

# Dominican Republic Impact Trip Summer 2019

High School Age Targeted Short Term Impact Team

**Where:** Dominican Republic

**When:** Departing late on the evening of Friday, July 11<sup>th</sup> and returning on Saturday July 20<sup>st</sup>

**Overview:** What is Children of the Nations (COTN) and what do they do? On this trip students will meet COTN's in-country staff, visit schools and clinics, and ask questions with the intention of discovering how they can partner with COTN in their mission. This is an opportunity to join COTN on this trip to the Dominican Republic to discover how God is mobilizing a movement of people to raise children who will transform their nations!

We suggest you visit <https://cotni.org/where-we-serve/dominican-republic> for an overview of COTN's work in the Dominican Republic.

**Lodging location:** Children of the Nations partners with The Hotel El Quemaito, situated in the coastal area of Barahona. Trip Advisor gives this hotel 4 out of 5 rating. It is a hotel with 14 rooms with the capacity to host 60 people in the whole complex. The hotel offers running water, bathrooms, electricity, generator, conference room, restaurant, air conditioner, swimming pool, Internet, and telephones. It is 3 minutes away from the Quemaito beach and 40 minutes from the COTN offices.

**What will we be doing?** Activities for the BelPres team have not been finalized. A few of our options include: Constructing bed frames for children who currently sleep on the floor; Planning and implementing one or more Quinceañeras for girls turning 15; experiencing a Cultural Immersion, an opportunity for our team to learn about Dominican culture and spend time with Dominican families, even helping with their chores; Working on a cement community floor to help keep Dominican children healthy; Repairing a house.

**What would be a normal schedule?** Itineraries will be determined by the USA Liaison in conjunction with the In-Country Directors (Edwin and Francisco). Transportation to and from the sites is scheduled along with meals. Daily devotions and evening team reflections are scheduled as well.

**What do we hope that individuals will take away from this experience?** We're hopeful that the high schoolers and their chaperones will catch a vision for long term sustainability in COTN's programs and projects, desiring to return to further move the mission forward. Our desire is that the trip is life changing for all involved. We will ask each member of the team the following ten questions after returning from their trip:

1. What did I learn about myself on my short-term impact trip?
2. What did I learn about God?
3. What did I learn about the people, the church, and the Christian community in the area where I served?
4. What did I learn about how culture impacts the ways people live and understand the gospel?
5. What did I learn about justice, economics, poverty, and politics during my short-term impact trip?
6. As a follower of Christ, what did I learn that can help me be a more fully devoted disciple?
7. How might my faith be different if I had grown up where I was serving, as opposed to in my home community?
8. What did I learn or experience that will change the way I live and represent Jesus in my home community and church?
9. What have I learned about my own Christian calling?
10. How can I continue to support the ongoing work in the area where I served?

## **Costs**

The total cost of this trip will be between **\$2200 - \$2500**. Students will be required to write support letters and participate in a several fundraisers. Final payment will be due **July 7<sup>th</sup>**. The Family Life Department will be sending out a statement showing how much support you have raised, what your balance due is for the trip, and your payment options by July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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Personal expenses: \$40-50 for meals in route, \$25-30 to spend in the Dominican Republic (of course these numbers are general and so please adjust per personal needs...)

## **Important Dates:**

**Support Letter Draft Due: February 24**

**Support letters mailed by BelPres on or before March 17**

**First meeting February 2, 11:30, for lunch followed by Meal Packing Marathon (1-4pm)**

**Training Days: March 17, May 19, June 9, and July 7 (12:30-2pm)**

**Fundraising Days: March 8, May 3 and June 21**

**Commissioning: July 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Final Meeting: Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup> (12:30-2pm)**

## **Writing checks towards the Dominican Republic Trip**

We want to clearly state our policy around any payments towards this trip that you may make. **Be sure you note how to write your checks and write your deposit check accordingly.**

Your payments for the DR Trip 2019 will be considered a 'donation' – They are non-refundable but charitable acceptable (in other words, tax deductible). They go toward the Dominican Republic Trip general fund and have a preference to your student (the term 'preference' means you prefer it benefit your student but understand it will otherwise benefit the trip in general).

### **TO WRITE YOUR CHECK:**

Make it payable to **Bellevue Presbyterian** and either write "**preference and your student's name**" (that word *preference* is key) or leave your student's name off the check entirely. It is also ok to simply write Dominican Republic trip in the memo line.

## **PREPARE YOURSELF**

We request that you spend time before your trip preparing yourself spiritually. If you are grounded in the truth, life's big surprises both good and bad will not catch you off guard.

Ask God what He wants to show you during this mission experience. Much of what you get out of your experience is determined by how much you put into it. To help mentally equip you for the trip we have devised a list of what to bring/expect.

**IMITATE GOD'S EXAMPLE IN EVERYTHING YOU DO, BECAUSE YOU ARE HIS DEAR CHILDREN. LIVE A LIFE FILLED WITH LOVE FOR OTHERS, FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST. EPHESIANS 5:1-2**

## KNOW THAT YOU WILL ENCOUNTER

- Frustration (especially with the language)
- Too much time spent on bus syndrome
- Bad roads
- Rice and beans and other unfamiliar foods
- The love of God
- Communion with other brothers and sisters in Christ
- Heat
- Rain
- Chaos
- Noise
- Unique worship experiences

### Learn Some Phrases In Spanish

"Tuanis" = Cool

"Mucho Gusto" = Nice to Meet You

"Con Mucho Gusto" = You're Welcome

"Buenos Dias" = Good Morning

"Buenas Tardes" = Good Afternoon

"Buenas Noches" = Good Night

"Gracias" = Thank You

"Dios le (les) Bendiga" = God Bless You

## PACKING INFORMATION

### LUGGAGE REQUIREMENTS:

Due to Airline regulations students will be allowed 1 **carry-on** and 1 **checked** bag. Students who choose to bring an extra bag will be responsible for any cost associated with their bag. (Additional bags cost \$40 each way)

**NOTE: Do not bring expensive items! The church is not responsible for replacing lost or damaged items! Please don't bring anything that you cannot afford to lose!**

### WHAT TO BRING:

sweatshirt/sweater	after work t-shirts	soap/shampoo
light jacket or fleece	after work shorts	Bible
t-shirts for work	and/or pants	pen
long pants for work	presentable clothes for	work gloves
hat for shade	church	sunscreen
work shoes	sandals	bug repellent
socks	towel	sunglasses
sleepwear	washcloth	*ATM/debit card
underwear	toiletries	

\*We will hold cards with the passports unless students are in a place where they will be using them. Having a card will mean students do not need to carry significant cash

Passports **MUST** be delivered to Karen Bergevin on or before July 7<sup>th</sup>  
(bring them to the team meeting on July 7<sup>th</sup> at the latest)

Please Do Not Bring:  
Weapons, tobacco, drugs or alcohol