



MISSION TRIP POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

POLICIES FOR SHORT-TERM MEMBER SELECTION

Criteria

- All team members must have a testimony of salvation through Jesus Christ and be able to verbally express this testimony before the team leaves.
- Team members should be at least 18 years of age unless otherwise approved by the Team Leader(s).
- Those under age 18 can still go on some trips but need to be accompanied by a parent. Some trips are designed for younger students to go and the age limit will be set based on the type of trip, location, work involved, etc. Parental or guardian permission is required for team members who are under 18 years of age.
- Team members must complete necessary background check (unless under 18), Child Protection video (unless under 18) and participate in all team meetings.

Application

- Team members must complete the JST Baptist Association short-term mission team application and sign the agreement form. All participants 18 years and older must complete the online background check (weblink provided in meeting).
- Selection may require an interview with the team leader or Volunteer Mission Coordinator in addition to the application.

- Short-term members must agree to and comply with the JST Baptist Association's Financial Guidelines (see next section)

Finances

- Team members are to finance their own funds and/or raise their financial support. Funding should be completed by the due dates set by the team leadership.
- Support can be raised (download Fundraising Guidelines from jstba.com).
- Participants should make payments through the Association Office, who will keep a record of each team member's payments.

TEAM MEMBER BEHAVIOR AND EXPECTATIONS

Anyone participating on a JST Baptist Association sponsored mission trip is reminded that they are ambassadors of Jesus Christ (II Cor. 5:20). You are representing Jesus Christ, JST Baptist Association, your church and pastor, and the supporting mission partner. JST Baptist Association asks that each team member commit to:

- _____ Honor Jesus Christ in my thoughts, actions, speech, and dress.
- _____ Honor my Church, my Pastor, and my association.
- _____ Submit to the Team Leader's authority.
- _____ Read and Follow the Security Guidelines and Trip Policies.
- _____ Pay for all trip expenses by the set dates.
- _____ Complete the Preparation for Short Term Mission trips.
- _____ Attend all team meetings and training sessions required for the trip.
- _____ Not consume illegal drugs, alcoholic beverages or use tobacco of any kind.
- _____ Not gamble or view any pornographic material.
- _____ Not display romantic affection towards anyone or engage in any romantic relationships.
- _____ Adhere to the behavioral guidelines set by the team leadership and/or missionary partner agency. (Example: no Facebook postings for high security areas)

After consultation with the JST Baptist Association's DOM and Volunteer Mission Coordinator, the Team leader reserves the right to ask a problem team member to return home if that team member's behavior is destructive to the team, the ministry, or the host community. Any additional cost incurred as a result of this action will be at the team member's expense.

A PRAYER FOR TEAM UNITY

As you prepare for a specific mission trip use these scriptures to pray for yourself, the mission team, and for the people God will bring into your life as you walk in faith and obedience to Him.

- For Protection Psalm 34:7 Psalm 91:9-10 Psalm 121:7-8
- For Courage Isaiah 43:1 Psalm 31:24 Joshua 1:9 Psalm 27:1-5
- For Your Needs Phil. 4:19 Matthew 6:33 Luke 22:35
- For His Power John 14:12-14 John 15:16 Luke 10:17-19 Acts 1:8
- For His Glory John 15:7-12

Raising Prayer Support Team

Before you get started:

- Know you are called; it gives you credibility
- Understand your task; it helps you share the vision
- Be commissioned by the church; it makes you accountable

Remember –Support team members are usually happy to have the opportunity to invest in someone they know personally or an endeavor they care about. God’s Word promises us that He will supply our every need.

The most important need is for people to **pray** for you, before and during the trip.

Prepare the Support Team List

Usually, 10-15 is a good number. It is a great idea to ask friends, relatives, other Christian contacts. Do your best to avoid several people on the mission team inviting some of the same people to be on their support team. Trust God, be humble, and maintain a servant heart as you share this opportunity with others to share in the blessing of being part of God’s work.

Compose a Letter or Email to send to your support team.

Important: You are asking people to not only support you but also to support the mission.

Include the following information in the letter (**If you are traveling to a high security location don’t forget to follow the Security guidelines regarding what you can and cannot say*):

_____ Information about the city or country in which you are going

_____ Information about the hosting church or organization and general purpose of the trip.

_____ Description of what the team will be doing this particular mission trip

_____ Why you want to be involved on the trip.

_____ Why God has called you to go on this trip

____ How you would like the reader to be involved (prayer)

Follow-up

Please send each supporter a personal card or note thanking them for their support. You might also bring back a small gift or souvenir from your trip to give to your supporters. Send them a summary of your trip and possibly set up a time to meet with them and show some photos of the trip.

