

Dominican Republic

Mission Trip

July 8th - July 15th, 2023

Contents

Mission Trip Facts	2
Who is the host missionary?	2
Where will we be?	2
What is the cost? (see “Financial Information” for more details).....	2
What are the dates?	2
What forms/documents are to be turned in?	2
Who can participate?	2
Are there pre-trip meetings?	2
Do you provide trip insurance and why?	2
Are there any health issues?	2
Are there recommended vaccines and medicines?.....	2
Are there special skills & abilities people need to have? (What will we do?)	2
Is a passport necessary to travel to Dominican Republic?	3
Will there be shopping (snacks) and souvenir opportunities?.....	3
Do we require help with meals/kitchen duty each day & food?.....	3
Can we bring food (snacks) from the States to Dominican Republic?	3
What is the schedule like?	3
What is the electrical? 110 or 220?.....	3
Can you tell me about the mission house?	3
What are the sleeping arrangements?	3
What should I do with my prescriptions and medications?	3
Is participation in church required?	3
Financial Information	4
Fee Due Dates:	4
Total Trip Cost.....	4
Suggested Amount of Cash to Bring.....	4
Fundraising.....	4
Fees Policy & Procedures	5
Support-Raising Information	5
WHY we raise support	5
HOW to raise support.....	6
Raising your support	6
Travel Tips and Packing Guidelines	7
Carry-Ons (Remember 3-1-1):.....	7
Dress Code / Clothing (specific country clothing will be shared at later pre-trip meetings)	7
Packing Reminders	8
Security.....	8
Packing/Check-In Suggestions:.....	8
Dos:	8
Don'ts.....	8
Pre-Trip and Post-Trip Preparation	8
Packing List.....	8
Code of Conduct	9
Group Dynamics and Expectations:.....	9
PRCC Dominican Republic Mission Trip Covenant.....	10

Mission Trip Facts

Who is the host missionary?

Kids To Christ Mission (KTC) is an organization that does God's work serving children in and around Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Jaime Johnson is the founder and director; she and Abbey Loran have been serving with KTC since 2016. More information about KTC, please visit <https://www.kidstochrist.org>.

Where will we be?

Santo Domingo is the capital of Dominican Republic. Parts of the city are very wealthy while others are very poor. We will stay at Jeremiah's House, the Missions Center for KTC. It is a large home in a gated community.

What is the cost? (see "Financial Information" for more details)

\$620 plus flight costs

What are the dates?

Saturday, July 8 – Saturday, July 15, 2023

What forms/documents are to be turned in?

All forms/documents will be discussed and given at pre-trip meetings.

1. Mission Trip Application
2. Deposit (\$100 non-refundable)
3. Forms/Documents (*provided after application & deposit*)
 - a. Parental Consent Forms (for minors) - Affidavit Consenting to exit the United States and enter Dominican Republic
 - b. PRCC Release & Liability Form
 - c. Medicine Administration Release & Liability Form
 - d. Dominican Republic Covenant and Policy Form

Who can participate?

Any member of PRCC who is in 7th grade or above. Those younger may go with an accompanying parent. Members may invite friends who are not members of PRCC if they meet all other participation requirements and pass an interview with the Pastor and Trip Leader.

Are there pre-trip meetings?

Yes, all participants must be committed to attending the training meetings on the second Monday of February, March, April, and May. Dates are listed later in this document. There will also be a team building activity in June.

Do you provide trip insurance and why?

Trip insurance is included in the trip fees. Each participant will be covered on an overseas trip insurance coverage plan to protect against lost or delay of luggage, medical and evacuation assistance, and trip cancellation due to weather or health.

Are there any health issues?

We will have plenty of purified drinking water, healthy cooked food, medical personnel available, and access to Red Cross emergency care if a crisis arises.

Are there recommended vaccines and medicines?

You should be up to date on routine vaccinations while traveling out of the country. You may check the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website for recommendations. Some recommendations include: Tetanus, Hepatitis A (food/water borne). Please see a doctor about vaccines **3 months** before travel.

