



BUCK-I-SERV

TRAVEL | LEARN | SERVE



2019-20 STEP Participants





Buck-I-SERV Overview

The mission of Buck-I-SERV is to provide students with a challenging and engaging opportunity to lead and learn through direct service experiences.

The Buck-I-SERV motto is: **Travel. Learn. Serve.**

Buck-I-SERV is the alternative break program planned through the Office of Student Life and Student Activities and supported in part by the Student Activity Fee. Buck-I-SERV began as a student initiative with one trip in 2003. Since then, Buck-I-SERV has grown to provide more than 80 trips per year to over sixteen states and five countries. The Buck-I-SERV student cohort is a group of volunteer undergraduate students that plans the trips and maintains contact with all the community sites around the country.

Key features of Buck-I-SERV Alternative Breaks:

- Week long (some 2-week international) experiences held during university breaks
- Substance-free
- Centered on social justice through direct service and community interaction
- Reflection to encourage experiential learning and active citizenship
- Usually 10-20 total people per trip, includes participants, trip leaders and staff advisors

BUCK-I-SERV AND YOUR STEP SIGNATURE PROJECT

- Choose “Service-Learning and Community Service” as your STEP project category.
- Identify a domestic experience or international experience and write your proposal around that trip’s social justice topics.
- Complete the Buck-I-SERV application process.
- 2019-2020 STEP students have from May 1, 2020 to August 15, 2021 to complete their STEP Signature Projects. Students may NOT submit proposals for projects that begin before May 1, 2020.
- If you ultimately end up on a roster for a different trip than your original project proposal indicated, you can update and resubmit your STEP proposal throughout the funding period. See your STEP Handbook and STEP Dashboard for relevant instructions and deadlines.



IMPORTANT BUCK-I-SERV DATES AND APPLICATION TERMS

	Summer 2020	Anticipated Winter 2020	Anticipated Spring 2020 and Summer 2021
Buck-I-SERV Applications Available	December 8, 2019	August 2020	December 2020
Buck-I-SERV Applications Due	January 19, 2020	September 2020	January 2021
Buck-I-SERV Domestic Trips and Constru Casa Guatemala Travel Dates	May 2-9, 2020	January 2-9, 2021	March 13-20, 2021 May 8-15, 2021
Other Buck-I-SERV International Trip Travel Dates	International trip dates vary; Check applications each term for specific international trip dates.		
Other Events	In addition to trip travel dates, please expect to attend kick-off and welcome back events. These event dates will be included in your trip offer notification. Pre-trip meetings are also scheduled by each trip's leadership team and those times/dates will vary for each group.		

TRIP COSTS

You will see a trip price listed next to each trip on the Buck-I-SERV application.

- Domestic trips usually include transportation, lodging and program fees. Meals are usually not included.
- International trips usually include transportation (including flights), lodging, program fees, university required supplemental travel insurance and most meals.
Not included: passport and visa application fees and vaccinations.

BUCK-I-SERV PLACEMENT

You can write a STEP proposal to include any Buck-I-SERV trip. Trip rosters are filled in various ways, and no trip option is guaranteed.

- International trips are usually filled through an interview process.
- Domestic trips are usually filled through a random assignment process.
- A few trips are reserved for STEP students but may still require an interview process.
- Always refer to the application to be aware of due dates for each specific trip.
Some trips will vary from the usual assignment process, the usual application deadline or the usual travel dates. Always refer to the application information available at go.osu.edu/buckiserv for each term and each trip's updated timeline.



SIGNATURE PROJECTS PLANNED FOR SUMMER 2020

If you write a proposal to travel in summer 2020, you should know your Buck-I-SERV placement in February 2020. Complete your STEP proposal by the April 1, 2020 deadline to access your funding.

We expect to have 4 international experiences for Summer 2020:

Guatemala (May), South Africa (May) and Ghana (May and July) You can apply for any Buck-I-SERV experience!

In addition, the following May 2020 will be filled first with STEP students:

- **Constru Casa – Antigua, Guatemala** Open first to STEP students. If spots remain available, we open the trip to general Buck-I-SERV applicants. You may still be asked to attend the international interview process. All of the other international trip options will also be filled through an interview process. That timeline and more information will be included on the application.
- **In Development: Lifelong – Seattle, Washington** lifelong.org/
- **New: Community Collaborations – San Juan, Puerto Rico** communitycollaborations.org/puertorico

While domestic trip placement is usually filled through random placement, there are exceptions on the Summer 2020 list. These trips will likely have an early application deadline and possible interview selection. Check the application when it is available to confirm the application due date:

- The Recreational Sports Outdoor Adventure Center Grand Canyon trip in May 2020 will be filled through an interview process with the Recreational Sports staff.
- The Community Collaborations Puerto Rico trip may be filled through an interview process. Read the application for specific information.



