



Dominican Republic Trip

March 16th-25th, 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

Note: This particular site is subject to change.

The community of Los Cerros (The Hills) is part of the rural town of Don Juan, located around 2 hours north of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. There are around 1,000 people living in Los Cerros. The main road of Don Juan, which is paved, runs through Los Cerros; the community also has many back roads, which are unpaved. The majority of the inhabitants live in wooden houses with tin roofs. Most use a public well for water and have outhouses. One of the major sources of work is cocoa - harvesting and selling. Another source of employment is raising cows. The community is very poor. The greatest strength of Los Cerros is its dynamic, motivated youth; however, there really are not any healthy activities for youth and children to engage in. Drugs and delinquency are on the rise, but the community firmly believes that, if given a chance, their children will thrive.

The majority of the inhabitants are Dominican, but the community would share their court with the youth of nearby Batey Vermejo. A Batey is a generally underdeveloped, poor community, predominantly Haitian, where the principle work is cutting sugar cane. The court will be used as a volleyball and a basketball court. Los Cerros has both a volleyball and a basketball team (and with a little help, Batey Vermejo could form complete teams, too). There are people in Los Cerros who are willing to coach teams, but have not had a place to do so (the school court in Don Juan is too far away to use on weekdays, as the school day ends at 6, and it gets dark a little after 7). All would benefit from the availability of recreational activities available to them.

The community has really come together working for a basketball/volleyball court; though they are poor, they are hardworking, generous, and persistent. With your help, their dream for a safe place for their children to play, will become a reality.



Trip Costs

Since \$5,000 of the court construction costs will be divided amongst the team participants, the amount each participant is required to raise/donate will vary depending upon how many people go:

12 participants- \$2,050; 14- \$2,000, 16- \$1,950; 18- \$1,900; 20- \$1,850;

The final amount will be not be based on who signs up, but who pays in full. The price will be announced officially prior to the final payment. If more than 20 sign up, we will need to reserve add'l airfare space, so let us know as soon as possible if this is the case.

The price includes airfare, food, lodging, all transportation, travel insurance and a portion of the court 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

Flight Itinerary

Date	Fl. #	Airport Code	Dep.	Code	Arrival
3/16	DL 1682	SEA	9:55pm	JFK	6:15 am
3/17	DL 493	JFK	9:10am	SDQ	1:10 pm
3/25	DL 566	SDQ	2:35pm	ATL	6:30 pm
3/25	DL 2329	ATL	9:55pm	SEA	12:24 am

SEA– Seattle/Tacoma

JFK– New York (John F Kennedy)

SDQ– Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

ATL– Atlanta

*You will be eligible for frequent flier miles on Delta. To enroll, go to www.delta.com.

Trip Checklist

Passport- Make sure you have a passport that will not expire before November 23, 2012. 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 no later than **December 10 2011 (at this point, we will need to reduce the number or airfare seats to who ha their deposits in).**
- Turn in the first amount of \$800 by **January 20, 2012**
- Turn in the second amount of \$600 by **February 20, 2012.**
- Turn in the remaining cost of the trip- by **March 10, 2012.**

** 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. 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 at least one 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. A release form will need to be signed, including a credit card number and authorization to send the participant home if a policy is broken. For the safety of the participants, as well as the reputation of all organizations involved, we have a zero tolerance policy.
- **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 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– UW 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 a third-party organization, Just Give, who will issue them a tax receipt. 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 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 track of the donations and addresses 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 Dominican Republic over spring break through Courts for Kids. I need to raise approximately \$2,000 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 March 15th and make our way to a rural community about two hours north of Santo Domingo, where we will build a basketball/volleyball court for a community with great need for a safe place for their kids to play. Here is some information about the community from our in-country host:

There are around 1,000 people living in Los Cerros. The main road of Don Juan, which is paved, runs through Los Cerros; the community also has many back roads, which are unpaved. The majority of the inhabitants live in wooden houses with tin roofs. Most use a public well for water and have outhouses. One of the major sources of work is cocoa- harvesting and selling. Another source of employment is raising cows. The community is very poor. The greatest strength of Los Cerros is its dynamic, motivated youth; however, there really are not any healthy activities for youth and children to engage in. Drugs and delinquency are on the rise, but the community firmly believes that, if given a chance, their children will thrive.

Our primary project will be to build this court in partnership with the community. We will work hard pouring concrete, but we will also take part in other service and cultural learning activities as well. Our primary purpose for going is to serve the Dominicans, 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 approximately **\$2,000** 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 resources.

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
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- _____ \$50
- _____ \$25
- _____ other amount

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

Name _____
 Ad-
 dress _____

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



Name _____
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Courts for Kids
PO Box 873786
Vancouver, WA 98687
www.courtsforkids.org
(360) 521-0592
derek@courtsforkids.org