



buildOn Trek

You Can Build a School and Help End the Global Education Crisis.

Worldwide, nearly 773 million people are illiterate. Education is a basic human right. Yet those who need education the most – children living in poverty – are the least likely to attend school.

To address these issues, buildOn mobilizes communities from some of the economically poorest countries on the planet to build schools and break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy. Since 1991, these communities have constructed over 2,012 schools where more than 297,824 children, parents and grandparents are educated every day.

At buildOn we immerse our partners in our mission to break the cycle by building primary schools alongside parents and grandparents. The impact is profound and sustainable for both the community members and the participants.

Through this global service learning opportunity, participants immerse themselves in the local culture and customs of a rural community, live with host families, and engage in service by physically constructing a buildOn primary school. buildOn puts an emphasis on service, leadership, and team building by engaging participants in dynamic cultural workshops, deep reflection activities and thorough explorations of issues facing the host community.

The opportunities for growth are enormous, as participants develop a deeper understanding of the world and of themselves as leaders. Participants from past teams have reported significant improvements in teamwork and enhanced leadership skills.

A Typical Day in the Community:

Worksite: The work consists of digging the foundation, mixing concrete, making cinder blocks, carrying water and tying rebar. It is physically hard work. Everything is done by hand, and you will surely have blisters and sore muscles.

Cultural Education: You will participate in a cultural workshop in your community each day. These workshops vary from country to country and could include anything from basket and pottery making, to learning about local agriculture, to traditional music and sports.

Reflection: In addition to working and learning together, participants will engage in deep reflection activities concerning their current experiences with culture, inequality, education, privilege and service.

Immerse with Your Host Family: You may find yourself learning to cook on a wood fire, playing games with the children, doing laundry, carrying water, singing and dancing, or learning each other's languages. These relationships will be one of the most meaningful parts of your experience.



Join the Movement

buildOn provides an online tool that makes group fundraising easy and user-friendly.

Participants raise the funds for the school's construction, either as individuals or teams, plus their own travel expenses, ensuring that all donated funds go directly to support our mission.

School construction costs are between \$30,000 and \$40,000 depending on your chosen buildOn Partner Country. buildOn is currently providing the trek experience in Guatemala, Malawi, Nepal, Nicaragua and Senegal.

To learn more please contact Erin Hartsough, VP of Development: Community Engagement, at erin.hartsough@buildon.org or 805-886-6663