

**Meeting #1**

**Dates:** June 27 – July 6, 2009

**Who is eligible to go:** Any high school student who has completed the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Requirements:**

- \* Each student must submit a Short-Term Mission Trip Application (available today). Students may be denied if the trip leader determines that they are not ready for a trip like this or if there are any other concerns that would hinder the teams ability to minister while in the D.R.
- \* Each student must have a current U.S. Passport
- \* Each student is responsible to raise his/ her funds through support letters, personal fundraisers, personal contributions & team fundraisers.
- \* Each student must attend all scheduled D.R. meetings unless excused by the trip leader (Josh).
- \* Each student must participate on at least one ministry team.

**Costs:** (costs are approximates and are subject to change within the next couple of months)

- \* Estimated cost for time in D.R.: \$470
  - \$10 per person for visa
  - \$50 per person for transportation
  - \$20 per person/per day for food and lodging
  - \$20 per person for the activity (when we go do something for fun!!)
  - \$200 per person for construction/work fund costs (paint, cement, photocopies for announcements, gasoline for generator...anything that we will need for work in the D.R.)
- \* Estimated cost for airfare: \$500 - \$750
- \* Estimated total cost of the trip: \$1000 - \$1250 (+ cost of passport)

**Passport Information:**

- \* EVERY STUDENT MUST HAVE A CURRENT U.S. PASSPORT!!!
- \* All pertinent information on obtaining or renewing a passport is available on the internet at <http://travel.state.gov/passport>.
- \* You must apply for your passport in person at the following locations:
  - Pinellas County Clerk of Courts (US 19)
  - Most major post offices
- \* Make sure you read ALL of the necessary forms and information that you must fill out and bring with you BEFORE you go to apply for your passport.
- \* NOTE that it takes at least 3 WEEKS for your passport to be delivered once you apply, but it is recommended that you allow 6 WEEKS, which means you cannot wait until the last minute to get your passport!
- \* Passport Fee: \$100.00 if 16 or older  
\$85.00 if younger than 16  
NOTE: There is an additional \$60.00 fee if you have to have your passport expedited (rushed).

### **What will we be doing?**

We will be serving the missionaries who are working in the Dominican Republic (Richie and Holly), which means that we will be doing whatever they need us to do. Typically that means:

- manual labor at their church
- VBS activities with the local kids
- passing out information about the church to the community
- skits, drama, puppets, crafts, music, testimonies, etc. in the community
- participation in the local church service/ youth group
- visitation & dinner with families from the church
- anything else they ask us to do

### **How can we raise money?**

There are basically three ways to raise money for this trip.

1. Support Letters: Each student will be required to send out at least 10 support letters requesting individuals (or families) to consider supporting them financially and prayerfully. Students may use the provided letter or may write their own. If writing their own, the trip leader must approve the letter before it is sent out.
2. Personal Contributions: Students are encouraged to contribute their own money towards their trip. It adds a great deal of value when they've worked hard to pay part of the trip.
3. Team Fundraisers: Students will be responsible to come up with ideas for team fundraisers and will be given a percentage of the funds raised based on the level of their participation. (Garage sale, car washes, etc.)
4. PRAY, PRAY, and PRAY some more! The economy is hurting and families are all feeling the stress of finances. But pray trusting that God will provide all the needs for this trip if it is His desire that you go. We will do everything possible to raise the money, but one of the most exciting parts of this trip will be watching God provide for your needs, most often in ways you would never have expected.

### **How will the money be handled?**

\* All money will go through CCC. All checks MUST be made out to CCC in order to be tax deductible.

\* This trip will be approached as a team, pray through as a team and carried out as a team. The money raised will be going toward a total team goal. Some students will raise it quickly and easily while others will struggle. If a student raises more than the needed amount, IT MAY NOT BE USED FOR PERSONAL SPENDING MONEY. Legally, it must be used for the trip costs and cannot be given for personal use. Therefore, if extra money is raised, it will go toward the team's total cost.

### **What should I do now?**

Pray over this decision and discuss it as a family to decide if you sense that God is leading you go. Ask Him to prepare your heart and the hearts of those you'll be ministering to. If you decide you'd like to be a part of this year's trip, submit the application and you will receive further information on the meetings over the next couple of months. Thank you for considering this trip. I am praying for you and with you!