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ABROAD PROGRAM

2017

**BLUE**  
MISSIONS GROUP

# SERVICETRIPS

*Spring & Summer 2019*



# FIND YOUR POWER TO CHANGE THE *World.*

At BLUE Missions we have two goals:

- 1. END THE WATER AND SANITATION CRISIS**
- 2. BUILD A GENERATION OF GLOBAL CITIZENS.**

Through our Service Trips we are able to accomplish both goals by connecting young volunteers with authentic immersion and impactful projects. Our volunteers create a lasting change in the communities they travel to, and return home motivated to continue making a difference locally.

We began this movement hoping to share the BLUE experience with as many people as possible. Join us this spring or summer to find your power to change the world. If you'd like to travel with over 12 people, we are happy to coordinate custom trips for schools, groups, and churches. See you in the *campo!*



# 2010

OUR FIRST TRIP

# 1,994

VOLUNTEERS

# 27,285

PEOPLE IMPACTED

# 435,632

SERVICE HOURS GRANTED

# 100

PROJECTS COMPLETED

## What makes BLUE different?

### IMPACT

Volunteers on our service trips leave a lasting impact on the communities they travel to through our water and sanitation projects. From improved health to better school attendance, water and sanitation changes everything.

### IMMERSION

While serving on a BLUE Missions projects, volunteers stay in homes, schools, or churches in the benefitting rural community. They live and work alongside locals to understand their way of life on a personal level.

### GROWTH

When you travel, you open your eyes to how differently people live outside your hometown. Service travel has the power to shift your perspective to help shape your life around gratitude and giving.

Dominican Republic

explore:



## MISSIONS:



### Clean Water



Build an aqueduct system to connect a rural community with clean water.



### Sanitation




Build bathrooms to connect families with access to sanitation.



# Water

Build an aqueduct system from start to finish & connect an entire community with access to clean water.

- **STAY:** Sleep in the community inside a local house, church, or school. Cots provided.
- **WORK:** Learn how to use tools to dig trenches, glue pipe, and work on the construction of a water holding tank. See the project through from start to finish.
- **CONNECT:** Spend a morning with a local family learning about their life and culture.
- **EAT:** Typical dishes prepared by local cooks from the community. Light breakfast, full lunch and dinner provided for every day in the community. (Transportation days not included).

 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	LENGTH — 8 DAYS	COST — \$1,250 + \$500 COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION	SERVICE HOURS — 200
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“The completion of a water project is a feeling like no other. This indescribable feeling that comes along with being a part of a life-changing event for a community is always life-shaping for me. I can’t get enough.”

- Daniella Consuegra | 22

Water Projects are open to high school and university students. This year we are also offering one All Ages trip open to humans of all ages. This is a great opportunity for parents and their children to serve together.



# HOW DO YOU BUILD AN AQUEDUCT?

## 01. SOURCE

A fresh water source is identified at least 20 meters higher than the community.



## 02. TANK

Gravity pushes the water down PVC pipes to a holding tank where it is treated and filtered.



## 03. COMMUNITY

From the tank, gravity pushes the water down to a faucet in every home.





# Sanitation

Build bathrooms for individual families to provide access to life-changing sanitation.

- **STAY:** Sleep in the community inside a local house, church, or school. Cots provided.
- **WORK:** Mix cement, cut wood, and hammer in nails to build Ventilated Pit Latrines. Get to know each family benefitting from a bathroom and work alongside them.
- **CONNECT:** Spend a morning with a local family learning about their life and culture.
- **EAT:** Typical dishes prepared by local cooks from the community. Light breakfast, full lunch and dinner provided for every day in the community. (Transportation days not included).

