Informational Packet
Panama Trip
March 19-27, 2015
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, maybe life!

    Hope you can come!

Derek Nesland  
President  
Courts for Kids
During this 8-day trip to Panama, participants will help build a multi-purpose sports court in Buena Vista, a community comprised of former residents of Coco Solo. Four hundred families have lived for the past two decades in old, dilapidated barracks on a former U.S. Naval Base (see picture on right). Due to the expansion of the Panama Canal, Coco Solo is now hemmed in on all sides by shipping containers, access to the sea is blocked by industrial fences. The community has become a mosquito infested zone isolated from any other population.

The Panamanian government has promised to transfer the families to a new community. Last year, the promise was partially fulfilled when 50 of the 400 families were appointed land in what is known as Buena Vista, near the road connecting Colon on the Caribbean side to Panama City on the Atlantic. The project included moving the 50 families and building single family homes that the community members will own. The construction budget was not enough to move everyone but hopefully others are able to move in the very near future.

In addition to housing, land has been designated for the construction of a community center, a community clinic and a police center. You will be building a multi-purpose sports court which will give the local children and adults a safe space to play.

The residents of Buena Vista are very invested in this project and excited to be a part of the construction of a court that will benefit everyone in their small community.

You and your fellow U of O students will be sleeping in either homestays or in a few of the houses that have not been moved into yet. You will be completely immersed into the community for the week, not only living there, but also eating Panamanian food and taking part in other cultural activities within the community.
Total trip cost per person= $1,870

*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.*

For a service-learning project to be successful, to have lasting positive impact, the importance of a mutually beneficial relationship cannot be overstated. All parties to the work must have "buy-in" on the project. In the Courts for Kids model, this "buy-in" is literal as well as figurative. Hence, in addition to paying our own way to the site, we will also raise $5,000 toward the cost of building the court. The community also "buys in" by contributing financially as well as with volunteer labor.

Once you are officially accepted on the trip and enrolled in the course for winter term, we will all work together to raise funds for travel and for our part of the "buy-in." The College of Education is also working hard raising funds to help students with financial need to offset the cost of the trip.

*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.*

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**Flight Itinerary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Fl. #</th>
<th>Departure</th>
<th>Arrival</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/19</td>
<td>UA 1173</td>
<td>Portland 6:00 am</td>
<td>Houston 12:09 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/19</td>
<td>UA 1034</td>
<td>Houston 3:04 pm</td>
<td>Panama City 7:15 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/27</td>
<td>UA 1031</td>
<td>Panama City 9:55 am</td>
<td>Houston 2:16 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/27</td>
<td>UA 1186</td>
<td>Houston 5:45 pm</td>
<td>Portland 8:21 pm</td>
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*You will be eligible for frequent flier miles on United. To enroll, go to www.ual.com*

These dates of travel may conflict with academic commitments at the end of the term, including final exams. It will be your responsibility to look ahead at your schedule, and work proactively with your professors to arrange to hand in work early, or to make alternative arrangements to take tests. We are willing to help and advocate for you on this piece, but you must be in the lead on the process.
Trip Checklist

Global Citizenship: Panama
When you are accepted in the program, you will enroll in FHS 407 / 409: Global Citizenship, to both prepare for the experience and to receive credit for your volunteer work. The class will meet Wednesdays, 2-3:50 pm. Please keep this in mind when registering for Winter Term.

Fall FHS 409: Prac Fundraising. There is an opportunity to raise funds and learn about the art and science of fundraising.

Courts for Kids / UO Timeline
First two weeks of October: Information Session
10/24 @3pm: Applications Due
10/27 – 10/31: Interviews
11/7: Applicants Notified

1. Passport- Make sure you have a passport that will not expire before September 27 2015. 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 $200 ASAP to reserve your spot (check payable to Courts for Kids and sent to Courts for Kids/ PO Box 873786/ Vancouver, WA 98687 or bring to the Service-Learning program in 370 HEDCO).

Amounts Due:
- Turn in your deposit of $200 with all forms by November 17th, 2014
- Turn in the first amount of $560 by January 5th, 2015
- Turn in the second amount of $560 by February 9th, 2015
- Turn in the remaining cost of $550 by March 6th, 2015
* All donations are non-refundable unless the entire project is canceled.

3. Vaccinations- The following vaccinations for travel to Panama are required by University of Oregon (You will need to show proof prior to trip):
   a. Hepatitis A
   b. Typhoid
   c. Routine (MMR – Measles, Mumps, Rubella; DPT – Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Chickenpox, Polio, Flu Shot)

The following vaccinations are recommended by the Center for Disease control for some travelers. These will not be required. Discuss your individual needs with your health care provider.
   d. Hepatitis B
   e. Malaria pills (malaria is present in Panama, but the risk is low)
   f. Rabies
   g. Yellow Fever
* 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

- Social Guidelines- Each participant will agree to abide by Courts for Kids code of conduct, which includes no drugs or alcohol. For the safety of the participants, our relationship with the community, as well as the reputation of all organizations and institutions 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.
To ensure your spot on our Panama trip, please return this form with a $200 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 _________ ___________________________________________________________________

Phone ____________________________________________________________________

Address ________________________________________________________________

City______________________________ State _____ Zip _______________________

Date of Birth_____________________________________________________________

Emergency Contact Name _________________________________________________

Emergency Contact Number ________________________________________________

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