Are there special skills & abilities people need to have? (What will we do?)

No, PRCC mission trip normal activities include: possible construction project(s), food distribution, VBS activities, home visits, etc. The type of construction work will depend on the need at the time we are there and the skill level of the group. The only necessary ability is to love others.

Is a passport necessary to travel to Dominican Republic?

Yes, a passport is required for out-of-country travel. Please be sure to check the expiration date on your passport. *There must be at least 3 months between dates of the trip and expiration date of the passport.*

Will there be shopping (snacks) and souvenir opportunities?

Three delicious meals a day are provided, so you may find snacks unnecessary. Yes, the mission will make an effort to give us access to a grocery store within the first few days of the trip for snacks. Souvenir shopping for more traditional country items will happen at some point on the trip.

Do we require help with meals/kitchen duty each day & food?

Yes, kitchen duty is helping with serving, washing dishes, and cleaning up. All food is prepared and provided by the host missionaries.

Can we bring food (snacks) from the States to Dominican Republic?

Yes and No. No, you cannot bring items like fruit or perishables. Yes, you can bring items like granola bars, fruit bars, or non-perishables that are packaged tight and sealed. Please remember that you will have the opportunity to purchase snacks in Dominican Republic. Packing will be limited, so be mindful of taking up packing space with food. More packing information is on the "Travel Tips and Packing Guidelines" page.

What is the schedule like?

A detailed schedule will be given to the team before travelling. But in short, each day is the same: get up, breakfast, morning devotions, work sites, lunch, work some more, shower and dinner, family time (talk about morning devotions, download the day, communicate tomorrow's plan), sleep.

What is the electrical? 110 or 220?

The KTC Mission house is 110. 110 is the norm, although in rural areas, it is best to ask first before plugging in. In the city, as well as at the mission house, most everything is 110. Normal plugs are used, not always three pronged, but mostly. No converters should be needed at any time. Electricity is readily available. There are somewhat frequent outages, but most do not last long.

Can you tell me about the mission house?

The Dominican Republic KTC mission house (home base: where we eat/sleep) is located in a suburb of Santo Domingo, in a gated subdivision. It has a fully functioning kitchen, dining/living room area with couches, tables, and chairs. The group meeting area is in a lovely outside pavilion. There are multiple bathrooms and bedrooms.

What are the sleeping arrangements?

There are some rooms for couples, some have bunk bed open rooms with private showers.

What should I do with my prescriptions and medications?

This will be discussed further with the team before travelling. It is the participant's responsibility to bring prescriptions and medications that are taken on a regular basis. Please be mindful when packing that prescription and medications are not put in your checked luggage, but rather packed in your carry-on. Your trip leaders will have a medical kit on hand at all times with basic first aid resources. There is a medication form that parents need to complete in order for us to administer over-the-counter medicine to participants.

Is participation in church required?

Yes, participants must maintain at least a commitment to attend church consistently. Participation in PRCC's VBS is required if at all possible—if PRCC VBS precedes this trip.

Financial Information

Fee Due Dates:

\$100 – Due with application by March 5th, 2023

\$650 – Due by March 13th, 2023

\$650 – Due by April 10th, 2023

\$280 – Due by May 8th, 2023

* **Fee schedule based on current cheapest flight – subject to change; estimate only**

* If fees are not able to be turned in by the due date, arrangements must be made with the PRCC Staff. A 10% late fee may be added to the fee amount for each week late, if arrangements have not been made prior to the deposit's due date.

* The first two deposits are crucial to be on time, due to flight reservations.

* Participants will not be allowed to attend the mission trip if fees are still due by departure date.

Total Trip Cost

Approximately \$1,630.00 *(this could change after we secure flights).*

\$620

+ \$910 (current cost of flight)

+ \$100 (spending money)

\$1630

This includes airfare, food, lodging, supplies, administrative fees, and transportation to and from the airport. This does not include souvenirs, meals purchased stateside while in airports, or other incidentals.

