

Thank you for your donation towards my service trip to Thailand. My experience on this trip changed my life. Over the course of the trip, we helped a local school become self-sufficient in their food production. We spent time making hundreds of bags filled with nutrients that we planted mushrooms into. This allows schools to sell products to surrounding communities, enabling more students to have the resources they need. We also cut sugar cane at an elephant sanctuary and made nutrient balls for the elephants to eat.

My immersive experience in Thailand ultimately changed my career goals. I have always wanted to do something environment related, but while in Thailand, I realized that the world needs more advocates for these schools and communities. The director of the program, Conor, said something I will never forget: "Voluntourism is the future of travel. Touring places is one thing, but being able to learn about the place you're traveling to while making a difference is something that will not only benefit you but make an impact on wherever you go."

As juniors, we work on capstone projects, where we choose a topic that makes a difference and create a final presentation. The significance of this project is to showcase our growth through a set of traits each student should possess, called "Portrait of a Graduate". I plan to make my project about my trip to Thailand and interview Conor about how he developed the program. I also plan to ask him about next steps for me college wise to pursue what he's accomplished.

Thank you again for enabling me to go on this trip. I hope more students take advantage of these school trips in the future, as they can be life changing.

Sincerely,
Sydney Howe



