



Dominican Republic Mission Trip

Trip Dates: July 22 – July 29, 2017

Destination: Jarabacoa, Dominican Republic

Cost: \$2000 approximately

Sign Up Deadline: March 15



Requirement: *Must be 16 or older.* Must be a follower of Christ, ready to take actions, while being sensitive to the dignity of those we are seeking to serve. Must be able to physically stand long plane flights, international food, flexible changes in schedule, and possible extreme heat. This is an “intergenerational trip” intended to take people of a variety of ages and backgrounds. You will need a valid U.S. passport (if needed, you may apply for a passport immediately after submitting your application).

Missionary Partners: Harbor Churches supports Brianna VanDyke, a missionary of Crosswinds Youth (www.CrosswindsYouth.org). There, Brianna ministers to a home of teenage girls who are recovering from a various struggles. Although we will not be contributing directly to the work at the home which Brianna is working, she will join us as we partner with Crosswinds Youth *mission trip* branch.

Work: We will partner with other local organizations that are doing the work of Christ in Jarabacoa, Dominican Republic. With the indigenous local partners, we will likely serve through: construction projects/renovation, leading VBS for children, or any other work projects that will further the mission of the local efforts, some of which may be manual labor. There will be some time dedicated to learning and appreciating the D.R. culture.

How to Apply: Fill out completely and submit the *Harbor Churches Mission Trip Application* form by March 15. A \$100 deposit is due with the submission of your application. Please mail application and deposit to *Harbor Churches Attn: Jordan Stonehouse, 2900 Baldwin St. Hudsonville, MI 49426*. Check should be issued to “Harbor Churches” with “Dominican Trip” in the ledger.

For questions, please email Jordan@fhchurch.org



harbor

CHURCHES

MISSION TRIP APPLICATION

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Trip Destination _____

Today's Date _____ Date for trip _____ to _____

Name (as printed in passport for airline tickets) _____

Address

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____ Age _____ Gender _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Marital Status: Single ____ Married ____ Divorced ____

Spouse's Name _____

Spouse's Work Phone _____ Spouse's Cell Phone _____

Children's Names and Ages _____

Passport Number _____ Expires on _____

Important: You need to have a passport, valid for at least 6 months AFTER the end of the trip. If you do not yet have a passport, please apply for one as soon as possible.

Place of Issue _____ Date of Issue _____

Country of Citizenship _____

List previous citizenships, if any _____

Place of Birth _____

What are your personal expectations and reasons for going on this trip?

How does your family feel about you going on this trip?

Have you ever been convicted of committing a crime? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, explain:

If this trip includes ministry to children and you may be required to take a background check, will you agree to take one? Yes ___ No ___

What are the most significant events that have occurred in your life in the past two years?

Are you employed? Yes ___ No ___

Employer _____ Position _____

Employed Since _____

What do you see as your strongest character quality and why?

What do you see as your weakest character quality and why?

MISSION INTEREST

Which mission trip(s) are you interested in participating? Explain why you feel motivated to go on this trip or what goals you may have:

List any training or education you have that could be useful for this trip:

List your skills, gifts and abilities:

List previous mission experience (country, length of stay and purpose of trip):

What extracurricular activities/hobbies do you participate in:

SPIRITUAL INFORMATION

Do you attend church Yes ___ No ___ If so, name of church _____

Do you serve in any volunteer/leadership role in any ministry or outside the church?

Have you identified your Spiritual gifts? Yes ___ No ___

Based on the online survey what were they?

Please describe your relationship to Jesus Christ:

What are your habits of Bible study and prayer? How have you grown spiritually in the last year?

Have you ever been personally disciplined? If yes, please explain.

How regularly do you attend church/church-related activities? Are you involved in other ministries?

If someone were interested in becoming a Christian, what would you say to him or her?

FIELD MINISTRY

Are you an ordained pastor or a lay preacher? Yes ___ No ___

Would you be willing and able to give a devotional or speak? Yes ___ No ___

Foreign language(s) you speak: _____ Proficiency: Good/ Fair / "Cloudy"

Please share any special skills or abilities you would like to use during the mission trip:

(e.g., puppets, drama, guitar, dance, sign language, medical, construction, teaching, etc.)

FUNDRAISING

Do you understand the cost involved with your particular trip? Yes ___ No ___

Are you willing to commit yourself to the process of training for your team's mission trip and being a positive participant on this team?

