

5th Year Kenyan Service Project 2011

20th July 2010

Dear 5th years-to-be,

As you well know at this stage, there is a plan afoot to offer participation in a service project in Kenya in 2011 to your class. A group of you have already emailed the school stating your interest, which is great.

The purpose of this document is twofold:

1. To provide you with more facts and figures – so that you have a better idea of what's involved and so that you can consider your fundraising potential.
2. To provide you with an Application Form – this needs to be brought back immediately ***on your return to school in September*** (returning the form is not a guarantee of a place, but *is* the first step in achieving one).

The team of participants will be established at the end of the first week of September, and planning for the project will begin at once thereafter.

If you wish more information, please email solidarityproject@rockbrook.ie.

Yours sincerely,



JUDE MULLIGAN

INFORMATION

BACKGROUND TO THE TRIP

The first ever trip to Kenya by Rockbrook students was in July 2009, and on foot of its success it was decided to run another trip within two years. This is planned for the Easter holidays of 2011, and is for 5th year students only (it's too close to the Leaving Cert for 6th year students to participate). This is the *only* opportunity that incoming 5th years will get to take part in the project, as it won't be available to them when they themselves are in 6th year.

ORGANISERS

The trip is being organised by Rockbrook in conjunction with the Local Lives Foundation, a registered Irish charity focused on projects in developing countries, and Strathmore University and the John Paul II School (our partner school) in Nairobi.

LOCATION

There will be two locations involved in the trip: (1) Kibera, the infamous slum on the outskirts of Nairobi, and (2) a village in a rural location.

ACTIVITIES

During the first part of the trip, located in Kibera, the Irish students will engage in a series of collaborative projects with their peers from the John Paul II School. This will involve working in the slum each day, experiencing at first hand the conditions that exist there.

During the second part of the trip, taking place in a rural environment, students will have the opportunity to teach primary school children and assist a local community in building and refurbishing their school.

'TOURIST STUFF'

There will be a number of more tourist-orientated excursions and outdoor challenges for the students, including climbing Mount Longonot in the Rift Valley and visiting a safari park.

ITINERARY

While specific dates have yet to be arranged, the plan will be to coincide the trip (as much as is feasible) with the two-week 2011 school Easter holidays.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation in Nairobi will be in a reasonably comfortable residence with full amenities. As one would expect, accommodation in the countryside will be more basic – all part of the adventure!

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Well in advance of the trip, the school will provide comprehensive orientation and advice regarding all the general health and safety issues that will need to be borne in mind during the course of the project.

COSTS

A service project of this nature is not cheap to operate, but with a willing and committed team of students, the funds can be raised in good time.

What needs to be raised?

The money required can be divided into four categories:

1. Students' expenses (flights, accommodation etc.).
2. Accompanying teachers' expenses (flights, accommodation etc.).
3. Funds to run the collaborative project in Kibera.
4. Funds to run the rural project.

Who is going to raise this money?

- No. 1: the students travelling will need to fundraise this, individually and as a group.
- No. 2: the teachers travelling will raise these funds (to take the burden from students).
- No. 3: Rockbrook will raise this through grant applications.
- No. 4: Local Lives Foundation will raise this.

How much do students need to raise?

The expenses that students need to meet for the trip are many, the main ones being:

- Flights
- Accommodation
- Food
- Travel in Kenya
- Insurance

To meet these expenses, students will need to raise at least €1200 each. This money will be lodged into the Rockbrook Solidarity Bank Account as it is raised, and payment of trip expenses will be handled by the school thereafter.

In addition to the amount to be raised quoted above, students will have to pay for the following:

- Vaccinations
- Malaria prophylaxis

Re: vaccinations – While the school can facilitate students getting their vaccinations as a group, and thereby likely acquire a discount, the decision as to *which* vaccinations any one student gets is up to him and his parents: there are a number of ‘recommended’ vaccinations and also some ‘optional’ ones. Depending on what each student gets, the final cost of the vaccinations may vary from one person to another (the recommended vaccinations + the obligatory accompanying consultation fee → approx. €190).

Re: malaria prophylaxis – The school has tried unsuccessfully in the past to get these tablets donated, and while it will seek to do so again, the chances of achieving this are slim. Therefore, students should be prepared to cover this cost (→ approx. €130)

How can students raise the funds they need?

There are lots of ways, and each person needs to be imaginative in this regard! Some examples:

- Short-listing family, relatives and friends who can each give a personal donation of €50/€100 can be very productive. Potential donors of this nature, even though already known, usually need to be asked for support in person, as this provides an opportunity to explain the project to them and it shows commitment.
- Looking for ‘sponsor lines’ for some sponsored event (e.g. a group of students decide to climb Lugnaquilla, or cycle to Wexford etc). Getting ‘lines’ for this among neighbours, friends of one’s parents etc. is relatively straightforward (if 60 people give €10 for a ‘line’, that’s already €600 raised!).
- Running a raffle in the local GAA or sports club, local pub etc. Only token prizes are needed (e.g. bottles of wine), and the event can be effective if done at the right time.
- Church fundraising (asking for support at Sunday Masses in one’s parish): a traditional and popular avenue for students when involved in this kind of project.

When is the money due?

In order to book flights, €700 is due by the 30th September. The remainder of the money is due in March 2011.

Please note: to raise their personal finances for the trip, students will *not* be able to run a group fundraiser in Rockbrook, seeking support from the school student and parent population *as a whole*, as this is traditionally done by the school anyway in the first term, first and foremost in the 2010-11 academic year to raise money for the material projects over in Kenya in which students will be involved when there.

