Informational Packet
Dominican Republic Trip
March 18-27, 2014

SERVICE-LEARNING PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
College of Education
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 the Dominican Republic, participants will help build a multi-purpose sports court in the community of Batey Isabella, an agricultural community of about 3,000 people one hour from Barahona in the south of the country. ‘Bateys’ are traditionally small, impoverished sugar worker’s towns, populated chiefly by Haitians who were illegally brought into the country years ago to work in the cane sugar fields; most residents are descendants of Haitian workers who settled permanently in these communities. The Dominican government has historically provided few public services to bateys, and since the Haitians who live in these little towns are not legal immigrants, they and their children are often denied citizenship and its benefits. *Residents of bateys are among the poorest people in the Dominican Republic.*

Some children have the opportunity to play sports at school, and a fortunate few are able to travel to surrounding bateyes or the nearby small town to play organized sports. However, transportation costs are prohibitive for most members of the community. Instead, kids gather outside on broken sidewalks or in fallow cane fields to play games, but the opportunity for organized play is minimal.

The finished cement court will benefit the entire community, and will even be available during the rainy season when area fields are muddy. It will mainly be used for basketball and with other Courts for Kids projects in surrounding bateyes, there is momentum gaining for both boys and girls inter-batey basketball leagues. The court will also host other sports including volleyball, which is very popular in other Dominican communities, especially amongst the girls. Additionally, the court will be used for celebrations, gatherings, and as a teaching space.

The residents of Batey Isabella are very 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 a church right in the heart of Batey Isabella, which means you will be fully immersed into this community for a week, eating food cooked by local mothers, walking to and from the court site and having plenty of chances to interact and engage with the community members.
Trip Costs

Total trip cost per person= $1,700

*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 $2,500 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.*

Flight Itinerary

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Fl. #</th>
<th>Departure</th>
<th>Arrival</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/18</td>
<td>Delta 503</td>
<td>Portland 10:40 pm</td>
<td>Atlanta 6:18 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/19</td>
<td>Delta 681</td>
<td>Atlanta 9:50 am</td>
<td>Santo Domingo 1:13 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/27</td>
<td>Delta 324</td>
<td>Santo Domingo 1:27 pm</td>
<td>Atlanta 5:10 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/27</td>
<td>Delta 503</td>
<td>Atlanta 7:15 pm</td>
<td>Portland 9:26 pm</td>
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*You will be eligible for frequent flier miles on Delta. To enroll, go to www.delta.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: Dominican Republic
When you are accepted into 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.

Courts for Kids / UO Timeline
11/5: Information Session
11/27 @3pm: Applications Due
12/2 and 12/3: Interviews
12/6: Applicants Notified

1. Passport- Make sure you have a passport that will not expire before September 27 2014. 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 and sent to Courts for Kids/ PO Box 873786/ Vancouver, WA 98687). You can also register online by clicking the ‘Register for a Project’ button at www.courtsforkids.org/upcoming.html. A 3% transaction fee is included for online payments. The deposit will go towards the total cost.

Amounts Due:
• Turn in your deposit of $100 by December 15th, 2013
• Turn in the first amount of $500 by January 10th 2014
• Turn in the second amount of $500 by February 10th, 2014.
• Turn in the remaining cost of $600 by March 10th, 2014.
* All donations are non-refundable unless the entire project is canceled.

3. Vaccinations- The recommended vaccinations for travel to the DR 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)
   e. Malaria pills (malaria is present in the DR, but the risk is low)

* 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 DR 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 _______ ______________________________________________________________________

Phone ______________________________________________________________________

Address _________________________________________________________________

City______________________________ State ______  Zip _______________________

Date of Birth_____________________________________________________________

Emergency Contact Name __________________________________________________

Emergency Contact Number ________________________________________________

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