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Before



After

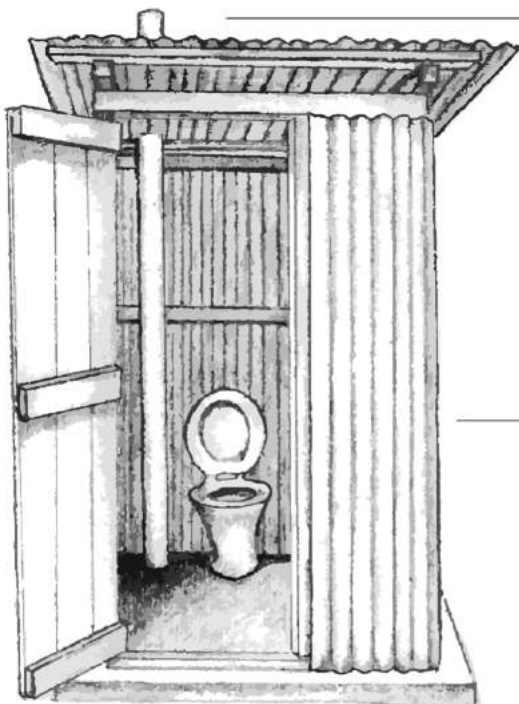
“Putting the last nail in a new bathroom, you see the benefiting family’s faces light up. It’s an incredible moment for the volunteer and the family because it’s the beginning of a new happier and healthier life..”

- Andre | 22

Sanitation Projects are open to high school and university students.



## HOW DO YOU BUILD A LATRINE?



### 01. VENTILATION

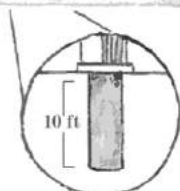
A ventilation pipe allows harmful fumes to be pushed out from the pit to outside the structure.

### 02. TOILET

Toilets are installed over a small opening in the base of the concrete floor. These toilets are easy to keep clean.

### 03. PIT

Latrine structures are built over a 10 ft deep pit. It takes around a decade for the pit to reach its capacity.



# COST + FEES

100% of our public donations go directly to funding projects, so our trips help us cover the overhead expenses that come with making this whole operation go. Around 75% of the trip cost goes into putting on the experience for our volunteers, while the remainder helps us cover operational expenses and administration.

**COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION FEE:** Each volunteer commits to meet a Community Contribution Fee requirement. This amount should be fundraised through our online platform, however if the volunteer raises less than the amount, they will be charged the remaining balance.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED:



### AIRFARE

Miami to Santo Domingo



### TRANSPORTATION

All group transportation is organized through our private bus



### FOOD

Light breakfast, full lunch and dinner every day in the community.



### ACCOMMODATIONS

Groups stay in a local home, school or church. Cots provided.



### LEADERS

Experienced trip leaders to guide the group 24/7.