SIGNATURE PROJECTS PLANNED FOR DECEMBER 2020, MARCH 2021 OR SUMMER 2021

If you write a proposal to travel with Buck-I-SERV in the 2020-21 academic year, you will still submit a STEP proposal by the April 1, 2020 deadline.

You can write the proposal around a specific trip or relevant social justice topic and indicate your plans to apply in 2020-21. You can then submit your updated proposal through your STEP dashboard when you are placed on a specific trip roster.

Please refer to the application timeline for each term. The spring and summer 2021 applications will be available on the same schedule and will be due in January 2021.



PAYMENT INFORMATION

By accepting a Buck-I-SERV spot, you are responsible for the full trip price. If you do not follow through with your eligibility terms of use to receive your STEP funds, you are still responsible for making the full trip payments to Buck-I-SERV prior to travel.

STEP funds are released directly to you within a few days of your experience. You may need to make payments to Buck-I-SERV prior to receiving your STEP funds. If you are placed on a trip roster, your payment timeline will be included in your trip offer notification message.

Participants planning to use STEP funding as payment for a Buck-I-SERV experience should ensure this experience is approved through your STEP dashboard and that funding will be released prior to the trip. Please keep Buck-I-SERV informed of your STEP proposal progress and approval throughout this semester.

REGIONAL CAMPUS STEP PARTICIPANTS

A regional campus STEP participant can utilize a Buck-I-SERV experience for a STEP Signature Project. Because Buck-I-SERV is funding in part by the Columbus campus Student Activity Fee. It's helpful to know where you will be enrolled **at the time of application to the Buck-I-SERV trip.**

If enrolled on the Columbus campus during the semester of application to a Buck-I-SERV trip, you are eligible to apply to any available Buck-I-SERV opportunity that semester.

If enrolled on a regional campus during the semester of application to a Buck-I-SERV trip, you are eligible to apply to the following Buck-I-SERV opportunities:

- Constru Casa – Antigua, Guatemala: Usually scheduled for December, March and May
- Specific domestic trips that are priority filled with STEP participants, including regional campus STEP participants. Those opportunities vary and are designated on the Buck-I-SERV application each semester and the timeline for these applications is maintained on the Buck-I-SERV website.

Buck-I-SERV experiences include interview processes (international trips and domestic trip leader positions), kick-off events, pre-trip meetings and other pre-trip events that are scheduled on the Columbus campus. Group leaders can help participants utilize technology to reduce trips to Columbus throughout the semester, but some in-person meetings will be necessary. All travel departs and returns from Columbus campus or John Glenn International Airport.

PROPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

Refer to your STEP Handbook for specific proposal instructions. **These tips can help you think about a proposal that includes Buck-I-SERV:**

You will at least start your proposal before knowing any Buck-I-SERV trip placement. That's OK! Refer to the current trips on our website as our usual trip offerings, and use that information to inform your plan. You can update your project proposal after you are confirmed on a trip roster.



Think about ways to enhance the Buck-I-SERV experience and include those items in your proposal:

- *Include DICE as part of your signature project:*

Buck-I-SERV experiences now count for 3 points in the Diversity, Inter-cultural and Community Engagement (DICE) Certificate Program through the Student Life Multicultural Center. DICE completion includes 8 total points and a reflection paper.

- *Consider a leadership role:*

Explore leadership programs and activities, apply for a Trip Leader role and tailor your proposal around your plans for leadership development.

activities.osu.edu/involvement/leadership_development/

- *Take the Leadership Education Needs Assessment (LENA):*

Developed from the Center for the Study of Student Life, LENA measures leadership skills as they relate to four different areas: Purpose and Vision, Accomplishing Tasks, Building Relationships and Charisma. At the end of the survey, you receive lists of campus resources, tailored to your individual needs. These resources may help you clarify what you want to include in your proposal.

cssl.osu.edu/research-projects/leadership-education-needs-assessment

- *ESHESA2571s:*

No coursework is required for Buck-I-SERV participation. But as a participant, you are invited to enroll in a section of ESHESA2571s, a 3-credit Service-Learning designated course that fulfills a General Education credit. The specific section instructed by Rebecca DeLo is typically offered in the spring 2nd half and sometimes in autumn 2nd half, too. As a S-Designated course, ESHESA2571s includes a 40-hour community service component in addition to the classroom hours. But for this specific section, your Buck-I-SERV trip participation will count toward that community service requirement, and you will not need to complete the additional service during the course. We will use that common experience to further reflect on active citizenship and the alternative break experience. Information about the schedule for this section will be included in your trip offer letter.



You do not have to use exactly \$2000! Many domestic Buck-I-SERV experiences cost less than \$2000. In those cases, look for creative ways to maximize the use of your funding. You may be able to extend your time at the service site, build an internship experience at the service site or find other unique ways to make the experience transformational for you. If you're interested in discussing these options as you finalize your proposals, please contact buck-i-serv@osu.edu.





**THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY**

OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE

STUDENT ACTIVITIES