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name of contact _____ Relationship _____

Address _____

Phone Numbers _____

Email Address _____

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Name _____ Date of Birth (dd/mm/yy) _____

Height _____ Weight _____ Blood type _____ Date _____

Do you have or ever had

___ Fainting Spells ___ Heart Problems ___ Diabetes ___ Food ___ Allergies

___ Respiratory Problems ___ Eating Disorder ___ Seizures

Do you have any condition which might affect your ability to fully function on this trip (i.e., fear of flying, depression, anxiety, sleeping disorders):

Are you able to walk at least two miles and able to carry your own bags? Yes ___ No ___
If no, please explain

Date & provider of last tetanus shot?

Name of Primary Care Physician _____ Telephone _____

Current Medications/Dosage/Frequency/Reason for medication (both prescription and over the counter medications): Use separate sheet, if necessary.

Does your health insurance cover you overseas? Yes ___ No ___

How would you describe your health and fitness?

Excellent ___ Good ___ Average ___ Needs Work ___

Signature _____ Date _____

Mission Trip Policies

Mission trips are immersion experiences in another culture. As such, they can present particular challenges to individuals and teams. Paying attention to cultural dynamics, personal agendas, personal feelings, and team relationships is crucial to the success of any mission trip. Here are some things to remember:

1. You may run across procedures that you feel are inefficient, or attitudes that seem to you to be closed-minded. This may include differences in how work is done, how time is managed, and how projects are tackled.
2. World Christianity is very diverse and has many faces throughout the world. One purpose of this trip is to witness and experience faith lived out in a new setting.
3. Sometimes decisions will be made by trip leaders that you may not understand or with which you disagree. These can include issues related to safety or other items that your leader may or may not disclose.
4. Travel can present numerous unexpected and undesired circumstances, and the need for flexibility is paramount. Often, what seem like unfortunate changes in plans may be God's way of teaching something new, opening an opportunity, or redirecting the energies of a group.
5. This is a short-term mission trip. Understanding that mission teams – though they provide sometimes catalytic short-term change – eventually leave. The local church and leaders are facing realities over the long term.
6. Certain activities that seem innocent in our own culture may seem inappropriate in others. It is important to be aware of key cultural actions or attitudes that could be misconstrued in the host culture.

I realize that the following elements are crucial to the effectiveness, quality, and safety of our mission trip. As a member of the trip team, I agree to:

1. Remember that I am a guest working at the invitation of a local pastor, organization, or nationalist.
2. Remember that I have come to learn, not to teach. I will resist the temptation to criticize or try to show a better way. I will seek to be open to learning other peoples' methods and ideas.
3. Respect the views and approach to faith, Scripture, Christianity within this particular culture.
4. Develop and maintain a servant's attitude toward all nationals and my teammates.
5. Submit myself to the leadership and decisions of the team's leader(s), respecting my own and others roles on the team.

6. Refrain from gossip.
7. Give God the credit and glory for accomplishments.
8. Refrain from complaining and grumbling. I will seek to be creative and supportive of the leaders, particularly during difficult situations.
9. Respect the long-term work that is going on in the country with the particular church(es) or person(s) with whom we are working.
10. Respect the knowledge, insight, instruction, and leadership of local leaders.
11. Refrain from negative political, social, or economic comments or hostile discussions concerning the host country.
12. Avoid exclusivity in relationships. If my significant other, spouse, or a good friend is on the team, I will make every effort to interact with all members of the team that is inclusive and team building.
13. Be sensitive to and refrain from any activity that could be construed as a romantic interest toward a national or to public displays of affection with my spouse or significant other.
14. Abstain from the consumption of alcoholic beverages, the use of tobacco, drugs, or any un-Christ-like behavior while on the trip.
15. Approach any conflict within the group via the process outlined by Jesus in Matthew 18:15-19. I will submit myself to the admonition and correction of the team's leadership.
16. I agree to be flexible and serve in whatever area of service necessary, allowed, and open to me on the mission trip.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Helpful Information

Information regarding international mission trips:

- Mandatory training classes are required to attend all international mission trips.
- Consider the dates, project and costs involved for the current available teams.
- Send an email to the contact listed for the trip with any questions or concerns you may have and/or ask to apply to be on the team.
- Individuals are responsible for getting all required immunizations.

