

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MISSION TRIP INFORMATIONAL PACKET

The mission of CA Students is to lead students to complete commitment to Christ and a key component of that is students encountering Jesus and joining His mission. Part of this mission is serving others in the name of Jesus. Jesus Himself said that He did not come to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28). We are a church that serves those around us, both locally and globally. To that end, CA Students will be hosting a mission trip to the Dominican Republic (DR) in July 2024. CA's Management Team is in full support of this opportunity to partner with an amazing organization called Project Manana. We can't wait to proclaim the name of Jesus in word and deed in the DR!

This packet is designed to give some key information. We want to provide you with an exciting, yet realistic picture of what this trip will be like. Sometimes Students worry about whether they will be able to go on a mission trip, particularly when it comes to the cost. Our encouragement to you would be to spend some time in prayer, and ask God to lead you. If after prayerful consideration you believe that God is leading you to apply for the trip, please do! You will never know how incredible God's provision is until you take a step of faith to trust him. If God directs you to go on the trip, He will provide the resources to make it happen. Mission trips are life changing for the people we serve and for the members of the team that go. This trip will stretch you and at times place you outside your comfort zone. We believe that this is a good thing and will grow your trust in Christ.

PROJECT MAÑANA

Project Mañana is the organization CA Students will be partnering with. Brit Vargas, one of the Pastors of CA Students and Leaders of this trip has led missions trips with youth groups with Project Mañana before. Project Mañana exists to share the Gospel and help break the cycle of poverty by investing in impoverished children and their families and communities through clean water, nutrition, education, and discipling projects. Project Mañana has been working in the Villa González community of San Pablo since October 2012 and currently provides a nutritious meal to over 370 children each day. Project Mañana has distributed over 1,057 water purification systems, providing 57,870,750 gallons of clean water each year.

In August 2014, Project Mañana opened the very first school in San Pablo and is providing a solid education to 210 children. Project Mañana also hosts sports outreach programs, children ministry (Vacation Bible School camps), sexual purity and education groups for teenage girls, and is working one-on-one with several families to help them break the cycle of poverty. Biannually, Project Mañana hosts medical clinics with American doctors, dentists, and medical professionals, which provide free services to the community.

We went last summer, and it was an amazing experience! We loved being able to partner with Project Manana and see what God is doing through this amazing organization! Our pastoral team is excited to be going back this year!

TEAM LEADERS AND PARTICIPANTS

The trip will be led by **Brit Vargas**, along with 5 other Adult Volunteers from CA Students. The plan is for up to 26 Students to be accepted for the Trip

WHAT WILL WE BE DOING?

The team will spend most of our time in Santiago, Dominican Republic. During the trip, the team will have the opportunity to meet and spend time with Dominican and Haitian nationals, participate in building and service projects, tour various communities and historical zones, learn about Dominican culture, attend church in the Dominican, and more!

TRIP COST

The cost for the trip is **\$2,100**. This includes your flight, visa, accommodation, food, transportation, and the costs of our ministry to the local population. A deposit of \$200 must be paid by November 21st (our first meeting). This leaves a balance of \$1900 to be fundraised and paid by July 28th, 2025 (before the departure date). Please note: The goal is that each team member fundraises their remaining balance. This will be done through individual fundraising efforts.

In the event you are not able to fundraise the full amount the expectation is either you cover remaining balance or establish a payment plan with CA prior to the trip on a case by case basis.

FUNDRAISING

Each trip participant is responsible to raise or pay for the costs associated with the trip. Whatever your financial position, we want each team member to contribute at least a portion of their trip cost. How much should you give? The \$200 deposit is a good start. Think about this as a way for you to make a sacrifice. Investing your own finances will bring a unique value to the trip.

We will be training you on how to write your own support letters that you can mail out. These will serve as the primary way in which we raise funds. Any support letter must include the following wording regarding financial support: "All contributions are non-refundable. If a particular student is not able to participate in the trip for any reason, all received donations for that student will be used to pay the expenses for others who are able to participate in the trip. If all the trip expenses are covered for all participants, any remaining funds will be allocated to other mission efforts through our Christian Assembly Kingdom efforts locally or globally."

HOW TO APPLY

Applications will open **October 2th** and will be available online through our website. Please be aware the deadline for applications is **November 6th**. It is a more extensive application so please make sure you give yourself ample time to fill it out. We are limited to only having 26 spots so please make sure you fill out the application to the best of your ability as your application will be how we decide who is offered a spot on the trip.

If offered a spot on the team, a **\$200 deposit** is required. This deposit is due no later than **November 21st**. Payment can be made online on our website or check made payable to Christian Assembly Church with CA Students Mission Trip in memo.

Following the approved application and deposit, further instructions regarding fundraising and team training will be given at the **November 21st** meeting.

KEY DATES

Application & Deposits

- **October 2nd** – Application opens
- **October 16th** – Informational parent meeting (6pm-6:30pm or 8:30pm-9pm)
- **November 6th** – Application due date
- **Mid November** - Team members selected & notified by team leaders
- **November 21st** - \$200 deposit due (if approved for the trip we will email form link to you)

Team Training

Please note: team training is mandatory and considered part of the mission trip. Failure to attend team training may result in your removal from the trip except in the case of illness.

- **November 21** - 6:30-8pm (with parents)
- **January 16** - 6:30-8pm
- **March 13** - 6:30-8pm
- **May 16-17** (overnight at CA) 6:30pm - 10am
- **June 19** - 6:30-8pm
- **July 17** - 6:30-8pm (with parents)
- **Aug 15** - 6:30-8pm (Debrief dinner)

Trip

- **July 29** – Gather at Christian Assembly to leave
- **Aug 5** - Return to Christian Assembly
- **Aug 15** - 6:30 pm (Friday) – Team reunion dinner
- **Sep 6** - Thank you +update letters/emails due

Fundraising Deadlines

- **November 21st** - \$200 deposit due
- **March** - 25% (\$625) Due
- **April** – 50% (\$1,250) Due
- **July** - 100% (\$2,100) Due before trip leaves

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

The deadline to have passport copies turned in is **May 2025**. This means you must have your physical passport in your hands by this date and have turned in a copy to britv@cachurch.com.

Routine passport processing (\$130) is 8 to 11 weeks and expedite processing (an additional \$60) is 5 to 7 weeks. If we are able to offer you a spot on the trip, we strongly encourage you to immediately apply for your passport if you do not already have one.

To obtain a passport, you will need a certified birth certificate (not the hospital record), two passport photos, and a driver's license. In addition, you will need to pick up a passport application from the post office and turn in the requested information to the postal clerk for processing with the US Passport Agency. If you don't have a passport yet you should not wait and apply for expedited processing. For further information about passport visit <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html>

A tourist card fee is required for entrance into the country and is included in the plane ticket.

IMMUNIZATIONS, VACCINES, AND MEDICATIONS

According to CDC recommendations, all travelers should be up to date on routine vaccinations before traveling per doctor advice. These vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria-tetanus- pertussis vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, polio vaccine, and your yearly flu shot. Covid-19, Hepatitis A and B, and Typhoid Vaccines are recommended by the Center for Disease Control for travel to the Dominican Republic. For a full list of suggested vaccines and medications visit: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/dominican-republic>. Please consult your physician on recommended vaccinations.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Personal health insurance is required for trip participation. In addition to your own personal health insurance policy, travel health insurance will be purchased for each trip participant that is included in the trip fees. This insurance provides major medical benefits, emergency medical evacuation, Covid, and repatriation coverage that your primary health insurance may not cover for overseas claims.