



# DONATIONS FOR CONSERVATION

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## **Who We Are:**

The Toucan Ridge Ecology and Education Society (T.R.E.E.S) is a small grassroots ecological conservation organization that has established a great little research and education center, the T.R.E.E.S Research Center, nestled in the foothills of one of the prestige Belize Maya Mountains. We are a small biologist-managed facility, with a focus on wildlife ecology research and post-secondary education. However, we believe strongly that ecological conservation can only happen with community involvement, and thus we also provide a wide range of community programs to members of our community and involve locals in all aspects of our research and education initiatives.

## **Reasons For Donations:**

We strive to provide an inclusive learning experience by keeping our prices as low as possible and even offering free stays and tutorship for students in financial need. All of the educational opportunities that we offer to members of the local community are free of charge and each year we provide book scholarships to local high school students. We also endeavour to keep our staff on all year long even in the low tourism season and as a small not-for-profit society operating in a developing country, we are constantly struggling to meet our operational costs. All of our community outreach and education initiatives and even our wildlife research programs are funded by proceeds made from visiting student groups and eco-tourists. In order for us to continue to be able to offer and expand our existing programs while still keeping costs low and in line with inclusive learning, donations from visitors that can afford to do so are greatly appreciated.

Donations are optional, but if you do think you can contribute, please review the following programs to let us know where you think your money will best be spent!

**Thank you,**

***The T.R.E.E.S Team***



**T.R.E.E.S**  
TOUCAN RIDGE ECOLOGY  
& EDUCATION SOCIETY



# DONATIONS FOR CONSERVATION WILDLIFE RESEARCH



## Donations

**Donations:** Our suggested donation is \$20 USD per stay. Feel free to donate more or less depending on your budget. If you're interested in helping, but don't have the funds, there is also a list of gear that you can bring that can help us greatly with our projects.

### Equipment:

- Cloth bags
- Duct tape
- Flagging tape
- Field guides
- Text books
- Binoculars
- Memory cards
- USB sticks
- Pens/pencils
- Mist nets
- Batteries (AA, AAA, C)
- Aquarium accessories
- Write-in-the-Rain notebooks and paper



## Summary

Biologists at the T.R.E.E.S Research Center conduct many wildlife and conservation research projects.

Your donations will help fund the following ongoing projects:

1. Bird banding and avian monitoring
2. Blue-spotted Treefrog headstarting and release program
3. White-lipped Mud-Turtle movement and response to climatic events using radio-telemetry
4. Small mammal trapping and remote camera trapping for larger mammals including jaguars
5. Bat monitoring and research
6. Insect collection and biodiversity studies



# DONATIONS FOR CONSERVATION COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT & LOCAL CAPACITY BUILDING



## Summary

T.R.E.E.S resident biologists and visiting scientists work with local community members to get them excited and involved in wildlife conservation by learning to appreciate the flora and fauna in their own backyards. Local post-secondary students are also offered biology internship opportunities free of charge.

Over the years, we have also collected a large number of science textbooks and reading material for kids, youth, and adults from the neighboring villages to borrow from our library.

We also offer 3 scholarship awards to help high school students pay for their textbooks (total of \$500 USD/year). Through your donations, we will be able to pay for scholarships, increase our book collection, and create new internship opportunities for aspiring young Belizean conservationists!

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### Equipment:

- Textbooks
- Articles
- Children's books
- Magazines
- Index cards
- Pens/Pencils
- Sharpies
- Clipboards
- Notebooks
- DVDs
- Novels (youth and adults)
- Dry Erase markers





# DONATIONS FOR CONSERVATION ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



## Summary

T.R.E.E.S staff and interns set up booths at stewardship events and festivals around Belize to raise awareness about local flora and fauna and how citizens can protect them.

We also host an annual event at the T.R.E.E.S Research Center called Environmental Day where local children spend the day learning about and becoming immersed in the different research projects we are doing which greatly increases their enthusiasm for their environment.

Plans are in the works to develop a week long summer camp at T.R.E.E.S in 2019, replete with wildlife research activities, sustainable agriculture lessons, art and music classes, and sporting events. This type of camp in Belize needs to be offered nearly free of charge, which means that your donations are a critical component in helping us expand our environmental education initiatives!

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### Equipment:

- Coloring books
- Pens/pencils
- Crayons/Markers
- Workbooks
- Bug/fish nets
- Small aquariums
- Paper (all types)
- Art supplies
- Isopropyl
- Glass specimen jars
- Insect trays and pins
- Any sports equipment





# DONATIONS FOR CONSERVATION

## SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



## Summary

Here at T.R.E.E.S we implement a farm to table concept so guests can see where their food comes from and know it was grown organically and sustainably. We also practice many permaculture principles, which encourage wildlife to have access to some of our crops as well. Our property was originally a lime orchard and now has over 50 species of different fruit trees and a thriving vegetable garden, planted amongst the fruit trees which provide much needed shade in a hot climate. We also have a substantial aviary of free-range laying hens, meat chickens, and ducks that are fed a combination of kitchen scraps, soldier fly larvae, other insects, and limited commercial feed; we hope to soon feed them our own grains and corn that we are growing. Our vision is to become an organic agriculture demonstration center, hosting workshops for local farmers to learn agricultural practices that protect the surrounding mountains from harmful “slash and burn” agriculture.

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### Equipment:

- Gardening gloves
- Small gardening tools
- Seeds
- Watering cans
- Hoes
- Rakes
- Shovels
- Pots
- Young trees
- Hay