Considerations for participation in a mission trip include:

- Applicant possesses the skills or gifts needed for the identified project and expresses interest in the purpose of the particular short-term team.
- Applicant demonstrates a level of maturity and life experience to be able to fit well as a team player and to respond to the leadership of another person.
- Applicant is known to possess characteristics that will enable effective work within a cross-cultural environment.

What else do I need to know about general requirements?

- You must agree to participate in all of the required team meetings as designated by the team leader.
- You must agree to team financial policies. All participants are personally responsible to pay for, or arrange funding for, their portion of the team/trip costs.
- You must be in good health.
- You must have or be able to obtain a passport with six months validity from return date.
- Can I raise support to go on a team?
Yes, after paying a \$100 deposit, team members may raise the remaining team costs without assistance from Harbor Churches. If donations exceeding the trip costs are received, the extra amount will be given to a partner ministry or teams after leadership review. Payments including deposit checks and support checks are never refundable due to IRS guidelines regarding contributions.

What are the financial obligations?

- Each team member is responsible to pay for or arrange for the trip costs prior to departure. Full payment is due two months prior to departure. Fund raising is the responsibility of the individual.
- In the case of withdrawal from a trip or if the trip is cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, each team member is responsible for any non-refundable costs (i.e. airline tickets, etc).

How old do children need to be to go on a trip?

- The minimum age is 18 years of age without a parent. The minimum age for children accompanied by a parent is 14. There may be trips where minors are not eligible for participation. Student Ministry Teams have different age requirements.

What do I need to do to prepare for a trip?

- Attend all pre-trip orientation meetings and other activities as communicated by your team leader once accepted in the team.

SAMPLE SUPPORT LETTER

It is natural to have some feelings of discomfort in asking others to help support you in going on a mission's trip. But keep in mind that you are not asking money for yourself, but instead are giving them the chance to partner with you in fulfilling the Great Commission. This sample letter is meant as a guide to give you an idea of how to write your own support letter. Try not to copy it word for word but instead give your letter a personal touch. Consider adding graphics such as a picture of you, map of the country you are going to, etc.

Jane Doe
1234 Some Street
Some city, MI 12345

Dear Family and Friends:

(Greeting)

I trust this letter finds you resting in the hope we have in our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a privilege to write this letter to inform you of an exciting opportunity I have coming up.

(Explanation of project/trip)

A group of us will be traveling to...

(Present the need)

Would you like to be a part of our team? I realize not everyone can go, but most can send. And all can pray. Could you help me in both ways? I would be delighted to be able to count on you as one of our team members in this effort to bring the love of Jesus to these wonderful people.

(Invitation to help, and instructions for donations)

If you feel lead to support me in this experience mail a check to
Fair Haven Church, 2900 Baldwin, Hudsonville MI 49426, Attention: Missions

In His service,

Jane Doe

(*** See Next Page for additional information ***)

*Standard note to be included at the bottom of letters -

Important Note: If you return a donation, please make your check payable to (campus). Put Missions Trip on the memo line, but please do not put my name on the check. Because of IRS guidelines, tax-deductible contributions are made with the understanding that the church has discretion and control over the use of the donated funds in order to make them tax-deductible. You will receive a receipt for your gift

*Separate note to include and return with donations. (this is sent in with the check)

Please accept my donation of \$ _____ for (Mission Trip)

recommended for (name of person going on trip)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Payment Method: Check ___ Cash ___

REFERENCE FORM

(Two references required; including one from ministry leader or pastor)

Team Member Name _____

Reference Name _____ Reference Phone Number _____

We value your comments and ask that you give a full and candid report, so that fair consideration may be given to the applicant. All comments will be held in the strictest confidence.

How long have you known the applicant?

How well do you know the applicant?

Have you observed the applicant's spiritual life?

How would you describe it? Positive/Neutral/Negative
If possible, please explain your response.

Please evaluate the applicant in the following areas. (1 being low, 10 high)

Self-Starter	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Cooperative	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Leadership	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Servanthood	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Disciplined	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Kindness	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Loyalty	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Reliability	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Humility	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Anything else we should know about this person?

If you were a team leader, would you have any reservations about taking this person on this trip?

(Please check one)

Recommended: _____ Prefer not to make a recommendation _____ Not recommended _____

Signature _____ Date of reference _____

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(Two references required; including one from ministry leader or pastor)

Team Member Name _____

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