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*Empowering families and children to effect lasting change... community by community.*



## SC takes a field trip to visit the Temples of Angkor

Education at SC means engaging students in a stimulating and creative learning environment. One of our most exciting programs provides students of all ages the opportunity to visit the Temples of Angkor in Siem Reap. Built for King Suryavarman in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century, the World Heritage Site is one of the most important archaeological sites in Southeast Asia. Covering over 400km<sup>2</sup>, the temple served as the capital for the Khmer Empire for 60 years.

This summer, 45 students and 15 teachers joined the field trip to visit this national landmark, most for the first time. These trips serve to provide the rare opportunity for Cambodian youth to explore Khmer history, but also to inspire teamwork, improve self-confidence and encourage potential.



*45 students and 15 teachers participated in this year's field trip to Siem Reap*

Arriving in Siem Reap after a short 3-hour bus ride (a new highway has cut travel time to less than half), the group first visited Baray, a 17 km<sup>2</sup> lake built in the early 11<sup>th</sup> century. Teachers and chaperones

explained to the students how to care for their environment, and covered the history of Baray, which historians argue was created to irrigate lands during the dry season, or as a depiction of the Sea of Creation in Hinduism.

The next day was full of temple trekking. Students explored and learned about the history, achievements, culture and wonder of the Ancient Khmer Empire. Many students were surprised at the number of *baraang*, or foreigners, visiting from all over the world. The teachers had their work cut out for them, as students showered them with questions relating to each temple and site.

Everyone had a fantastic time. Back in Pursat, students shared with fellow classmates, comparing experiences with those who have gone on past trips, and getting others excited for their turn on future trips.



*Education Coordinator, Orn Sophalla relates the history of Angkor Wat to a group of students as they walk away from the temple.*

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**In Their Own Words**

*"Hello, everyone! This is our picture that we took in Angkor Thom. We are really happy with the trip to Siem Reap very much. Because all the teachers and students have an opportunity to learn about the people lifestyle, history, culture, and how to participate in the group.*



*"This is a good trip that I never forget in my whole life. I learn about the history and culture a lot at there. Finally, I want to say thank you so*



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*much for all the teachers in SC and I hope next time I and some of the students will be able to have a time to visit other places."*

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**Sustainable Cambodia** is a grass-roots, volunteer-based, Rotary-supported, 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, working with rural Cambodian villages to help them achieve sustainability and self-sufficiency. Our model is unique in several ways:

Only native Cambodians are employed as paid staff, and all international officers, directors and consultants are unpaid volunteers, ensuring that 100% of funding goes directly into the rural village programs.

We are an empowerment organization rather than an "Aid" organization. We provide resources, assistance, training and education to the community, empowering families to revitalize their community and economy.

Our approach is broad-based, including schooling for children, safe village drinking water, irrigation systems, alternative agriculture, vocational education, micro-business and healthcare.

In return for the assistance, each family commits to helping surrounding villages: We not only "teach them how to fish," but teach them to teach others how to fish.

While we currently work in central Cambodia, our vision is for this empowerment model to spread across Cambodia, and ultimately to grow into other countries.

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