

What is a TBF service trip?

Service trips are the core of The Batey Foundation and are how we actualize our organizational mission, providing participants with opportunities to engage in authentic cross-cultural interactions while supporting valuable, community-driven infrastructure projects. Unlike with some organizations, TBF service trip participants are integral to the success of our projects, as participants engage directly in the construction process. The work and effort of participants directly translates into community centers and schools for the communities with which TBF partners.

In addition to the valuable work done by participants, TBF service trips are a fantastic opportunity to explore individual and collective identity and strengthen a sense of team and community, all while immersing in the history and culture of the Dominican Republic, learning about its food, music, dance, and complex history as well as witnessing some of the many historical sites within the Zona Colonial in the capital, Santo Domingo.

How long is a typical program?

A typical TBF service trip is seven days. Over the course of the week, participants engage in meaningful work on the annual infrastructure project, visit important historic and cultural sites, and engage in cross-cultural interactions with the local population. During the summer, fall, and winter, TBF is able to modify our programming to offer shorter or longer service trip experiences at a modified fee.

Where do we work?

The Batey Foundation has been building partnerships with batey communities in and around Santo Domingo for the last decade. Bateys are communities with primarily Haitian and Haitian-Dominican populations that have historic connections to the sugar industry. Many people in these communities struggle to meet the basic needs of their families, lack access to medical care, and face institutional discrimination and oppression. Currently, TBF is engaged in projects in the communities of San Luis and Naranjo. Additionally, TBF is working to strengthen our relationship with the community of Yabacao.

What kind of projects do we work on?

The Batey Foundation's service trips engage primarily in construction-based infrastructure work. We partner with neighborhood associations and NGOs to solicit community input and direction, then together select a project for the coming year. Historically, TBF service trips have been involved in the construction of community centers, schools, and occasionally single-family homes.

Additionally, participants are often involved in medical outreach projects, both distributing medicine and helping with public health campaigns.

How much does it cost?

For 2018, TBF service trips cost \$900 plus airfare and international travel insurance. There may be additional costs for necessary vaccinations and travel documentation.

Can I start my own program?

The Batey Foundation is excited to work with anyone who is interested in starting their own service trip program. In the past, TBF has partnered with high schools and universities, as well as churches and corporations. TBF's Program Manager is excited to work with anyone looking to start a program.