



Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am excited that your child has expressed interest in applying for the buildOn Trek program! As you may know, buildOn is a service program for students to engage in after-school and Saturday community service projects. In addition to working in the local community, buildOn also offers an international service opportunity called Trek.

Trek is a 2-week service trip to a developing country where students work alongside a community to help build a school. These rural communities lack educational opportunities and resources for adequate school facilities. Since 1999 buildOn has constructed over 2000+ schools in Burkina Faso, Guatemala, Haiti, Mali, Malawi, Nepal, Nicaragua, and Senegal to break the cycle of poverty through education.

Trek offers countless experiential learning and personal growth opportunities, such as a better appreciation for education, understanding of a new culture and language, valuable experience for college applications, leadership skills, and lasting friendships.

The health and safety of students on Trek is buildOn's top priority. A wide range of safety measures are taken to address international travel risks. Staff members are certified Wilderness First Responders. buildOn contracts with International SOS, the premier security and medical advisor for security evaluations, evacuation services, and 24 hour physician support. buildOn's experienced local in-country staff are familiar with the communities and local language. International medical and political evacuation insurance, a 24-hour emergency vehicle, cell and satellite communication devices, and GPS devices are all part of buildOn's emergency preparation plan. The group is registered with the US Embassy, and there is also a 24-hour on call staff in the US for parents to contact in case of emergencies at home. The buildOn staff work hard to ensure all students stay healthy, happy, and safe while on Trek.

Students who complete the Trek application will go through a selection process. If accepted, participants will attend a Parent Information Night and 3 Pre Trek Workshops hosted by buildOn outside of regular school hours. Upon their return from Trek, each student participant will be responsible for giving eight presentations to share their experience with their school or local community, in addition to completing at least 50 hours of community service with buildOn the next school year.

Please note that students may only participate in Trek with the written consent of a parent or guardian. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for supporting your child in this exciting opportunity!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brooke Ahles".

Brooke Ahles
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