

BELIZE

LOCATION: SANDHILL, BELIZE
TEAM SIZE: 5 STUDENTS
TEAM LEADER: 1 STAFF
DATE: MAY 24 - JUNE 6, 2008



A small team of six students and one staff member embarked upon a journey to Belize May 24 – June 6, 2008. This was Sterling College’s second team sent to Belize.

While in Belize the team worked in conjunction with a local organization called Sports Quest Ministry. Sports Quest’s goal is to instill character qualities in the youth of Belize. Through games and activities centered on specific traits, children learn how to transfer the skills learned through sports into real life.

The team traveled to six area schools where they were invited to take over the physical education classes and teach students about teamwork, patience and being a person of character. Each team member had a specific part of the program and therefore, the team depended upon their unity to make each session successful.

“There were some really amazing times. Seeing the way Cecil connected with the students and gave the character talk, you really saw how passionate he was about their lives and what they made of themselves. He shined when he was hands-on in the ministry,” Eric Saiz, team leader, said.

The team also helped with construction and yard work at some of the schools they taught at and were also able to bring a box full of school supplies to each of the schools. At night the team found ministry opportunities at the area basketball court of the village where they interacted with the locals.

“God really blessed me these past couple of years [in the SC mission’s program]. He has let me be a part of His work. I saw the goal of the Belize team and I felt it would be something I knew I would learn and grow from.” Junior Joel Orr said.

The team was made up of Samuel Caines, Killeen, Tex., Elizabeth Gafford, Fort Worth, Tex., Joel Orr, Wray, Col., Israel Redwine, Converse, Tex., Cecil Smart, Chicago, Ill. Eric Saiz, SC Resident Director, was the team leader, along with his wife, Tonya.