Suggested Amount of Cash to Bring

\$100 is usually sufficient to cover incidental expenses and any snacks or souvenirs. If you are budget driven, it is possible to get by on much less. This is ultimately a personal decision which sometimes depends on how much you snack, what you want to buy, how many you have to buy for, and how much space you have to transport purchases back home. Please remember that the suggested amount of cash to bring is a conservative number dependent upon your purchase habits and or needs. There may be special opportunities for benevolent giving on the trip, which may factor into your decision on the amount of money you bring. If you decide to bring extra money, please bring only cash (other forms of payment are not suggested). The host missionary will take your US dollars and exchange it, if needed. Adults may use credit cards in the Dominican Republic; our hosts will only have us visit safe locations.

Fundraising

Poplar Ridge Christian Church does not participate in, nor host, fundraisers. Participants are expected to raise and fund 100% of their financial support for the mission trip. PRCC will not communicate or facilitate individual fundraising needs. It is the participant's responsibility to communicate their own, individual fundraising.

We would like trip participants not to ask PRCC leaders for support. This is out of respect for the leaders so that they are not asked multiple times for support. PRCC leaders will be encouraged to consider supporting this trip, and any leadership-donated funds will be evenly distributed for the benefit of each participant.

All participants will be required to submit non-refundable fees on or by the due dates listed above.

It is the participant's responsibility to inform prayer and financial supporters of their inability to participate in the mission trip if they received support to attend but ended up not being able to participate.

If any participant raises more than the requested support, the surplus funds will first be used for trip expenses, and then any surplus will go to the host missionary.

Fees Policy & Procedures

- Fees are due on the dates listed in this packet.
- All fee payments are to be made through our offering boxes, online giving, or mailed to the church.
- All checks must be made payable to Poplar Ridge Christian Church or PRCC (memo: Mission Trip to Dominican Republic).
- Do not include a participant's name on the check.
- A separate note should be attached to the check indicating it is being given toward the PRCC Dominican Republic Mission Trip and participant's name. It would be beneficial to put the check and note together in an envelope.
- All contributions are considered donations to Poplar Ridge Christian Church and are non-refundable. Use of contributions is at the discretion of Poplar Ridge Christian Church, but donor intentions will be honored. That is, a donation designated for a particular participant will be credited to the participant's trip, but may not directly benefit that participant as described above regarding surplus support or in the case of a participant failing to raise sufficient support or dropping out.
- No scholarships will be awarded for the mission trip.
- Refunds are paid out if the following 3 conditions are met: 1) Due to a tragic situation; 2) If PRCC does not accrue a financial loss; 3) If fees have not been already paid out. The Minister will give final permission to all refunds and reserves the right to deny that request.
- Transfer of fees from one participant to another is allowed only if all the following 4 conditions are met: 1) Due to a tragic situation; 2) If PRCC does not accrue a financial loss; 3) If deposits/registrations have not already been paid out; and 4) If funds are transferred to another event or participant. The recipient must meet all eligibility requirements of the event if funds are being transferred. The Minister will give final permission to all deposit/registration transfers and reserves the right to deny the request.

Example scenarios:

- Ann and Betty both plan on participating in the mission trip. Each decides how much she may personally contribute, and what remainder needs to be raised. Both send out letters asking for prayer and financial support. Betty receives support exceeding her total trip cost. Ann receives support falling short of the total. Can Betty's excess be used to pay for Ann's deficit? Maybe. If Betty has already turned in all the money in her name, then no. If Betty has waited to submit her personal contribution until the last payment, she may specify that her last payment amount which exceeds her trip cost be designated for her friend Ann. The overpayment having been made, as stated above, goes first to trip expenses, and then to the host missionary.
- Carl and Don both plan on participating in the mission trip. Each decides how much he may personally contribute, and what remainder needs to be raised. Both send out letters asking for prayer and financial support. Prior to the trip, Don decides that he can no longer plan on participating because his priorities change. He'd like to give donations made toward his trip to Carl, can he? No. All donations are made to PRCC. Also, the four conditions necessary for transfer of funds listed above were not met.

