

Volunteer Mission Trip Information Packet

Servants Gift, Inc

C/O Larry Roberts

Box 271

New Windsor IL. 61465

309-371-8937

larryjroberts67@gmail.com

ServantsGift.com

About Haiti



Haiti is a Caribbean country occupying the western one-third of the island of Hispaniola it shares the island with the Dominican Republic. Haiti is about the size of the state of Maryland. It is located 50 miles from Cuba, and 600 miles from Miami, Florida. Haiti is the first independent black republic. Haiti has historically been poverty stricken due to a variety of factors including; war, war debt, occupations and dictatorships. Factors that are still impacting Haiti today include; current economic and environmental factors. Included in these factors are: international

aid sanctions, internal political conflict, deforestation as well hurricanes and all the after affects of the before mentioned factors.

The average Haitian earns less than \$3 a day, and survives on a mere \$1 per day. More than half of the population lacks access to clean water and sanitation. Fifty percent of the population is malnourished. One in five children are underweight and/or under-height for their age. Twelve percent of Haitian children die before their first birthday, and one third do not make it to their fifth. Only one in every 10,000 Haitians has



access to a physician. Today most Haitians are Christian with 50%-60% being Roman Catholic. The number of Protestants has been growing steadily, although Baptist and Pentecostal are the largest registered denominations, many others are represented. Many Haitians continue to practice Voodoo or incorporate Voodoo into Christianity as it has done for several hundred years.

Even with all the struggles that Haiti faces, there remain a people with open arms and smiling faces. It is a culture rich in music, art, and storytelling. The land is graced with beautiful beaches and breathtaking mountains. Some positive things are; Haiti is said to have the best beach in the Caribbean, they were the first Caribbean country to ever qualify for the soccer World Cup finals, artists in Haiti produce nearly all the crafts sold for tourism in the Caribbean, and it is the second largest exporter of Mangos to the U.S. (Arthur, 2004, pp.19-20) . A trip to Haiti is truly a life changing experience full of beauty and sorrow it will give you a better appreciation for the strength of these amazing people.

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Travel Information

Weather

The climate in Haiti is hot and humid. The average temperature in summer is between 85 and 95 degrees. For a current forecast go to www.weather.com and type Port-au-Prince, Haiti in the "Local Weather" box.

Clothing

Summer clothing is appropriate. Women should wear a skirt or a sundress to signify that you are a Christian Missionary. Capri's and walking shorts are acceptable. Sandals or tennis shoes are appropriate. DO NOT wear any jewelry that has sentimental value. A simple wedding ring is appropriate.

Showering

Bring your own unscented toiletries. Scented items attract bugs.

Immunizations

Immunizations are not required to be admitted into Haiti. However we suggest you go to www.cdc.gov/travel to see the recommended immunizations and medical precautions. You can also get information on the prescription medication you may be bringing with you. If immunizations are necessary they are typically available at your County Health Department or any Travel Clinic. It is recommended that you have a current Tetanus shot. Immunizations are not included in the trip fees.

Food

All meals while in Haiti are included in the trip fees. Breakfast and Dinner are provided at by Walls Guest House. You may also want to bring personal snacks. We will arrange for clean drinking water to be provided. It is recommended that you bring a sports bottle or canteen to fill with safe drinking water. You are responsible for meals during travel to and from Haiti.

Luggage

At this time the airlines allow 2 checked bags weighing up to 50lbs each per passenger. We ask that your checked luggage be donated items for the orphanages. Your checked luggage may be a suitcase, a duffle bag if the airlines will allow it a plastic tote.

You should be able to fit your clothing and personal items in a rolling carryon. However, due to the tightened restrictions, please check with the airline on toiletries allowed in carry-on bags, you may need to pack some of them in your checked bags.

Your trip leader will provide a list of items that serve as a guide. Use your own discretion when requesting donated items.

Money

It is best to bring cash. Traveler's checks are difficult to exchange and credit cards are only accepted in some places. It is recommended that you take bills of \$20 or less. You may want to carry \$1's and 5's. Be sure to separate your money in different locations. I.E. some in your wallet, some in your bible, some in your suitcase, etc.... This is to ensure your money is not lost or stolen.

You can bring a lock to put on your luggage when it is no longer in the hands of airport personnel. Be sure to bring your key or code.

Passport

It is required to have a passport valid for at least 6 months following the return of travel to Haiti. For information on attaining a passport please visit: travel.state.gov/passport. If you do not have passport you will want to start the application process as soon as possible.

Customs

You will be required to fill out a customs form on the plane before you arrive in Haiti. The address you should put on this form will be provided to you by your team leader in Miami the night before departure.

Airport

When traveling to other countries you will find the airports are not the same as in the States. Upon arrival, there will be many people waiting outside to “help you” with your bags. It can be very overwhelming if you are unaware. This is not a free service a payment is expected. Some people wait there all day just for the chance to make some money so be prepared. Your trip leader will arrange for any assistance that is needed to get the luggage from the airport to the van.

Final Note

There are no public restrooms, so there may be occurrences of people relieving themselves on the streets. Also, the modesty is different in Haiti than in the States so be prepared to see more than you’re used to. Let this also serve as a reminder for your own needs as well.

Approximate Trip Costs

July 16th-22nd 2009

\$250 application deposit Non refundable

•Mission Trip Fee- \$ 1,800.

Fee includes: round trip airfare, room & board at Walls Guest House, 3 meals a day while in Haiti, local transportations and interpreters. The trip fee also includes a visit to a local beach with the children for a day of rest and fun-in-the-sun.

Trip fee must be paid in full 30 days prior to trip departure.

