

iASE participant results for Dominican Republic:

1. I believe our group had an impact in the community in which we worked
-Strongly Agree/Agree: 100% (9 students) -Strongly Disagree/Disagree: 0%(0 students)
2. Please describe the impact you feel you had on the community, both good and bad.
 - I feel we not only helped rebuild houses and roads, and did much needed manual labor, but brought donations for the children and contributed to their local market by purchasing snacks and personal items every day from their only "store" in the village.
 - I had a perspective changing experience with this group and I know that we affected the community in a great way. They appreciated our hard work and mentality to help as much as we can. I was proud of our group for having the dedication and motivation to make the impact that we did.
 - We really made connections with the locals in Cruz Verde. Even though we all couldn't speak the same language they were able to understand that we were there to help them.
 - I thought we had the most impact through spending time with the kids and the members of the community. I thought we wasted a lot of time getting started on work in the morning and afternoon especially after meals. There were no clear directions for us and what we were supposed to be doing.
 - I feel like not only did we make a great difference in building houses in the community, I think we were able to truly connect with the locals and share our culture as we learned and experienced their culture.
 - I feel like each and every member in our group had passion for helping the community of Cruz Verde and the community saw that work ethic and really appreciated it. We connected with them on a deep human level, even barely knowing each other. The kindness of the people really allowed for this special connection and the impact we had. We were productive physically yet also formed meaningful relationships.
 - I feel like I helped the community of Cruz Verde by fulfilling tasks that were given to me and following through, even through the language barrier.
3. I felt a connection with the local people in the country to which I traveled
-Strongly Agree/Agree: 100% (9 students) -Strongly Disagree/Disagree: 0% (0 students)
4. Why or why not?
 - I did, but the main difficulty was the language barrier.
 - They were just so loving and wanted nothing more than to be close with you. The children especially were inseparable. They didn't judge you or hate that most of us didn't know Spanish, they were just open to everything and that was new and special.
 - Because I'm not the best Spanish speaker, I really had to listen closely when trying to communicate with my host family and the other members of the community. I felt that the fact that the families saw that I was trying to communicate really made us become close friends.

- In living with the locals, I believe we were able to understand and participate in their life in such a personal way. They would eat with us, dance with us, and work with us. It was a wonderful learning experience.
 - The people of the DR are some of the most hospitable people I've ever met anywhere. Plus they wanted to know things about us just as much as we wanted to know things about them, even after only knowing each other for a short amount of time.
 - Being able to speak Spanish with them really helped for me to be able to fully communicate and connect with them. Both the locals and our group respected the other, and this is what permitted for the best experience possible, even for those who couldn't speak the language.
5. Following this experience, I am more aware of the differences of living standards throughout the world.
-Strongly Agree/Agree: 100% (9 students) **-Strongly Disagree/Disagree: 0%(0 students)**
6. Please explain.
- I was honestly scared of living without running water, plumbing or electricity, but by the end of the week I had a great appreciation for the serenity this lifestyle brings.
 - I had been a little aware of some of the things that were different, but it's always different to experience it first-hand. You never really understand something to the fullest until you have the chance to experience it for yourself.
 - Traveling from the city of Santo Domingo to the small village really showed a difference in the economy. I could really see that the people in the village didn't have as much as we do in America and they still seem to make a happy lives for themselves and appreciate the help that they receive from the Sister Island Project.
 - By seeing multiple villages and the city I got a better understanding for the whole city and not just one community.
 - We were able to see a world with no running water, dirt roads, limited electricity, and no wealth. This also showed us so much of what we lack in community and family though.
 - In the DR, they never know when they will have electricity or running water, whereas here in the US they're practically given to us. It made me realize how lucky I am and how much I took for granted before my trip.
 - This was the first week I have lived without running water, a toilet or showering (besides camping). Even though it's very different than what I am used to in the States, it isn't like a big deal, especially not for the people. Although they don't have some of the "luxuries" that many Americans are afforded, they don't act like they have it rough, because they really don't; they are still able to live their lives and live sustainably, without major impediments like poverty or hunger.
7. My future goals have shifted or solidified because of this experience.
-Strongly Agree/Agree: 100% (9 students) **-Strongly Disagree/Disagree: 0%(0 students)**
8. I liked participating in the service work for this class.
-Strongly Agree/Agree: 88.9% (8 students) **-Strongly Disagree/Disagree: 11.1%(1 students)**

