

The Knights of Independence bring you...

The Reality Tour 2016

Philomath High School Service Learning Tour



Photo by Alex Miller

An Educational Voyage to the Dominican Republic

July 19 - July 25, 2016 • Cost: \$2,100 to \$2,400 based on flight cost and number of participants • **Minimum 15 Participants Necessary** • LIMITED TO 30 PARTICIPANTS



Contact: Geoffrey Lake

email: geoffrey.lake@philomath.k12.or.us

www.friendsbeyondborders.net

It is essential that the Social Sciences
be addressed in contexts that promote
Social Science **Analysis**,
civic **responsibility** and **engagement**,
understanding **global relationships**,
enhanced **communication**,
making **connections** between
the **past**, **present** and **future**,
and the ability to **evaluate historical** and
contemporary issues.

Oregon Social Sciences Core Standards, 2012

Friends Beyond Borders

Our Summer Service Learning Tour is a unique experience in that it exposes participants to issues of extreme poverty, globalization, international development and associated challenges as no other volunteer and leadership trips can. The Friends Beyond Borders Tour challenges students by developing both mind and character. Our trips are about more than just traveling to exotic places; they offer students a hands-on education about global issues and an opportunity to make a difference.

- The Reality Tour weaves together activities and experiences that both enlighten and empower its participants.
- The tour begins in the capital city of Santo Domingo where we will focus on the history of the country from the days of Columbus to the present. We will take a Colonial train ride through the capital, have a 4D cinema experience, tour the Museum of Dominican Resistance, and explore the Pomier Caves Anthropological Reserve where we will see Taino cave art that is thousands of years old.
- We will visit Alta Gracia, the only fair trade factory in the world, and learn about the issue of sweatshop labor in the developing world. Alta Gracia provides a living wage to all its workers.
- Students will do service learning with the Dream Project at the Batey Caraballo where we will interact with youth of both Haitian and Dominican descent living in one of the world's most impoverished communities.
- We will also visit a synagogue, connecting the history to today, and discuss migration and race relation and human rights in a global context. Students will learn about this critical issue first hand, from the communities that we visit.
- We will also participate in a service project where we meet with children and families living at a local dump. Many of the children we will meet are orphans from the Haitian earthquake and survive by scavenging through the trash. This experience provides us with the opportunity to see first hand what it's like to live off of a dollar a day.
- The experience comes to a close with a boat ride to a remote island to celebrate with an authentic Dominican bonfire and barbeque.

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Our Friends Beyond Borders facilitators guide students through the activities and events of each day along with the PHS leaders. The facilitators are well trained to deal with health and safety issues and make every effort to ensure participants are comfortable and safe. Students who have participated in this project have called the experience “transformative” and “life changing”. Many have returned home to give presentations on their Friends Beyond Borders project at their schools and in their communities. Some have developed their own projects at home that were inspired and informed by the experience. We look forward to sharing the 2016 Friends Beyond Borders project with the Philomath High School leaders this summer.

Because we are visiting areas of extreme poverty that are not tourist attractions, it is essential that our group size is limited and our presence is respectful and unobtrusive in nature. For this reason, the number of participants will be limited. You are encouraged to submit your application form and deposit as soon as possible.

Please check with your group leaders, Geoffrey Lake and Andrea Whiteman, for the latest itinerary and tour information updates.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

Dates: July 19-25, 2016 (Tuesday through Monday)

Deposit: Minimum \$500 nonrefundable commitment fee (deposit by March 14, 2016)

On Time Registration: leftover balance (paid in full by April 8, 2016)

Total on-time program fee (lodging, food, transportation, activities, guides, etc.), airfare, and insurance will be between \$2,100 to \$2,400 based on flight cost and number of participants. With more participants, the price goes down.

Late Registration: if spaces remain, late registration may be possible. A \$150 fee to our negotiated prepay rate will apply.

What is included?

The Friends Beyond Borders program fee covers all expenses once you arrive in the Dominican Republic. This includes all ground transportation (including a bus that is with the group at all times), hotel accommodations, all meals, translators, events, admission fees, general tour support, as well as a full-time professional guide. Flight arrangements will be organized separately by Mr. Lake and Ms. Whiteman. The only other expenses participants will have will be food at airports during layovers, souvenirs, snacks and optional recreation expenses.

