

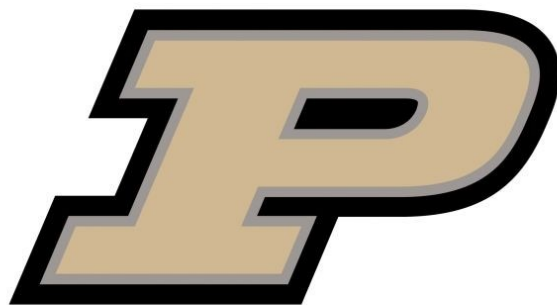


# **Trip Information Packet**

## **Costa Rica**

**Purdue University Athletics**

**May 26-June 3, 2024**





Welcome to Courts for Kids. Most likely, this is your first trip with our organization and we are confident that this trip will impact you in ways you cannot even imagine. We work closely with our in-country partner to make sure your basic needs are met, so we can all focus on the task at hand, creating a multi-purpose sports court with the initiative, help and support of the community.

A sports court is a great project because it requires the help of many community members, provides plenty of work for everyone, and becomes an asset that provides not only safe places for children to play, but also various other benefits. The hard work of our team will be a great bridge between us and the community and we will develop a mutual respect that will help provide inroads into a rich cross-cultural experience and first-hand insight into a developing world community.

We are looking for great cultural ambassadors, so please only sign up for this trip if you are willing to step outside of your comfort zone. You will need to work hard, you will be eating different foods, sleeping and bathing in less comfortable environments. But, as they say, if you want to live like you're in America, why leave?

Most importantly, we ask that you enter into this with a great sense of humility. We want you to be eager to learn and grow in this process as we are entering into a different culture with different values and norms. We want you be quick to listen and slow to speak.

We will not be giving you a detailed itinerary as things are very prone to change with this sort of construction project. But your time will be spent working on the court, taking part in various cultural activities and, most importantly, connecting with the locals.

Please look through this informational packet and feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

If you choose to go, I can almost guarantee you will look back on this trip as a life-changing experience. You will grow so much in a week it will make you wish you could stay longer. In fact, you will probably say this was the best week of your year.

Hope you can come!

Derek Nesland  
President  
Courts for Kids

# Community Information



You will be traveling to Waldeck, a small town of less than 500 residents in the Caribbean side of Costa Rica. The first settlers arrived there more than 50 years ago, with people who came from different parts of Costa Rica. At that time there was no road, only a tram with small wagons that were used to move from one place to another. Over the years it was removed and a road was made. There was no electricity, but a Development Committee had been formed and worked little by little to get electricity into town.

The community now contains houses, a preschool, primary school and its own water aqueduct. There is also an Evangelical Church and a Catholic Church, a sports plaza, a community hall, and a clinic to offer a weekly medical service.



Waldeck is located in the Limon province. It's a Caribbean area that is not next to the sea but connected to the mountains of the Turrialba Volcano. It is hot and humid, which makes the environment very rich for plants and animals. There are banana and pineapple plantations around, giving a very isolated feel to the community, but there are other communities around that love to come to play sports with its people. This community has built everything with their own hands. That means they have organized themselves to create different projects and live happily and united.



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Your group will be met at the airport by the Courts for Kids Costa Rica Country Director who is Costa Rican and has been working closely with the community to plan all aspects of your visit. We will work side-by-side with the locals and although it will be challenging there are jobs for everyone of every physical capacity. During the whole trip we will be fully immersed in the local culture eating authentic food, learning local traditions, customs, and way of life. It is important to note that this court will be built with the community not for the community. The community members are very motivated to make their court a reality and from the beginning, they have been the driving factor planning this project to see it come to fruition.

\*More specific lodging, packing, and trip logistics will be provided as the departure date gets closer.

\*\*Please note, the destination community is subject to change at the discretion of Courts for Kids in order to best meet the needs and safety of the volunteer group as well as the needs of the host community.

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# Trip Safety

Courts for Kids makes your safety our number one priority. Being in a safe, tight knit community with strong awareness and ownership of the project will provide local people who will be personally invested in the safety of the team. Courts for Kids also has safety protocols in place that include, but are not limited to:

- A **Courts for Kids representative will lead the group** while in the destination country.
- We always contract **private transportation** to pick up and return the group to the in-country airport.
- We have a **strict behavior and conduct policy** for all trip participants which promotes the safety and security of the group. All participants are required to attend a **mandatory training**.
- We have **secure transportation** available to medical facilities in the case of any injuries.
- We will have a **first aid kit** with the group at all times.
- We only drink **clean, potable water**.
- We work with community cooks to adhere to our **Safe Cooking Practices**.
- We monitor the **US State Department** travel warnings and make travel adjustments as deemed necessary.
- **We do not allow cell phones**; we require all volunteers (except staff/chaperones) to be disconnected for the entirety of the time spent in the community.
- **Insurance coverage** for all trip participants that includes evacuation with a medical escort in a worst case situation. Policy details can be provided upon request.
- Courts for Kids may conduct a **behavioral background check** through a student's school and reserves the right to refuse a participant based on the information we receive.

Safety is a team effort and every trip participant is responsible for their behavior, must use common sense while traveling, and comply with Courts for Kids representatives and trip leaders at all times.

# Trip Checklist

1. **Registration:** The application process is facilitated by Purdue University. Once approved, you will register online at [www.courtsforkids.org](http://www.courtsforkids.org) (detailed instructions to be provided later).

2. **Passport:** Make sure you have a passport that will not expire before **November 27, 2024**. If you need a passport, go to the nearest post office for assistance. **In order to avoid the headache and stress, make sure you get your passport on time, do it ASAP.**

3. **Vaccinations:** The recommended vaccinations for travel to Costa Rica according to the Center for Disease Control are the following (**keep in mind these are recommended, not required. Check with your local doctor and make the decision best for you**):

- a. Routine (DPT, MMR, Polio, Chickenpox, Flu, Shingles)
- b. COVID-19
- c. Hepatitis A and B
- d. Typhoid

4. Attend **mandatory** Courts for Kids pre-trip training, March 11, 2024 from 6-8pm.

# Flight Itinerary

## American Airlines Flight Itinerary\*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Fl. #</b>	<b>Airport</b>	<b>Dep.</b>	<b>Airport</b>	<b>Arrival</b>
May 26	1047	Indianapolis	6:35am	Miami	9:20am
May 26	597	Miami	12:05pm	San Jose	1:00pm
June 3	1600	San Jose	12:53pm	Miami	5:55pm
June 3	1222	Miami	9:00pm	Indianapolis	11:53pm

You are eligible for frequent flier miles on American. To enroll go to [www.aa.com](http://www.aa.com) and enter your number in your Courts for Kids registration.

\*Flights and carrier are subject to change

Questions?

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