9. What made this service-learning work positive or negative?

- Just contributing to those in need, and making new friends through positive settings.
- The entire group really clicked well together and we are all from different backgrounds. The class really taught me how much of an impact service learning can do for others as well as gaining new experience for myself.
- It was more construction work than I expected since the trip was advertised as being and playing with children I assumed we'd do more of that.
- I feel like some of the participants didn't really understand my sense of humor or personality when I said something sarcastic, and they told me that I have come off strong, which in hindsight made me look too confident. I feel like, had I taken a more backseat role then my fellow participants would not have seen me that way.
- For me, doing the work had an extra special meaning. I mainly worked on a construction site of a home for the father of my host mother. His wife (and her mom) had died suddenly a month ago, and this house was supposed to be for the both of them. Even though she won't be living in it with him, the construction of it represents him moving on with his life and having a "new" beginning in this stage of his life. While working, he would often come by to watch, and would always smile. He made me want to work even harder and motivate the other workers even more. The only slightly "negative" aspect were the few times I did other construction, like on the road or at the community center, because I just didn't feel as productive as when I was working on the house.
- You could truly see the progress as we built houses.

10. I learned something new about myself during my involvement with international service.

-Strongly Agree/Agree: 100% (9 students)

-Strongly Disagree/Disagree: 0%(0 students)

11. What did you learn?

- I am capable of adapting much easier than I thought, I would like to learn Spanish (at least be versed in conversational words), and make a difference in other countries in need.
- That I am more simplistic than I thought. I don't need a lot to survive and live day in and day out.
- I learned what a different culture was like outside of the United States for the first time. I learned that people can receive the same message about helping others even if there's a language barrier.
- I found new people at APP that I would probably have never befriended without this trip, so I learned of a new community.
- My skill set and experience and where I need to develop as a person.
- This was my second IASB, and I feel like I learned a lot more on this one than I did on the one last year. I had many more opportunities this year to put my Spanish skills to the test, and it makes me want to become fluent in the language.
- I learned that I need to trust people more, and have more faith that there are good, kind people in the world who care about you and also care about making a difference. I learned this from both my group and the community members. I also learned even

more to simply appreciate things, and never forget the importance of positivity and kindness towards others.

12. The classes before the trip helped prepare me for this experience, including lectures and assignments
-Strongly Agree/Agree: 77.7% (7 students) **-Strongly Disagree/Disagree: 22.2%(2 students)**
13. I am more interested in being a part of service opportunities in the future because of my service experience on this service-learning trip.
-Strongly Agree/Agree: 100% (9 students) **-Strongly Disagree/Disagree: 0%(0 students)**
14. I have more self-confidence because of this experience.
-Strongly Agree/Agree: 100% (9 students) **-Strongly Disagree/Disagree: 0%(0 students)**
15. The student leaders for this course were organized and prepared.
-Strongly Agree/Agree: 100% (9 students) **-Strongly Disagree/Disagree: 0%(0 students)**
16. The student leaders for this course were approachable and friendly.
-Strongly Agree/Agree: 100% (9 students) **-Strongly Disagree/Disagree: 0%(0 students)**
17. The student leaders were good role models throughout this experience.
-Strongly Agree/Agree: 100% (9 students) **-Strongly Disagree/Disagree: 0%(0 students)**
18. Please offer any additional comments about your student leaders.
- They were wonderful and great role models. They kept everything very organized and they made everyone feel safe.
 - It was an honor to serve under them and hope that we stay friends!
 - Our group leaders were always contacting us and helped up prepare for our trip. They really gave us the message of what this trip was truly about and showed a lot of passion for the specific destination and for helping these families.
 - Riley and Autumn were amazing!! They truly made this trip so wonderful, with their upbeat personalities and easily-approachable vibe. They made our group click!
 - I feel like one of the leaders was much more dominant than the other leader. It almost felt like we only had one leader instead of two at times.
 - Amazing girls, so helpful and sweet and organized.
19. The learning partner (faculty member) on this trip provided a positive presence throughout the experience.
-Strongly Agree/Agree: 100% (9 students) **-Strongly Disagree/Disagree: 0%(0 students)**
20. Please offer any additional feedback regarding the learning partner for your course.
- Laurie was amazing, still a friend to me after the trip, there was no obvious age gap, she is very approachable and fun!
 - Great support for the group.
 - She was literally my favorite person on the trip. She was approachable, friendly, smart, and just overall a wonderful person.
 - I felt like the she wasn't prepared for the trip and wasn't as organized as the student leaders