How do I get to Santo Domingo?

Mr. Lake and Ms. Whiteman will coordinate flight arrangements and airport options for the group. Friends Beyond Borders will arrange to pick all participants up from the airport and transport them to our hotel. Ms. Whiteman is currently working on travel plans. More information on flight arrangements will be provided to the group as soon as details become available.

Program Fees and Deposits

Because participation is limited to a small group of students and educators, we must require that a \$500 nonrefundable deposit be submitted with your application. If for some reason you cannot participate in the trip, you may use your deposit toward another Friends Beyond Borders trip or find someone interested in taking your place. The remaining balance will be due no later than April 8, 2016.

All checks should be made payable to Philomath High School. Mr. Lake will be responsible for sending the group's certified check to Friends Beyond Borders. **Please note the participant's name in the memo.**

Please forward your completed registration information to Mr. Lake.

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Important Information for Tour Participants

Please read the following information carefully.

As a participant in a Friends Beyond Borders Trip, there are a number of important precautions that one must take and rules that one must follow to minimize the potential risks. It is also important to remember that some risks are simply not foreseeable and it is not possible to be protected against all potential risks.

It is only after carefully reading this package and acknowledging that the participant and, if the participant is under the age of 18, his/her parent or legal guardian, has fully read, understood and unconditionally accepted its conditions, contents and the associated risks, that a participant will be formally able to sign up for an international program, have his/her registration processed, and make his/her non-refundable deposit.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN FRIENDS BEYOND BORDERS TRAVEL PROJECTS

- All participants must have a passport issued by their country of citizenship, which is valid for at least six months after the conclusion of the trip. A copy of such passport will be kept by the PHS lead teachers and will also be forwarded to Friends Beyond Borders upon the acceptance of a participant's application.
- Participants are advised to keep photocopies of valuable documents, such as passports, visas, traveler's check receipts, travel insurance policies, personal contacts and addresses, credit card numbers, airline tickets and birth certificates. When copying a passport, participants should be sure to copy pages with their name, passport number and photo, the place and date of issue and the expiration date.
- Participants on the 2016 Friends Beyond Borders Social Justice Tour will be required to complete a medical questionnaire and inform us of any food allergies, dietary restrictions and other pertinent health related information.
- Participants will follow the health and safety instructions of trip facilitators at all times, and will abide by the rules of conduct established by the groups' lead teachers.
- It is understood that if a participant must forgo or leave the trip for foreseen or unforeseen circumstances, no portion of the trip costs will be returned. Purchasing low cost trip insurance may be helpful for such purposes. (PHS leaders will be purchasing medical insurance for the group at a low cost.)
- All payments made to Friends Beyond Borders are non-refundable once a participant has signed the Waiver, Release, Indemnity and Acceptance of Risks provided by Friends Beyond Borders and has been accepted into the program. If the trip is cancelled by the organizers, all funds will be refunded.

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- While cancellations are dealt with on an individual basis, payments may not be refunded and a participant may lose his/her spot on the trip upon cancellation. Friends Beyond Borders welcomes participants who have cancelled to sign up for our trip the following year.
- It is the responsibility of the participant to meet payment deadlines as outlined in the registration package, in order to confirm and maintain his/her registration for the trip. Failing to meet any trip payment deadlines may result in automatic withdrawal of the participant from Friends Beyond Borders programs and forfeiture of all amounts already paid toward the trip.
- Friends Beyond Borders and Philomath School District are not responsible, logistically or financially, for changes to the scheduled trip itinerary made by the participant (i.e., extending the length of his/her trip, leaving earlier than the scheduled time to return home, etc.).
- The participant hereby acknowledges that I (1) understand the nature of the activities on the Friends Beyond Borders Service Learning Tour, (2) understand the demands of those activities relative to the physical condition of the participant, and (3) realize the types of illnesses and injuries, which may occur as a result of activities made possible by Friends Beyond Borders. By signing this Waiver, Release, Indemnity and Acceptance of Risks below, the participant confirms and agrees that participation is voluntary and that the participant knowingly assumes all risks associated with this participation.

By signing below you acknowledge the following:

I have read and accept the information outlined in the document entitled Important Information for Tour Participation in Friends Beyond Borders Travel Projects.

Print name of participant: _____

Signature of participant

Date

Signature of Parent (if participant is a minor)

Date