Support-Raising Information

God is our Provider, not people. Trusting Him to supply for your trip is a spiritual adventure of faith. It is part of the growth process that God will take you through to prepare for the task ahead.

WHY we raise support

- It will generate a prayer team.
- When people are challenged to give financially, they are likely to pray for you.
- Your faith will grow.
- Support-raising is a faith journey. When days go by and your support level does not increase, you may be tempted to question your call to missions. But those are the days to be reminded that God has called you and that He will supply every need. Often the best faith lessons appear as we wait on God. That's when we learn that we are limited, and that God is indeed limitless. That's when we have another testimony to His great goodness!
- It broadens the missionary vision of our church.
- You are the best recruiter for world missions. When you share your passion with others, you can communicate your vision and your call. Your enthusiasm and dedication stimulate and challenge interest and involvement in missions.

HOW to raise support

- Pray that God will lead you to look for the resources for this trip.
- Evaluate your contribution. Other people can tell you the surprising places God provided money: unexpected refund checks, garage sales, extra income opportunities. Challenge yourself to plan ahead and to evaluate what sacrifices you can make in the next few months to contribute toward the trip.
- Look outside of the church. Friends, relatives, co-workers, and neighbors (even unbelievers) will feel blessed to invest in you and God's leading in your life. Seek their support.
- Ask inside of the church. Ask your small group or ministry team friends to pray about God's leading to give prayer and/or financial help for this opportunity. Do not ask people, however, unless you have some kind of connection with them.

Raising your support

The most important thing in raising your finances for this trip is to understand that this mission is God's and not yours.

Dedicate this to prayer. If this is God's will for your life and you do all that you can, God will provide a way. You must be convinced that this is what God wants you to do.

In looking at the amount of money you may need to raise for your trip, it may seem mammoth and insurmountable. Remember that funds can come from a number of sources over a period of several months, which will make it seem much more attainable. You may want to get family, friends, neighbors, and people you may know in general involved. One crucial way to raise support is by sending support letters to people you know. Enlist them to:

1. Pray for you and the mission.
2. Ask them to use your birthday and other gift-giving occasions to ask for support, in lieu of a traditional gift.

Also, you could organize your own car wash, auction, garage sale, bake sale, craft fair, doing odd jobs for people, etc. Use your imagination and God will use His power.

Travel Tips and Packing Guidelines

Each ticketed passenger (trip participant) is allowed one checked bag and one bag as a carry-on. In addition to the carry-on bag, participants may bring one personal item, which includes a purse, briefcase, drawstring bag, backpack, fanny pack, etc. Try to pack most, if not all, of your personal needs in your carry-on. The checked bags will be packed with supplies for our service in the Dominican Republic.

Carry-Ons (Remember 3-1-1):

- 3 oz. bottles or less
- 1 quart sized, clear, plastic zip-top bag
- 1 bag per passenger placed in screening bin.

One-quart bag per person limits the total liquid volume each traveler can bring. The 3oz. container size is a security measure. Your preparation may help to prevent some real hassles at security check-in, or even the frustration of having personal property confiscated.

Examples of liquids and gels included in these security measures are: beverages, creams, hair gel, hair spray, shampoo, suntan lotion, toothpaste, other items of similar consistency. For all liquids, gels, aerosols, and pastes, limit each container to a maximum size of 3.0 oz/100ml. Place all such items in a single quart-size, clear plastic, zip-lock bag. Pack this zip-lock bag in a readily accessible place in your carry-on or personal bag. You will need to remove your quart-size bag from your carry-on and place in the provided bin at the security checkpoint. You'll quickly pass through the security check-in in most countries by following these guidelines for your carry-on baggage.

Maximum weight, without charge, for each piece of checked baggage is 50 pounds per bag. Maximum size, without charge, for each piece of checked baggage must not exceed 62" in overall dimensions (L+W+H). You may incur an extra charge for additional, overweight and/or oversized pieces.