- Laurie was so perfect! I can't imagine having a difference learning partner. She was so amazing at helping and supporting us but also at relating to us in a way that made it so easy to get to know her.
 - Our learning partner was fantastic. She is very sympathetic and open. She knows what to say, how to say it, and when to say it. She motivates everyone around her, no matter how good or bad the circumstances.
21. I am more motivated to learn a foreign language because of this experience.
-Strongly Agree/Agree: 100% (9 students) **-Strongly Disagree/Disagree: 0% (0 students)**
22. With this experience, I was part of a team.
-Strongly Agree/Agree: 100% (9 students) **-Strongly Disagree/Disagree: 0% (0 students)**
23. What helped or hindered your sense of "team"?
- being outside our comfort zone brought us all together, some people knew each other better before the trip so some of us who were quieter or shy may have felt left out the first few days of the trip, but it was fine after getting warmed up to everyone.
 - Our daily group reflections
 - Our overall mentality that we were all here for the same thing and that we needed to work together in order for that to become reality.
 - We were a smaller group compared to the other college service group that came. And we were able to truly make a connection with the locals and we make a lot of construction progress for the village.
 - Reflections every night
24. Prior to this course, I had the following amount of volunteer experience for my age:
Little: 11.1% (1 student) **Good Amount: 44.4% (4 students)** **Lots: 44.4% (4 students)**
25. I feel that I am likely to get involved in service in my community.
-Strongly agree/agree: 87.5% (7 students) **-Strongly disagree: 12.5% (1 student)**
26. I feel I am likely to do international service in the future.
-Strongly agree/agree: 88.9% (8 students) **-Strongly disagree: 11.1% (1 student)**
27. As part of this experience, I enhanced my skills/attitudes in the following areas (check all that apply):
- Problem solving skills: **77.8% (7 students)**
 - Cooperation with others: **100 % (9 students)**
 - Self-confidence with international travel: **88.9% (8 students)**
 - Personal accountability: **77.8% (7 students)**
 - Communication skills: **77.8% (7 students)**
 - Language skills: **100 % (9 students)**
 - Self-reflection: **88.9% (8 students)**
 - Personal motivation for service: **100 % (9 students)**
 - Critical thinking skills: **55.6% (5 students)**
 - Team work: **77.8 % (7 students)**
28. Because of this international service-learning experience, I (check all that apply):
- Know more about the country to which I traveled: **100% (9 students)**

- b. Understand basic cultural influences/differences between the people where I traveled and my own background: **100% (9 students)**
 - c. Understand the basic social issues of the region where we traveled: **77.8% (7 students)**
 - d. Understand how the service work we did connects with my own life: **77.8% (7 students)**
 - e. Have learned more about my privileges as an American: **100% (9 students)**
29. Prior to this experience, I had the following amount of international travel experience (check all that apply):
- a. I have no previous international travel experience: **33.3% (3 students)**
 - b. One-week travel/study abroad: **44.4% (4 students)**
 - c. Summer travel/study abroad (longer than one week): **22.2% (2 students)**
 - d. One semester study abroad: **0%**
 - e. Two semester study abroad: **0%**
 - f. Other: **55.6% (5 students)**
30. Prior to this experience, I had the following amounts of volunteer service experience (check all that apply):
- a. I had never participated in volunteer service activities: **0%**
 - b. Service in high school/church (minimally involved): **33.3% (3 students)**
 - c. Service in high school/church (highly involved): **66.7% (6 students)**
 - d. Service in college (minimally involved): **33.3% (3 students)**
 - e. Service in college (highly involved): **66.7% (6 students)**
 - f. Past ASE trip participant: **11.1% (1 student)**
 - g. Service-learning course(s) at ASU: **11.1% (1 student)**
 - h. Other: **11.1% (1 student)**
31. What is your gender? **8 female, 1 male**
32. What is your race/ethnicity? **9 Caucasian**
33. Final thoughts/comments/shout-out/concern, etc.
- So glad I spent my last spring break as an undergrad doing this experience!! I would highly recommend anyone in college take advantage of an international service trip at least once!
 - I can't wait to do this next year and I have high hopes of becoming a leader!
 - I think that it might be better if the leaders were able to order the tickets for the trip, so that we are able to leave on Saturday instead of earlier and having to miss our classes during the week. Otherwise the group leaders did a great job keeping the group organized and together while traveling in the Dominican. I felt very safe and I they really encouraged a positive attitude among the rest of the group.
 - I want to lead a trip next year!
 - One of the best weeks of my life!!!!!! Life-changing and met so many beautiful people