

Costa Rica Service Adventure

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Lessons Learned

- A lot of the day to day “essentials” that we have become accustomed to in the United States are not necessary.
- Roy is the most capable man in the world.
- If you open your mind to trying new things, you give yourself the opportunity to have a positive experience.
- Do not eat half a spicy pepper when on the top of a mountain when warned that it is really spicy.

Who? The trip was hosted by the OSU Outdoor Adventure Center and consisted of 2 trip leaders and roughly 13 students. We worked with a lot of Costa Rican natives once we arrived in the country.

What? The trip was a mix of service and adventure, with a few full days dedicated to building a fence for a community center in a village.

When? Ten days, from December 12th to the 22nd, which lucky for us is in the dry season in Costa Rica. It was hot!

Where? Various parts of Costa Rica.



Impact

This program helped give me a new perspective on life. I had never really had the chance to fully experience a culture that was dramatically different from the one that I was used to growing up in Akron, OH. We lived without air conditioning and strong plumbing for most of the trip, which most of America would consider to be at the poverty level, but by the end of the trip I had learned that so many amenities that I have grown used to are not necessary, and that living a “comfortable” life does not equate to living a happy life. The *pura vida* life style we got to experience was beautiful and I will try to take a piece of it with me for the rest of my life.



Favorite Part

As obnoxious as it might be for me to say– I really did not have one specific favorite part. The entire trip from start to finish was a memorable experience to me and I enjoyed all the highs and lows. From riding in the back of a van through the mountains, to sleeping under a waterfall, playing euchre and spoons while drenched in sweat, surfing, cliff jumping, white water rafting, and interacting with the locals was all a blast.

Interested in reading more about my experience? Check out my u.osu.edu blog post!



Motivation

- Get the chance to experience another culture.
- Get out of my comfort zone.
- Visit a country I have never been to
- Experience something new with new people.
- Get away from the cold weather.