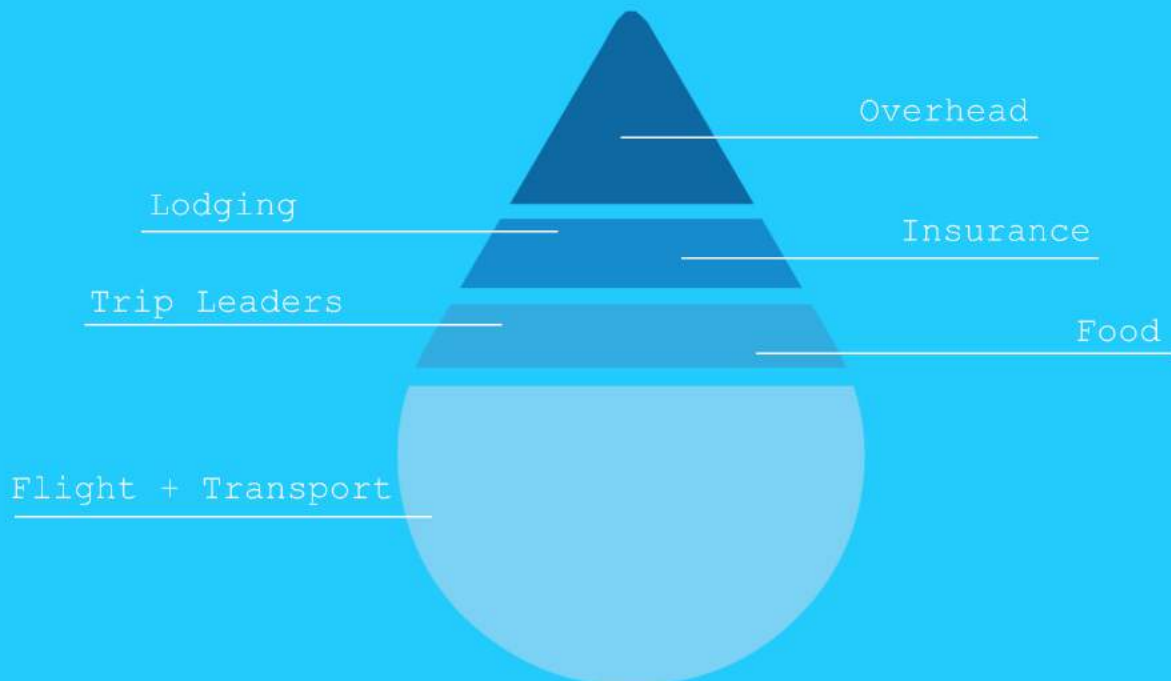


### TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel Insurance provided by iNext



## TRIP COST BREAKDOWN







# SAFETY

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The safety of volunteers is BLUE Missions number one priority. Our US and Dominican employees understand and work every day to ensure that the communities we are working in and the projects chosen exceed our standards. We perform regular risk assessments of the current political situation, the location of lodging facilities and communities, and transportation provided to volunteers.

The communities we work in are in rural areas of the Cibao region of the Dominican Republic. Through out the years, we have built incredible relationships with communities and have organized local water committees to ensure the sustainability, safety, and security of each community prior to a group's arrival.

## **LEADERS & STAFF:**

Every trip is accompanied by at least one trained and experienced BLUE Trip Leader, a team of long-term interns, and our BLUE Missions Dominican staff members. All of our projects are community-led, however, we have our team of engineers, construction workers, project managers, etc. that are the liaison between the community and our group of volunteers. The BLUE Trip Leaders and Interns are in charge of ensuring a safe environment for the volunteers. All BLUE leaders are trained in how to assess and treat first-aid emergencies. There is BLUE chauffeur and truck in the community to transport any volunteer/s in case of major emergencies, illness or evacuation from the communities.

## **COMMUNITY SAFETY:**

It takes months to a few years to approve a water or sanitation project in a community. Our staff on the ground spends 6-12 months preparing communities, organizing and training water committees, scouting and engineering the project and performing safety assessments. The community is also prepped and trained for the group's arrival. The community must meet all of our requirements and go through all trainings before the project is approved and a group of volunteers arrives in the community to begin construction of the project.

Volunteers are never left alone, they are always accompanied by BLUE Missions staff, leaders, and interns from the time they arrive in the Dominican Republic to when they enter the airport to return home. One of our rules is that volunteers are not allowed to walk alone in the community, they must be accompanied by a leader.



“BLUE has made me realize that you don’t have to wait until you are older to make an impact. I don’t know what I’ll be when I grow up, but I do know that regardless of my career, I’ll be dedicated to giving back.”

- Genevieve Barquet

# TRAVEL INFO

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## FLIGHTS

To ensure the safety of our volunteers, BLUE Missions makes all arrangements for participants' international air travel from the time they leave Miami, FL until the time they return at the end of their Service Trip.

Participants traveling with BLUE Missions from outside Miami must make arrangements to arrive in Miami in time for the designated international group flight.

## FLIGHT LEADERS

By keeping volunteers on the same international flights, we are able to provide a Flight Leader who accompanies the group from check-in at Miami International Airport to the moment they are received by our team in the Dominican Republic.

Flight Leaders are only provided on High School Trips. University groups are checked in at Miami International Airport by a member of the BLUE Team and escorted to the airport security checkpoint. Groups traveling on these unescorted flights are always met by a staff member upon arriving at their destination location after clearing customs. When returning home, students are always checked-in for their flight at the point of origin by a BLUE Team member.

## COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

We understand how eager parents are to receive notice of their child's safe arrival. Once the group flight lands at their final destination, an email is sent out to all emergency contacts listed on the participant's application. A few hours later, another email is sent out to notify parents of arrival in the rural community where volunteers will stay for the remainder of their trip. The majority of the communities we work in have little cell reception. Our staff and leaders have cell phones that a volunteer can use at any time throughout the trip, and the contact information of all our trip leaders and staff on the ground is shared with parents. Our volunteers are not encouraged to have cell phones, if it is seen it may be taken away. This rule is in place to protect all of our volunteers and keep their belongings safe.

## PASSPORT / VISA

You do not need a visa to enter the Dominican Republic. Each participant should make sure that they have a passport that is valid up to 3 months after the departure date.





Questions?

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