***All payment made to
Servant Gift, Inc. are tax deductible.**

***501c3 non profit organization**

**Volunteers are responsible for any
extra expenses incurred during the
trip.**

Items to Pack

We suggest that you bring the following items with you...

- Cash in ones and fives
- Unscented Soap, Shampoo & Lotion
- 100% Deet Bug Spray (Available at Target or other camping supply stores)
- Flashlight
- Toilet Paper (1 roll, just in case)
- Flip Flops/Sandals/Shoes (more than one pair of shoes, incase they get wet)
- Summer clothes
- Swim Suit
- Wet Wipes or Antibacterial Hand Gel
- Water Bottle with Lid or canteen
- Color Copy of Passport
- Hat
- Sun glasses
- Sunscreen (waterproof)

Snacks:

- Trail Mix
- Turkey/Beef Jerky
- Granola Bars
- Peanut Butter
- Crystal Light "On the Go"
- Treats or Candy for the children at the Orphanages (NO hard candy, please)

We need these before you go!

- Mission Trip Application as well as \$250 non-refundable application deposit
- Volunteer Release Form
- Emergency Contact Information Form
- Medical Information Form
- Acknowledgement Page
- Color Copy of Passport
- Copy of Medical Insurance card

Volunteer Release Form

We are delighted with your decision to travel with us, and we are more than willing to help you with some of the arrangements. However, any travel is accompanied by certain risks. As our organization is comprised entirely of volunteers like you. Each volunteer is expected to assume any and all risks that may result from his or her activities and to procure insurance coverage as he or she deems appropriate. We have coverage for our trips with Adams and Associates.

Please sign and date this document and return it to S.G. Inc, acknowledging this notification, releasing us from liability, and indemnifying us from claims against us arising from your activities. We must receive a signed copy of this letter before we can continue to plan your trip.

The undersigned hereby acknowledges receiving this letter, and acknowledges the risks assumed by volunteers of Servants Gift and it's officers, directors, members and all other persons and organizations working on its behalf from any and all loss, liability, actions, claims and demands of any nature, past, present or future, that may result from or be in any way related to the undersigned's activities conducted under the auspices of the Servants Gift Inc.

NAME: (printed)

SIGNATURE:

DATE SIGNED:

DESTINATION:

DATE OF DEPARTURE:

DATE OF RETURN HOME:

Please return this release with your trip application

*Servants Gift, Inc.
Larry Roberts
P.O. Box 271
New Windsor, IL 61465*

Emergency Contact Information Form

Volunteer Emergency Contact Information

Please provide us with the name and contact information of the person we should contact in case of an emergency.

NAME:

RELATIONSHIP:

DAYTIME PHONE:

EVENING PHONE:

MOBILE/PAGER NUMBER:

HOME ADDRESS:

E-MAIL:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Please return this form with your trip application

*Servants Gift, Inc.
Larry Roberts
P.O. Box 271
New Windsor, IL 61465
Fax: 309-667-3856*

Medical Information Form

Please provide us with the following medical information in case of an emergency.

NAME:

EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITONS:

ALLERGIES:

LIST ANY MEDICATION YOU ARE CURRENTLY TAKING:

DOCTORS NAME:

PHONE NUMBER OF DOCTOR:

INSURANCE INFORMATION:

ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL IN A MEDICAL EMERGENCY:

Acknowledgment Page

A mission trip can be a very rewarding experience. However, if a volunteer goes to a third world country unprepared it can make for an unpleasant experience. It is vital that all volunteers read and acknowledge that they understand the risks, requirements and expectations of travel to Haiti.

After reading the mission packet please sign the following document and return to the Mission Director along with the release of liability, emergency contact information and medical information form. Please also send a color copy of your passport and a copy of your medical insurance card.

Thank you.

The undersigned hereby acknowledges, receiving this Mission packet, and acknowledges that they have read and understand all requirements and expectations listed herein.

NAME:

SIGNATURE:

DATE SIGNED:

Please return Acknowledgement page with trip application

*Servants Gift, Inc.
Larry Roberts
P.O. Box 271
New Windsor IL. 61465
309-667-3856
Larryjroberts67@gmail.com*

Mission Trip Application

Personal Information

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Marital Status: _____
Date of birth: _____

Health Information

Describe your general health condition: _____
Are you taking any medication? If so, what? _____
Allergies: _____
Blood type: _____
Family Physician: _____
Family Physician Phone #: _____
Medical Insurance Company for trip: _____
Medical Insurance Contact #: _____
Emergency Contact Person: _____
Emergency Contact Phone #: _____
Relationship: _____

Other Important Questions

Have you traveled to Haiti? _____
Have your fees been forwarded to the appropriate address? _____
What is your primary motivation for this trip?

Any other helpful comments or suggestions?

***PLEASE BE AWARE THAT MEDICAL INSURANCE IS NOT ONLY RECOMMENDED BUT IS
REQUIRED FOR YOUR JOURNEY TO HAITI***
Servants Gift Policy with Adams and Assoc.

IN SIGNING BELOW, I ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING:

- The above information is true to the best of my knowledge.

Servants Gift Inc. AND / OR IT'S VOLUNTEER STAFF CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY
ACCIDENT OR INJURY THAT COULD OCCUR WHILE IN HAITI.

NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____



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*Any questions should be directed to: **Larry Roberts 309-371-8937***

Your place will be reserved once we receive the following:

- 1. Completed application**
- 2. Appropriate fees, \$250.00 (payable in US funds to [Servants Gift, Inc.](#) in the form of cashiers check or money order)**
- 3. Volunteer Release Form**
- 4. Emergency Contact Information Form**
- 5. Medical Information Form**
- 6. Acknowledgment Page**
- 7. Color Copies of your passport for the mission leader**
- 8. Copy of Medical Insurance Card**

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