



## **School the World Corporate Sponsorship & Travel Program Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is School the World?**

School the World is an international education non-profit organization committed to solving extreme poverty through the power of education. In the past twelve years, we have built 109 schools throughout Guatemala, Panama, and Honduras by partnering with local governments and rural community leaders. Aside from building schools, we train teachers, empower parents through bi-monthly meetings and sustainably stock classroom libraries through a matching program. In 2016, we began introducing an initiative around PLAY to our strategy. We build playgrounds to facilitate free play, organized recess games, and eventually an inter-school soccer league and have since built 57 playgrounds at our existing schools. In recent years, our strategy has expanded to include early childhood education with a focus on school readiness as well as lower secondary scholarships to ensure 10 years of quality education.

### **Who Can Participate?**

Companies have the option of sending an entire team of employees (minimum 15) or participating in our March 2023 multi-company trip (minimum 5 employees per company). Corporations also have the option of building their own multi-company trip with business partners.

### **What Does This Cost?**

Corporate Sponsors contribute a \$5,000 sponsorship and a percentage of each participant's \$3,600 fee. This percentage is set by each company and goes toward covering travel-related costs (flights, accommodations, food, transport, etc.) The participating employee is responsible for fundraising the remaining \$, which will fund not only the construction of the school, but also wrap-around programming (teacher training, parent training, and creation of classroom libraries) to foster an environment post construction of sustainable learning and development. Typically, companies bring an average of 5 employees, but you are able to send more than 5 employees should you wish.

### **Where Do We Travel?**

Participants complete their service work in the rural Western Highlands of Guatemala

(the department of Quiche) and experience the Spanish colonial city of Antigua for one or two nights.

### **When Do We travel?**

The next multi-company Corporate Sponsorship & Service Program is scheduled for March 5th to March 11th, 2023.

### **What will Participants Do?**

Participating employees raise the funds to build a primary school building and/or a playground for children living in rural extreme poverty. At the end of the week in the community, everyone (including the entire community and local Mayor) will participate in a Dedication Ceremony to celebrate this support for education. Among other things, participants can expect to mix & lay

cement for flooring and sidewalks, install playground equipment and paint. Participants will also have time within the classrooms to help teach lessons, as well as visit a home within the community to better understand daily life. Additionally, participants will have plenty of time each day to bond with the children in the community and form lasting relationships!

While raising funds in the months leading up to the trip, participants will meet with School the World staff to discuss group and individual fundraising ideas as well as learn about the community and lifestyle in Guatemala. Our staff will prepare all corporate participants for travel.

### **Is It Safe?**

Safety is our top priority. We personally investigate and inspect medical facilities, housing, and food preparation. We evaluate each building project for any potential safety concerns. We use only known drivers and vehicles; we require certificates of insurance and maintenance. We carefully vet all of our communities and spend considerable time in them before beginning any build.

We purchase insurance for each participant to cover medical risks, emergency medical evacuation and cancellations due to illness, death, and similar situations.

We have been working in Guatemala since 2009, have a strong local team, and have relationships with prominent business leaders and families in the country. We also work in two of the safest departments in Guatemala: Quiche and Totonicapán.

A safety marker used by other travel groups is the presence of the Peace Corps, who are

highly active there. The Peace Corps has trained new classes for Guatemala and have no plans to leave the country in the foreseeable future. We monitor any change in this activity prior to and during all trips.

### **What are the requirements before the trip?**

1. Participating employees are required to fundraise the remaining of the total trip fee after the company's contribution prior to departure.
2. If participants have any medical or dietary restrictions, please reach out to a member of our staff in advance to let us know.
3. Additionally, we require that you visit your doctor or local travel clinic for recommendations on any vaccinations or medications for your travel.

### **How Will Participants Raise The Funds?**

School the World will provide participants with several fundraising tactics and suggestions to help facilitate the fundraising process. These may include group or individual events, such as letter writing or online campaigns. Each participant will have the opportunity to create their own individual fundraising page within a team page on our peer-to-peer online platform. Some companies like to organize corporate-wide fundraising activities for their team.

### **What If Participants Do Not Meet The Fundraising Deadlines?**

If participants do not meet the fundraising deadlines, we require them to make up the difference between the amounts due and the amount raised themselves. If you would like to discuss special circumstances, please call Danielle Adams at 617-867-9500.

### **Are there any other costs?**

Participants will be responsible for their own luggage fees with the airline, meals during travel days, and any other incidental expenses. We also encourage participants to bring money for any gifts or souvenirs they may want to purchase.

### **Where does STW general funding come from?**

One of our past funders was USAID, a division of the US State Department. We also receive substantial support from many generous individuals, corporations, and foundations such as The Tinker Foundation, Meldrum Foundation, the General Electric Company, the GE Foundation, and Dole. Corporate trip participants have included Flywire, Ivywise, Envisage international, IMG, International Citizens, and more!

For more information about our programs, our leadership, and our Board of Directors, visit our website: [www.schooltheworld.org](http://www.schooltheworld.org)

For any questions, please contact Danielle Adams at [danielle.adams@schooltheworld.org](mailto:danielle.adams@schooltheworld.org).