



**MISSION POSSIBLE**

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Equipping the Next Generation of Christ Centered Leaders

Team Member Guide

**Dominican Republic - Frequently Asked Questions**

**Will we be able to buy souvenirs?**

Yes. Our staff will invite individuals into the school to sell souvenirs. These individuals are known by our staff, have quality products, and will use the funds received in an appropriate manner.

Souvenirs can be purchased at the airport or the market if you desire to do so. We suggest that you purchase airport souvenirs at your departure so that you do not have to transport and care for them during your time in-country.

We will also offer an opportunity for you to order coffee or vanilla.

Do not purchase any souvenirs on the street.

**How should I respond to adults or children begging for money (or anything)?**

As you know, nothing should be given directly to any Dominican.

When asked, respond with:

“No. I am not going to give you anything.”

You will probably have to repeat this several times and the beggar will continue to ask. Be firm. Be loving. Show that you care, but do not give anything. You will probably have to end up ignoring the pleas. It will be hard, but state your “no” and hold your ground.

**Should I give a tip or gift to those hosting us?**

No. We have compensated all Dominicans that have provided care and services to the team.

If you were to tip or gift one, the others will assume that they should be tipped or gifted too. Also, to tip or gift one may cause an embarrassing situation for them if others are not receiving.

No tipping or gifting please.

**Should I let people help me with my bags at the airport?**

We have arranged for baggage help at the airport. Your team leader will know who is authorized to help. Always check with your team leader about baggage handling at the airport.

**What kind of vehicles will we be riding in?**

We will ride in vans or a big bus (guagud). Transportation is arranged for us by our leaders in the DR.

**Can I wear flip-flops, sandals, or open toe shoes?**

Please wear closed toe shoes at all times when you are off the school or hotel sites. This is for your safety and personal hygiene.

Flip-flops or sandals can be worn at the school or hotel, but bugs can be an issue. Always check with your team leader as to what is appropriate for the day.

Bring an extra pair of shoes in case you have your primary pair gets wet or muddy.

**Who can I share our travel arrangements with?**

Limit the number of people that you tell specific travel information. While in the DR, be vague on the travel schedule. This is for security reasons. We don't want word to get out that the team or sub-team is traveling here or there at a certain time. We want you to be safe and keeping travel schedules quiet is a great help.

**Can I be contacted in the DR if there is an emergency at home?**

Yes. Our staff in the DR is equipped with cell phones and can be reached at any time. It is best to let us know if you may have a situation at home that would call for contact with you while in-country.

**If an emergency situation occurs at home, can I get home earlier than expected?**

We would do the best we can to help you in your situation. Note that there are limited flights to and from the DR, and the school is four hours from the airport.

**Will the team travel together to the airport?**

These arrangements are made at the team level. Some team members may be coming from different parts of the country and will most likely join together at the Miami airport. Those team members that are from the same area are more than welcome to travel to and from the airport together.

**Can we swim in the ocean?**

Yes, but only under the supervision of the team leader. The team leader will let you know which beach is open and appropriate for swimming. Remember that swim suits must be modest. Ladies' suits must be one piece.

### **What is the food like?**

If the team is staying at the school, they will be preparing the majority of their own food. So to answer this question, it will be similar to what you have at home. If the team stays at the hotel, the food there is very good.

### **Can I drink the water?**

Only drink the water provided at the school or hotel. Water from the sinks, showers, or places outside should not enter your mouth for any reason (drinking, brushing teeth, or rinsing your mouth). You should bring a water bottle so that you can fill it at the start of the day to have available as you perform your mission. If you will be on a labor intensive worksite, drinkable water will be available for you. If you question whether water is safe to drink, always ask the team leader.

### **How big are the bugs and mosquitoes?**

The number of bugs and mosquitoes varies throughout the year. We can check closer to trip time and get a bug update. It is always good to bring insect repellent.

### **Will my valuables be secure at the School?**

The Mission Possible and its staff work to maintain a secure and safe place for you and your things. The sleeping facilities are locked during the day and valuables left in the sleeping rooms are safe. Passports do not have to be carried with you all the time.

### **Is there electricity?**

Yes. The Mission has a generator that will be run when the team is on the grounds. Batteries for cameras or other electronic devices can be charged during the evening. Electrical outlets and voltage is the same as in the US and Canada. There is no need to bring converters. Commercial electricity in the DR is sporadic at best. This is why we have generators to supply electricity.

### **Can I bring a video camera?**

Yes, but remember that you are responsible for it. Bigger video cameras attract attention and run the risk of being stolen. Always remember to be discrete in your picture taking. If you were out in your driveway washing your car and a group of foreign tourists came up and starting video taping you, what would you think? It is polite to ask permission when video taping or taking pictures.

**Will we do individual devotions or group devotions?**

Probably both. Morning is a good time to start the day with personal time with God. The evening seems to be a good time to talk about the day, share where you have seen God at work and close the day in prayer, praise and conversation.

**What kind of stuff should I bring with me as we minister in-country?**

When you travel about in-country, always have a water bottle with you and consider one that you can wear on your hip so that your hands can be free while walking or riding to your destination. There is always clean water available for you at the school or hotel.

You may also want to bring a fanny pack or small back pack for your camera, little snack, some hand sanitizer, tissue, sun screen, hat, etc. Remember to keep your pack light as you travel around in-country and, again, use a pack that keeps your hands free for travel and work.

The students love bubbles. If your team will be interacting with students, pack a bottle or two to use for play.

**Will there be free time to relax?**

Yes, each team will have a unique schedule, but each team leader will allow for free time for rest, conversation, and fun. Team schedules will vary based on the mission of the team. Check with your team leader for a tentative, daily schedule.

**What are some common Spanish phrases I could learn?**