

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 ten years, we have built 127 schools throughout Guatemala, Panama, and Honduras by partnering with the local government 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. Play is proven to increase students' mental and physical health, learning skills, gender equality and life skills. We committed to building play spaces to facilitate free play, organized recess games, and eventually an inter- school soccer league and have since built 64 playgrounds at our existing schools.

Who can participate?

Companies have the option of sending an entire team of employees (minimum 15) or participating in our March 2024 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?

A \$5,000 Corporate Sponsorship contribution to School the World operating fund is required. Additionally, each employee participating requires a \$3,750 commitment. The company is responsible for \$1,750 of that \$3,750 per employee to cover all travel-related costs (flights, accommodations, food, transport, etc.). The participating employee is responsible for fundraising the remaining \$2,000, which will fund not only the construction of the school, but also two years of programming around teacher training, parent training, and creation of classroom libraries to foster an environment post construction of sustainable learning and development.

The total cost for each corporate partner in our multi-company service experience (assuming 5 participants) is \$13,750. 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 Quiché) and experience the Spanish colonial city of Antigua for one or two nights.

When do we travel?

The next corporate sponsorship & service program is schedule for March 3rd – March 10th, 2024.

What will participants do?

Participating employees raise the funds to build a primary school building and/or a playground for students living in 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.

While raising funds in the months leading up to the trip, participants will meet with School the World staff to discuss fundraising ideas as well as learn about that 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: Quiché 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?

Participating employees are required to fundraise the remaining \$2,000 of the total trip fee prior to departure. If participants have any medical or dietary restrictions, please reach out to a member of our staff in advance to let us know. 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?

STW 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.

What if participants do not meet the fundraising deadlines?

If participants do not meet the fundraising deadlines, we require them to make up difference between the amounts due and the amount raised themselves. If you would like to discuss special circumstances, please reach out to Megan Gilman at meg.gilman@schooltheworld.org, or 617-867-9500.

Are there refunds?

Please see our full refund policy at

<https://info.schooltheworld.org/hubfs/Cancellation%20&%20Refund%20Policy%202024.pdf>

Are there any other costs?

Participants will be responsible for their own luggage fees with airline and meals during travel days. 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 Harbourton Foundation, the General Electric Company, the GE Foundation, and Dole.

Will there be any cultural Activities?

Yes, there will be cultural activities varying per trip (e.g., visiting local Mayan ruins, caves where the Mayans hid from the colonial Spaniards, and the colorful market of nearby Chichicastenango, the largest open air market in Central America). Participants will also spend at least one day and evening in Antigua, the Spanish colonial capital of Central America / UNESCO Heritage site.

For more information about our programs, our leadership, and our Board of Directors, visit our website: www.schooltheworld.org

For any questions, please contact Megan Gilman at meg.gilman@schooltheworld.org or our office staff at (617) 867-9500.