You will also need your Passport on your person during travel. We recommend you have a passport wallet which can stay on your person at all times except for showering and sleeping.

Please do not forget any **prescriptions or medications** you will need. Do not pack prescriptions or medication in checked bags, rather, keep them with you in your carry-on.

Dress Code / Clothing (specific country clothing will be shared at later pre-trip meetings)

- No low-cut tops, midribs, short shorts, spaghetti straps, tube tops, bikinis.
- No inappropriate messages, images, or slogans.
- When in doubt, don't wear it.
- Church on Sunday: long dress for ladies/dress shirt for men and slacks/nice jeans.
- Notice: There are not many opportunities to wear shorts, so don't waste the packing room. We don't have any free days to wear shorts. Realistically the only time we can wear shorts is in the mission house at night.
- Tennis shoes are a must. Closed-toe shoes that you can tie and give you good support. Remember you will be visiting areas which are dirty, so don't bring your brand new, expensive tennis shoes. (Cheap sandals will not be appropriate but walking or hiking sandals will be fine.)
- Shower shoes.
- Remember to be modest in your clothing.
- Pajamas: remember to be modest.
- Work day clothes: pants for boys and girls (or capris), t-shirts, scrubs are good.

Packing Reminders

Security

Think through how you will go through security with all your carry-on luggage and what needs to be checked. Think about your shoes, belt, change in your pocket. All of these things slow down the security check process.

Packing/Check-In Suggestions:

These simple hints will usually help you to breeze right through security checkpoints:

- Travel light—minimal clutter will speed up the screening process.
- Leave your pocket knives, scissors, and any other sharp objects at home or put them in your checked baggage.
- Be ready to take off your shoes and put belts, cell phones, and metal objects in your carry-on.

Dos:

- Stay together
- Keep a close eye on luggage
- Remember God is in control...not you!
- Answer TSA and airline personnel quickly and honestly
- Use the airplane toilet before landing
- Fill water bottles in the U.S. airport before boarding flights.

Don'ts

- Give your passport or identification to anyone but TSA and airline personnel
- Leave your belongings unattended
- Unpack a lot of items on the plane... it's easy to lose or forget items when deplaning
- Make jokes or sarcastic comments that could be offensive and endanger your trip

Pre-Trip and Post-Trip Preparation

- Learn as much as you can about the country's culture
- Schedule a time for rest/recuperation/relaxation/reflection upon our return
- Plan a time to reflect with your family about your experience
- Secure prayer partners before your trip, and report to them upon your return.

Packing List

- Leave expensive jewelry and electronics at home.
- Clothing for about 5 workdays (laundry facilities are available in the mission house; pack light!)
- Clothing for casual occasions (mission house, dinner out, etc.)
- Pajamas
- Toiletries
- Bath towel, hand towel, and washcloths (consider bringing ones you can leave; they will be put to good use there)
- Water bottle
- Electrolyte packets to add to water (this helps when hot and losing water through sweating)
- Non-perishable snacks
- Backpack or something to carry to the work site and day trips
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Large trash bag
- Laundry bag (e.g., mesh bag)
- Work gloves
- Work shoes
- Socks
- Bible and journal or notebook, pen/pencils
- Sunscreen and sun hat, sunglasses
- Insect repellent

Code of Conduct

The code of conduct is a set of principles outlining the responsibilities of, or practices for, PRCC. While we have multiple policies and procedures that we will follow, it is difficult to have all of them memorized and followed to the letter of the law. In the same way, it is difficult to have a policy and procedure that will cover every situation and circumstance we come up against or across. The first rule of response to any situation is to think before you act. The Code of Conduct's purpose is to give a snapshot and easy-to-remember principles to follow. It is easy to remember by the acronym MARS.

MORAL: *Moral pursuit – so that in all things God can be glorified.*

ATTENDANCE: *Attendance – because it is imperative be present, and not to leave anyone behind.*

RESPECT: *Respect yourself, others, and nature/environment.*

SAFETY: *Safety encompasses care, security, protection, well-being, danger, shelter, etc.*

Group Dynamics and Expectations:

From time to time, team members may have difficulty with one another. There are some simple things to remember that can help you cope with these times.

