

# WORTHY LEARNING



## *Educational Service Learning with Worthy Village*

### **A Life Changing Opportunity**

With Worthy Village, students are fully immersed in service learning. Students come face to face with extreme poverty in the villages surrounding Lake Atitlan in Guatemala. They work with Worthy Village to implement small-scale, sustainable, grassroots projects in community centers, schools, and the homes of indigenous Mayan people. Through their work, students make real connections with people of an entirely different culture and worldview. They are immersed in Mayan culture, Spanish language, and native Mayan dialect. These trips allow for a cross-curricular, collaborative, and hands on service-learning experience like no other. A trip with Worthy Village is a life changing experience for all who participate. Students and chaperones alike forge bonds with one another, open their world view, and develop the leadership and collaboration skills necessary to succeed in and outside the classroom.

## Cross Curriculum Learning

Our rich and varied programs allow us to tailor your itinerary to your curriculum needs.

### *Foreign Language*

Students work with indigenous Mayan peoples and local Guatemalans who speak both Spanish and native Mayan dialect. Students have the opportunity to teach health and hygiene as well as train families on water filter usage in English, Spanish, or dialect. Students can practice their Spanish as they work with families during in-home visits. During off hours, students practice their Spanish skills as they bargain in the market, interact with our local team, and order meals one of our many restaurant partners.

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### *Social Studies*



A Worthy Learning trip provides students and chaperones with a once in a lifetime opportunity to immerse themselves in the cultural and history as they forge real connections with native Mayan peoples. Students can watch and participate in the traditional and rare handcraft weaving process from start to finish. During home visits, students can interview multiple generations of families to learn more about their ancestry, beliefs, and practices. All of our projects are grassroots, sustainable efforts implemented by native Guatemalans. This provides a rare opportunity for students to participate in a movement to build community engagement. Students also have the once in a lifetime opportunity to observe or participate in a Mayan ceremony in a sacred cave. These varied opportunities allow students to forge meaningful connections in a culturally sensitive way within a rich historical context.

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### ***Biology and Environmental Science***

On a Worthy Village trip, there are numerous ways to integrate science curriculum. Villages surrounding the Lago de Atitlan depend entirely on this lake for survival. As they explore the villages around the lake, students will learn about the growing toxicity of the lake and the mounting effort to preserve this environmental treasure. As they experience the rhythms of daily life on the lake, students will gain firsthand knowledge of the important link between environment and daily life.

Worthy Village has led the charge in developing small scale water quality enhancement initiatives alongside community leaders in the villages surrounding Lago de Atitlan. During their trip, students will build and train on the use of these water filters. They will also work with local entrepreneurs to learn more about the organic and environmentally friendly practices used throughout the traditional textile making process.

Students will also have the opportunity to hike a volcano and visit a local nature preserve where they can learn about local flora and fauna in their natural environment. In addition, as students visit largely agricultural communities, they will gain first hand knowledge of the impact of climate change on the lives of predominantly agrarian societies.

Finally, students will have the chance to teach the Worthy Village hygiene handbook at local schools and community centers. Covering everything from handwashing to disease transmission, this book covers the link between science and health extensively.

### ***Grassroots Entrepreneurship***

Throughout their trip, students will have hands on experience with Worthy Village's grassroots entrepreneurship programs. Students will meet with local business leaders and learn about the behind the scenes processes of small businesses and cooperatives. From product creation to sales, students will see how sustainable, fair trade, and environmentally friendly business opportunities lift local communities out of poverty.



