



Purdue Habitat for Humanity International Trip 2011

What is the international trip?

This year we are excited to present an opportunity for you to use your spring break to travel and volunteer internationally. Participation in the international trip enables students to put their faith in action, to build partnerships with people sharing a common goal, to gain greater awareness of the need for decent and affordable housing worldwide, and to deepen their commitment to social action. Through hands on construction, students work toward eliminating poverty housing from the world.

The international trip will be facilitated through the Global Builders program of the Fuller Center for Housing. The Fuller Center for Housing was founded in 2005 by Millard Fuller, the same man who founded Habitat for Humanity in 1976. Both Habitat for Humanity and the Fuller Center for Housing are nonprofit organizations that work to construct or renovate homes in order to provide adequate shelter for those in need. The main difference between the two organizations is operating philosophy. The Fuller Center's Global Builders program was chosen because it will provide the same experience as a Habitat-facilitated trip at a more affordable price.

"It's a pretty big difference spending a week laboring beside the family whose house you are building, [rather] than sending a check to some random location 5,000 miles away."

*– Max Schneider,
Student volunteer*

"There is no way I could have ever bought with money any of the things that I have learned or felt by working on this house."

-Nancy Boyd, Volunteer

Where, What, and Why?

This year we will be sending a team of Purdue students to San Luis Talpa, El Salvador.

In general you will help with the construction of new homes, although sometimes there will be opportunities for Greater Blessings projects where you will perform small repairs or improvements on existing homes. You may also respond to emergency and disaster needs if necessary, so please remain open to a variety of possibilities. On-site construction

supervision is provided, and building experience is **NOT** necessary.

The international trip will provide the opportunity to do hands-on construction, experience a new culture, and most importantly, make a difference in the lives of the local people. Also, you will get a chance to form new friendships and work toward a common goal alongside fellow Purdue students. Students are often amazed by the closeness of a group at the end of the trip. After a week of learning new skills and working hard alongside other students, you'll find closeness



between yourself and the other participants that can only be forged in the process of working together to help others.

While it is always helpful to have Spanish speakers on your team, it is not a necessity. Spanish skills on the worksite will always be beneficial but are never required because most of your instructions will come from English speaking staff. In other cases where Spanish speaking skills are necessary, translation services will almost always be available.

Country Background

El Salvador, known as the "Tom Thumb" of the Americas, is the smallest Central American country. With a population of 7,066,403 (July 2008 est.), it is one of the most densely populated countries in the world, with some 700,000 Salvadorans in need of decent, adequate housing. An estimated 30.7 percent of the population lives below the poverty line, while over 40 percent of the rural population lives in homes with dirt floors and impermanent wall material.

In late 2006, the government and the Millennium Challenge Corporation signed a five-year, \$461 million compact to stimulate economic growth and reduce poverty in the country's northern region through investments in education, public services, enterprise development, and transportation infrastructure. However, many Salvadoran families continue to struggle to survive while living in dilapidated housing.

Transportation

You will be flying with your team members to El Salvador. Once in El Salvador, vans will be provided for transportation. This will include travel between the airport, your housing, the work site, and any tourism activities.

Lodging

Most teams will stay in a house either on or near the beach. Exactly which house depends on the number of people on the team and if other groups will be there at the same time. Don't worry, you'll like it. The homes have electricity, running water, showers, and internet access (Some services can be less reliable than in the United States so try to be understanding).

Rest and Relaxation

El Salvador has many fun tourism opportunities and/or relaxing activities in which your group can participate. Try to have some ideas of what your team may enjoy as some things (like surfing lessons) require some advance time to setup. Other things like volcanoes and parks can be more spontaneous and decided upon when your team arrives. Since you will be staying on the beach, most teams find it best to simply relax at home in the evenings after work days.

Community Outreach

While the work site will be an active construction zone, it is also an active neighborhood with many families and kids. Most of the time there will be a future home owner working on sweat equity hours working alongside your team. While some opportunities for interaction are provided



(and kids are sure to follow you around), most interaction will require your initiative. Your group can plan activities with the community members or the kids or simply initiate casual conversations around the area. Even if you can't speak the language, acknowledging community members with a smile or "Hola!" can go a long way in developing a relationship or making people feel special.

Expenses

Food, lodging, ground transportation, traveler's insurance, and donation to the local project	\$600
Airfare	\$800
Insurance for Purdue	\$30
Passport (if you don't already have one)	\$110-135
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Total	\$1430-1565

Any additional expenses will be optional (dining out at local restaurants, tourism activities, etc.).

Note: El Salvador uses the U.S. dollar as currency, so no currency exchange is necessary for any spending within the country.

Fundraising

If you are concerned about the expenses of an international trip, there are easy ways to fundraise. Two resources that we can provide to you are:

- Personal fundraising page: Lets people know that you're raising funds for a trip and helps you to keep track of donations as they come in.
- Letters

Immunizations (Vaccinations)

Prior to the trip, you will need to make sure you have been vaccinated for certain diseases (Hepatitis A and B, MMR, DPT, Typhoid).

Rules and Requirements for Participation in the Trip

The most important requirement to participate is the desire to use your spring break to help those in need of decent housing. We also require that you are an active member of Purdue's Habitat Chapter, which means two things. It means you must have turned in a membership form and paid the \$20/year dues, and it means that you have participated with our chapter's activities in some way other than general meetings. If you have not done this, the easiest thing to do is to sign up for a work trip on any Saturday before spring break.



While you'll have more fun on these trips than any other type, drinking alcohol **IS NOT** a part of these trips in any way.

To-Do List Prior to the Trip

- Read and understand trip details and policies presented in this information packet
- Turn in application with non-refundable deposit of \$200 – by Dec. 10, 2010
Checks are preferred (made out to Purdue Habitat for Humanity), though cash is also acceptable. Please submit the application with your \$200 deposit by campus or US mail. It must arrive in our mailbox by the deadline (Mailbox location: First floor of Stewart Center across from itap lab, Box # 706).
- Apply for or renew passport (if needed) – by Jan. 1, 2011
- Make sure you have the necessary vaccinations
- Turn in Purdue Habitat membership form with \$20 dues (if you're not already a member)
- Participate in at least one Saturday build (if you have not already)
- Attend 1-2 mandatory trip meetings (TBD) to turn in paperwork and meet your group
- Make subsequent trip payments

**If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact Jason Iafigliola at jiafigli@purdue.edu or call 440-941-1415.

"I've had a lot of experiences in my life, including being a lawyer...running for president, being a U.S. Senator, meeting famous people all over the world. I have never done anything in my life that is worth more to me than what you are doing now. This is what you will remember, I promise you."

– Former U.S. Senator John Edwards, speaking to student volunteers from UCLA and University of Cincinnati in El Salvador, Dec. 2009



**Purdue Habitat for Humanity
El Salvador International Trip 2011**

****Application and \$200 deposit due by Dec. 10, 2010****

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Class: FR SO JR SR Grad

A) Have you participated in a Habitat/Fuller Center trip or a similar work before? If so, please briefly describe the experience.

B) Please briefly describe your experience with Habitat for Humanity at Purdue or elsewhere.

C) Why did you join Purdue Habitat for Humanity?

D) What do you hope to gain from this trip experience?

By signing below, I hereby state that I have read and understand the information and policies presented in the information packet regarding the El Salvador international trip and agree to comply will all rules set forth.

Name

Date