS 568	PDX	5:00 pm	LAX	7:14 pm
8/1	CX881	LAX	1:35 am	HKG	7:15 am on 8/2
8/2	CX921	HKG	8:50 am	CEB	11:30 am
8/11	CX920	CEB	12:30 pm	HKG	3:10 pm
8/11	CX882	HKG	4:25 pm	LAX	2:35 pm
8/11	AS 565	LAX	5:00 pm	PDX	7:15 pm

PDX= Portland

LAX= Los Angeles

HKG= Hong Kong

CEB= Cebu, Philippines

Trip Checklist

1. **Passport-** Make sure you have a passport that will not expire before February 11, 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 to reserve your spot (check payable to Courts for Kids). (The deposit will go towards the total cost).

Amounts Due:

- Turn in your deposit of \$100 ASAP
- Turn in the first amount of \$780 by **March 15, 2012**
- Turn in the second amount of \$780 by **April 30, 2012.**
- Turn in the final amount of \$790 by **June 30, 2012.**

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

3. **Vaccinations-** The recommended vaccinations for travel to the Philippines 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. Routine (DPT, MMR, Polio)

*Malaria pills are recommended for this island in the Philippines, 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*

Additional Info

- **Team meeting(s)-** There will be at least two mandatory meetings prior to the trip. Meeting dates 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.
- **Questions/concerns-** Please do not hesitate to contact Selene with any questions regarding the trip. Contact information is found on the cover page.

Sign-up form

To ensure your spot on the **Philippines 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: Selene Nesland
PO Box 873786
Vancouver, WA 98687
360-909-0684
selene@courtsforkids.org

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

Email _____

Secondary Email (Parent's if a minor) _____

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. . 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 ClickBuyHelp where you can get donations for your trip when people shop online.
- 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 Selene 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 Selene 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, 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).
- 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)

November 1, 2011

Dear _____,

I am excited to share with you about an upcoming service project I will be doing in the Philippines through Courts for Kids. I need to raise \$2,450 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 Philippines on July 31st and make our way via plane, ferry, bus and hiking to a community called Mt. Zion, located in Mahayahay, Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte, Philippines. Mt. Zion is owned by MCN-Philippines which runs a literacy program for Mamanwa families, where we will build a basketball/volleyball court for a community with great need for a safe place for their kids to play. The Mamanwa have been traditionally hunters and gathers but are now trying to inter-grate into greater Philippine society. However because of their skin color, tribal, low educational and economic status they have been very much segregated from mainline Filipino culture. Building a court for them not only allows a safe place for their kids to play, but allows them, through sports, to participate in tournaments and leagues, which allows this marginalized group to become more accepted into society at large. The court will also be used to help dry their crops of coconut and rice, thus allowing to provide for the families there.

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 Mamanwa, 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 Mamanwa community in this project? I need to raise **\$2,450** 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
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 re-
sources.

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
Courts for Kids project in the amount of:

- _____ \$500
- _____ \$200
- _____ \$100
- _____ \$50
- _____ \$25
- _____ other amount

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- _____ \$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 re-
sources.

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

Name _____
Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____



Name _____
Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____



Name _____
Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____



Name _____
Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____



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