- Prayer...Give it to God and relax.
- Get away from the situation...go to a different room...participate in a different activity.
- Remember that this is a different culture and that people's behavior may be a reflection of stress.
- Talk directly with the person...remember to use "I" messages, not "you" messages.
- If you can't talk with them, talk with your team leader.

Expectations

- Be present in the moment, pay attention. Don't miss the "wonder" moments.
- Be ready to participate in group discussions. Be willing to share.
- Get to know the local missionary team members. We can learn a lot from them about serving, their culture, their churches, and life in D.R. Learn what struggles we have in common, and how we're different.
- Look for "tiny" ways to serve.
- Pitch in wholeheartedly, even when you don't feel like it.
- Expect to see God working.

PRCC Dominican Republic Mission Trip Covenant

- All trip participants are required to follow the trip schedule and participate in all group functions and meetings. Permission to deviate from scheduled activities must be obtained from the trip leader.
- The trip leader and the host missionary are the recognized authorities on the trip. Any defiance toward trip leader or host missionary may result in immediate termination of your mission trip and you will be sent home at your own expense.
- Conduct is to be that expected of a Christian person – willing to give and take, and maintain the spirit of unity and harmony of the group, to extend politeness and courtesy to those with whom we come in contact (missionaries, nationals, team leaders, team members). A positive attitude is expected!
- No smoking or tobacco of any form, illegal drugs, or alcohol.
- You will be expected to acclimate to the host culture. This means eating food you are unfamiliar with and participating in foreign customs. Complaining about or constantly comparing the differences from U.S. culture is considered inappropriate.
- Remember that you are part of a group, and every person is part of the same team. As much as possible, cultivate community by getting to know all those on our team as well as our host team. Don't spend all your time with those closest to you.
- Separation from the group is not allowed without prior approval by the team leader. Always let the team leader or host missionary know your whereabouts. NEVER wander off or go exploring by yourself. Know that our host missionary team will be looking out for our safety; show them appreciation. You will come back awed at the attention and work they put in for you.
- "3's Company" policy when Participants are with mixed genders. Unless married, mixed genders are not allowed to be alone in teams of two at any time for any reason. Mixed gender groups must be always in groups of 3 or more. Participants may be immediately sent home for not following the "3's Company" policy.
- Group Safety: Participants will generally be required to stay in teams of two or more in all public places. They must also be always in the vicinity of the larger group.
- It is important that you dress in a neat, clean, and modest fashion. Your appearance is important not only for the missionary's reputation, but in the way the local people will perceive you. You may have to submit to certain restrictions regarding dress (not wearing shorts), body piercing (only acceptable piercing is small earrings on ladies) and hair restrictions (hair length for the guys).
- Due to cultural considerations, practical jokes are not permitted. Also, be aware that some of our slang or idioms do not translate well (e.g., "he's pulling my leg") Rest assured, there will be plenty of laughter, so expect to have fun!
- When given a time to be somewhere (e.g., breakfast or group meetings) be on time. Be aware, however, that other cultures may not be as time conscious as we are. Usually in the U.S., if an event is supposed to start at 1 PM, we try to be there, and expect things to start right on time. Don't expect the timeliness there that we're accustomed to; when plans and events are delayed, just relax. Be flexible!
- Do not give gifts of any kind to nationals without consulting the host missionaries or trip leader. The preferred method of giving is through structured programs by the host mission. Do not give your social media, address or telephone number to anyone. Correspondence with nationals may be arranged through the missionaries or PRCC.
- Go to Dominican Republic with an attitude of humility and respect for the people of Dominican Republic.
- Go to Dominican Republic with a willingness to work and cooperate with others.
- Generate adequate support to cover designated trip costs.
- Submit to direction of PRCC team leaders and the host missionaries.
- Read additional mission trip details in this packet and educate yourself on your country before going on your trip.