

Rosman High School



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To our Donors who made our trip possible,

THANK YOU!!! This was an experience we will never forget! During the trip, activities ranged from snorkeling at various beaches and reefs, feeding and even kissing a stingray at Stingray City, learning about the conservation efforts of green sea turtles at the Cayman Turtle Center, viewing local art at the National Gallery of Art, a kayak trip to a bioluminescent bay that pictures and video just cannot accurately portray, and even a visit to a little town with the name of Hell! As you will read from most of the student reflections, probably the most impactful event was our service morning at the National Children's Volunteer Organization. If you use this QR Code, you should be able to access the video that two of our students created as a promotional video for the organization. This video explains the mission of the organization and what our students did during our time there.



Our trip coordinator and guide was extremely complimentary of our students. He loved that our students dove in and truly seemed excited and interested in all the activities they experienced. He was especially complimentary of their volunteer efforts at NCVO and was impressed with how hard they worked. We, however, know that is the norm for our Rosman students! They made us proud, as always! For the adult chaperones, the quality time we got to spend with our students was the highlight. Between "family" game nights, laughing until our stomachs hurt, to deep conversations about college and the future, the time we had with these students was priceless.

We asked the students to tell us about the best, most memorable, most rewarding, most impactful part of the trip was for them and here are their responses:

- This trip was a great reminder to people generally involved in so much locally— that there exists a world outside of not only Transylvania County, but the United States. To experience a small portion, but a large amount, of the breadth of the world was wonderful. I can't thank our sponsors enough for making this trip affordable for me. It's been a valuable learning experience by teaching me that there is more to life and less to worry about. -Matthew Barton, Senior
- On this trip to the Cayman Islands, I had the incredible opportunity to experience something truly once-in-a-lifetime. It was the perfect way to end my high school journey—creating unforgettable memories with friends while immersing myself in a vibrant and beautiful new culture. Along the way, I also discovered a new passion for snorkeling, which opened my eyes to the amazing world beneath the surface. -Lilly Orr
- On this trip we got to experience how much our ecosystems are connected and work together to benefit everyone. We could really learn a lot from nature, how to not just benefit yourself but others around you and use other people's help even when you don't think you need it. -Dillon Tinsley, Junior

- As I'm getting older, I'm starting to realize how much more impactful it can be for me to open my heart to new experiences and that helping others, even in the slightest, can bring such joy and happiness. -Annie Blankenship, Senior
- My heart is so full. This week has been nothing short of amazing and honestly life changing. Not just because of the amazing experiences and insane views but because of the time I got to spend with the sweetest little ones at the NCVO. Watching these little babies live with such pure, innocent joy and seeing how naturally they embrace a childlike faith, it really hit me. Their trust, their smiles, their simple love, it reminded me of what faith is supposed to look like. It's not complicated, it's real and wholehearted. I didn't expect something so small to impact me this deeply, but the Lord really used those moments to speak to my heart. I'm walking away changed, and so so grateful. -Tristin Powell, Junior
- Today left a mark on my heart. Seeing God's love shine through the smiles of these children reminded me that when we show up for others, we're walking in the footsteps of Jesus. I came to give, but I left with far more than I ever could have imagined! -Kayden Chapman, Senior
- The Caymans were nothing short of life changing. Snorkeling through the stunning reefs felt like swimming in an underwater paradise, where every colorful fish and vibrant coral taught me about the beauty of nature. Laying on the sandy beaches was a dream. With the warmth of culture that truly touched my heart. Volunteering at NCVO opened my eyes to the incredible community and the importance of making a difference. Each moment was meaningful and profound, and it will shift my perspective forever. The feeling of love and gratitude shown for this world is truly beautiful. I've come out from this trip not just with memories, but as a better version of myself, ready to share the joy and appreciation for everything around me. -Camden Stamey, Senior
- This trip really helped to give me a better perspective of how I fit into the world and how I can make the best of my future, no matter the circumstances. This trip shined a light on parts of nature and life that seemed so foreign to me, and the experience overall got rid of a lot of fear and uncertainty that I have about my future now that I am done with high school. -Brendan Marlow, Senior
- This trip to the Cayman Islands was an unforgettable experience that left my heart overflowing. Spending time with the children at NCVO and seeing them worship Jesus Christ with such pure and joyful faith was incredibly moving. The Cayman Islands opened my eyes to just how big the world is beyond our small town of Rosman and how much there is to explore and experience. Every day, I pushed past my own limits, stepping out of my comfort zone in some way. The trip has truly changed my outlook on life. I now see that the world is full of endless possibilities, and I feel more inspired than ever to pursue the path God is calling me to. -Serena Gurganious, Junior
- I have pondered deeply what was memorable for me. There were many things I could have chosen from such as snorkeling and seeing a whole different world beneath the ocean blue, swimming with marine animals, serving people, or building relationships. All of those events were memorable in their own way. But the only feeling that really stood out was solace. For the past 10 years, I have always been restricted and controlled. The trip to the Cayman Islands gave me an opportunity to escape for a little while, being there gave me a sense of peace and freedom. I have never imagined a place so little could provide so much. It provided me with the realization that it's between God and I (mostly God) who determines my future and NO ONE else. And that I don't have to be stuck in one place because there's people and places out there that can offer so much more. So, thank you to all of the donors who helped us make this trip happen. Thank you for helping us gain new experiences and knowledge that we'll carry for a long time! -Emjhey Dela Pena, Junior
- I wanted to personally thank you for your generosity and support in making my recent trip to the Cayman Islands possible. Your contribution didn't just fund a trip but it helped create memories, learning experiences, and moments that I will carry with me forever. One of the most meaningful parts of our trip was the opportunity to volunteer at the NCVO Centre. Spending time with the little ones there was truly humbling. We played, read stories, sang songs about Jesus, and simply showed them love and attention, and in return, they gave us so much joy and perspective. Each child I met had such a unique spirit, and it reminded me of the importance of kindness, and the impact small gestures can have on someone's life. We also had a wonderful time as a group snorkeling, and discovering what is out in the world that we haven't yet seen. Feeling that freedom of getting out of a small town and touring a culturally different place was truly life changing. So thank you, from the bottom of my heart for supporting this journey. Because of you, I was able to be a part of something bigger than myself, and it has truly changed my life. -Hope Cook, Junior

- As I reflect on this past week, I feel incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to chaperone an unforgettable trip to the Cayman Islands. I was blessed to be with an amazing group of students who poured their hearts into every moment—from working at the children center, to snorkeling, to simply taking care of each other along the way. We learned so much about service, community, and the impact of showing up for others. Thank you to everyone who made this experience possible and everyone's hard work of making this trip happen. I had the privilege of being a chaperone on this trip, thinking I was there to guide the kids—but honestly, I think I learned more than they did. Watching them serve, grow, and support each other was inspiring beyond words. Truly grateful for this experience. -Kelly Cook, parent and BHS SRO



Sincerely,
Rosman High National Honor Society and Student Council