SAMPLE SUPPORT LETTER

February 15, 2024

Dear Family and Friends:

I wanted to let you know about an exciting opportunity that I will have over Spring Break. A group from our church is going on a mission trip to _____. We will leave on Saturday, March 12 and return on Thursday, March 17. While in _____, we will be working with a new church plant called _____ to help with outreach projects, sharing the gospel, and making disciples. Our efforts will help support the work of the church planter and his family along with other church leaders.

Please pray for our team as God prepares our hearts and minds for this adventure. Also, please pray for the people with whom we will be able to share gospel and that their heart will be receptive. Attached you will find a schedule of our trip that you can use for a daily guide. The most important thing you can do to support our team is to remember us every day in prayer.

Thank you,

PACKING TIPS

- Pack light! You will have to carry what you pack. Your bag must be less than 50 pounds. You will also be permitted to have one carry-on bag (regulation size to fit under the seat) Check airline web site for more details on luggage requirements. (If you can pack everything into a carry-on, you will not run the risk of the airlines losing your luggage).
- Clearly tag all bags with your name and contact information. Putting neon colored duct tape or some type of identifier on your suitcase is helpful.
- Carry one change of clothes and some toiletries with you in your carry-on luggage or personal bag. Sometimes luggage is lost and/or delayed.
- Pack prescription medications (in original package with name printed on it) in your carry-on or personal bag.
- Any carry-on toiletries that are liquid need to be less than 3 ounces and in a small zip lock bag. Go to the TSA web site (www.tsa.gov) for more information on security checkpoint at the airport.

Don't Forget:

- Bible and Journal/Pen
- Passport, Visa, Tickets, and Itinerary if applicable
- Passport copies (one for the leader and one in each suitcase)
- Health card for proof of needed immunizations (if required)
- Basic Clothing (keep in mind weather, customs, related work, church service, neatness, etc.)
- Comfortable Shoes
- Plastic bags (to pack dirty clothes)
- Hat (protection from the sun)
- Sunglasses
- First Aid items, Insect repellent, sunscreen, lip balm, etc.
- Medicines (allergies, pain meds, prescriptions, etc.)
- Handy wipes, hand sanitizer, tissues
- Alarm clock and/or watch (leave valuable jewelry at home)
- Toiletries: Shampoo, soap, shaving items, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, tissue, powder
- Towel and washcloth (unless staying in a hotel)
- Small blanket, or airplane blanket (for Chone hotel)
- Shower flip-flops
- House shoes or slippers
- Raincoat, jacket, umbrella
- Snack foods and/or cash money for snacks (granola bars, trail mix, etc.)
- Cash for personal expenses and souvenirs (amount depends on trip)
- Flashlight
- Toilet paper (optional, depending on location)
- Water bottle
- Travel sickness medicine and sleep aid
- Ear plugs (if night noise bothers you)
- Reading material for travel or Kindle, iPad, etc.
- Family photos or album to show new friends
- Phones for travel, taking pictures, communication back home, and personal time (not to be visible during team time or ministry unless it is being used for ministry)

For INTERNATIONAL trips only:

- Electrical current adapter and/or converter (**Ecuador** – not needed).
- Passport
- Travel Insurance Card (provided by Team leader)
- Shot Card

Insurance coverage

Insurance Coverage: (A coverage summary and ID card will be given to you before trip departure)

What type of coverage is provided?

JST Baptist Association will secure an insurance policy that provides Accidental Medical and Sickness Coverage for incidents that arise from international mission trips. This insurance policy has many types of coverage including Accidental Death and Dismemberment coverage. It also offers Medical Assistance Protection which includes dispatch of a doctor or specialist, emergency medical evacuation, medically necessary repatriation, and repatriation of mortal remains.

What does the coverage pay for?

The coverage is excess coverage, so it pays for expenses that are not paid by any medical insurance you may already have (Most medical plans have very little or no coverage for claims that occur outside of the United States). If you do not have any medical insurance, then this coverage becomes primary.

Passports:

APPLICATION FOR NEW PASSPORT

For up to the moment detailed information go to www.travel.state.gov/passport .

You can also get information and the Passport Application at a local Post Office.

IT COULD TAKE AT LEAST 6-8 WEEKS, SOMETIMES MORE, TO RECEIVE YOUR PASSPORT, SO IT IS VITAL THAT YOU BEGIN WORKING ON YOUR PASSPORT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Information on shots:

- For more information on shots and health questions, visit the Centers for Disease Control web site at www.cdc.gov click on travel and vaccinations to get up to date information on needed shots for the country you are traveling to.