

# BUCK-I-SERV

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## Serving to build affordable and sustainable housing

**Overview:** The Habitat for Humanity trip to Taos, NM was an exciting new opportunity to celebrate Buck-I-SERV's 15th Anniversary, and the experience between the students and community partner was so great we had to offer it again. In Taos the average household income is around \$32,000, but the average price of a house is \$350,000. The only industry in Taos is tourism -- known for beautiful views, unparalleled skiing, multicultural community and famous residents (ever heard of Julia Roberts or Donald Rumsfeld?), but 90% of Taos citizens can't afford to buy a home there. Their local food pantry serves around 1,500 people each Thursday and most people do what they call the "Taos Shuffle," working 3 or 4 part-time jobs to try to make ends meet. Because of this "Taos Shuffle" atmosphere, our Habitat affiliate relies on visiting service groups like Buck-I-SERV to help build the unique Taos Habitat homes. Volunteers can expect to be building adobe homes out of adobe bricks that they make themselves. H4H Taos is one of two Habitats in the U.S. that builds with adobe brick.

**Day-to-day:** Students will work on the construction of homes and do not need to have any construction experience. Responsibilities range from mixing and laying cement to painting, making adobe, and installing shelves or cabinets. Hours of volunteering can be expected from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**The Nitty-Gritty Details:** Group members will stay in a 2-story church nearby the service site, twin air mattresses are provided but blankets and pillows are not. There is a kitchen provided for the group to cook their own meals but shower facilities are located at a nearby community center. This is a 10 person trip.



## SPECIFICATIONS

**Location:** Taos, NM

**Price:** \$900

**STEP students using their STEP funds will be given priority placement on this trip.**

**Trip Price includes:**

- Transportation
- Housing
- Program Fees
- Tools/supplies needed for service

**Transportation:** Plane and Rental Car

**Housing:** Off-site Church

**Meals:** A full kitchen for group to make their own meals and 1 meal provided by community partner.

**Social Justice Issue:**

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



1 NO POVERTY



**Physicality Level:** High

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