



Bethesda HSM Missions

Haiti 2012 Information

EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE AND REBUILDING

In January of 2010, a violent earthquake shook the most populated area of Haiti, and the world watched in horror as the media revealed the widescale death and destruction. Already the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti had no way to recover on its own. In the following months, numerous volunteers and millions of dollars poured in to assist the relief efforts, yet the needs still outnumbered the resources. Today, many of the relief organizations have left, yet the country remains in shambles. Large piles of rubble have yet to be cleared, and trash clutters the streets. In the Port-Au-Prince region, unemployment hovers at a staggering 80%, and thousands of people continue to dwell in tent cities. Nearly, everyone on the street is bearing the pain of a lost loved one, and countless children still wander the streets. Nevertheless, there is hope in the midst of struggle. Experience Mission partners with a group of young Haitians called Yung Goddis who are actively serving their community in the midst of formidable challenges. We invite you to come to Haiti so that you too can bring hope to those who are hurting. When you come you will be a tangible picture of God's love to the Haitian people. This could be carrying buckets of rubble, swinging a hammer, mixing cement, or nailing down a roof. It might be simply listening to someone's story or sharing your own. Perhaps it is praying with someone or playing with the children. Whatever it may be, on your mission trip you will labor, toil, and build relationships. You will personally have a part in meeting real needs. God will use you, and you will never be the same.

The Organization: Experience:Mission (www.experienmission.org)

The Dates: Sat July 15 – Sun July 22

The Cost: \$550 + airfare (\$700?) + passport/shots/travel food

The Process:

- Pray pray pray as a family about God's plan for your spring and summer and where a mission trip to Haiti fits in to that plan!
- Complete the Youth Mission Application form and turn it in to Chad by December 1 with your non-refundable deposit of \$100 (if possible). The deposit will confirm your commitment to the team! I understand this seems early but I need to reserve our spot and we start fundraising in December.
- Mark all of the Fundraising Event dates on your calendar!
- Attend the first meeting on Sunday, January 8th and have any forms/deposits needed.
- Prepare to send out your support letters by creating a support list and gathering addresses. You will be required to send out a certain amount of letters and follow up on them.

Bethesda HSM Mission Trip: Haiti 2012

Q: Where will I stay while in Haiti?

A: You will stay in a local church and school

Q: Is the place where we are staying safe?

A: Yes. While there is always risk when traveling abroad, we do our very best to provide safe and secure housing facilities. The place where you will be staying is a walled building with a lockable gate. We will have trusted locals staying there to guard the facilities.

Q: How will I know where to go at the airport? Who will I meet?

A: The week prior to your departure we will send you specific, detailed instructions of how to go through customs & where to meet our staff at the airport. The Port Au Prince airport is pretty small and easy to maneuver. We will also provide you with a phone number of our staff member on the ground that you can call should you get lost. *When arriving in Haiti, we ask that you do not wear matching shirts that will identify you as a team. It can bring unwanted attention to you and your group.

Q: Will the items I bring be safe while we are working?

A: Yes. Your bedding and luggage etc... will be housed in a secure location; however, we strongly recommend that you do not bring anything of real value with you to Haiti as there is always a risk that things can be lost or stolen when traveling. If you do bring things like cameras, phones, etc...you do so at your own risk and we strongly recommend that you keep these valuables and any extra cash on your person at all times.

Q: Will I sleep on the floor?

A: Yes. You will sleep on the ground in a school building. Your team will need sleeping pads and your own bedding.

Q: Are there showers & toilet facilities?

A: Yes. There is 1 shower with running water for each gender. Showers will be limited and team member should NOT plan on showering every day. Extra camping type "sun" showers will be brought in for larger teams. There are restrooms with flushing toilets.

Q: Will there be electricity?

A: Yes. There will be electricity where you are staying, however, it is not reliable and frequently goes out. Each team member should bring a head lamp or flashlight with extra batteries and should pack it in an accessible location.

Q: Will the food be clean and safe?

A: Yes. We take extra precautions to ensure that the food will be safe. When appropriate, food will be boiled, washed with bleach water or food safe antibacterial wash to kill any random bacteria.

Q: Will there be clean water to drink?

A: Yes. Purified bottled drinking water will be provided for all team members at the lodging location and during the day at the worksites and ministry sites.

Q: Can I walk around the area where we are staying or working on my own?

A: No. We strongly recommend that no one leave the lodging facilities, worksite or ministry locations at any time unless accompanied by an Experience Mission staff member or a trusted local who is recommended by an EM staff.

Q: What is the cell phone coverage like?

A: Some cell phone companies do have service in Haiti. For an additional charge, you can add a temporary international calling plan to your phone. Each team member should check with their respective cell phone carrier about service and plans. We encourage teams to have at least one team member with an international plan.

Q: Is there internet access?

A: No. Internet access is very limited and teams should not expect to be able to access it.

Q: What is the weather like?

A: Weather tends to be very hot and humid, but this varies each season. For a more accurate & current weather report please check www.weather.com.

Q: What shots & immunizations do I need to get?

A: Because there has been so much devastation in Haiti, the presence of disease is an important thing to consider. In addition to being up to date on all childhood vaccinations and boosters, we strongly recommend all participants check with the Center for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov) and their local physician and closely follow their directions for recommended shots & immunizations.

Q: Do I need to purchase additional Travel Insurance?

A. Every team member must provide proof of medical insurance. All applicants should check with their personal medical insurance provider regarding international coverage. If your personal insurance will not cover you, Experience Mission strongly recommends purchasing additional travel insurance.

Short-term Travel Insurance can be purchased separately through a local insurance company. If you cannot obtain Travel Insurance through a local provider, upon team registration we will direct you to a link for "Travel Insurance" on our website. This link will connect you and your team members to "Group International Travel Solutions," which is a travel insurance company.

Q: Are there any extra fees that I should be aware of?

A: Yes, there is an exit fee of \$25 to leave Haiti. Some airlines include this fee in the price of your ticket. Check with your airline regarding this.

Q: Are there any age limits for participants going to Haiti?

A: Yes. At this time, the age limit for participants is High School age and older.

* If you have an adult team member who would like to bring their mature junior high age child, proper permission must be obtained from Experience Mission beforehand.

Q: How physically tasking will the work be?

A: Our main focus currently is to help remove the enormous amount of rubble left after the Earthquake. We will use strong arms and backs, shovels, buckets, wheelbarrows, and more to remove the rubble. This will involve hard physical labor and we encourage team members to take breaks when needed and so as not to become over exhausted. Each piece of rubble removed, whether it be large or small, is one piece closer to rebuilding Haiti.

Q: Do I need to bring any tools?

A: We ask that each person bring 1-2 pairs of strong, sturdy work gloves and closed toed shoes are required. You do not need to bring any other tools at this time.

General EM FAQ's

Frequently Asked Questions About Experience Mission

Q: Is Experience Mission affiliated with a denomination?

A: Experience Mission is an interdenominational organization and is not directly affiliated with any specific denomination. Participants from all denominations are welcome on our mission trips; please see our statement of faith and core values located at our website www.experienccmission.org for more information about our beliefs.

Q: Will we be working with other groups?

A: If your team does not fill the trip to its full capacity, there is a good possibility that you will be working with other teams. Teams should plan to eat together, have evening program together and share sleeping quarters and bathroom facilities. Typically teams are not combined on the worksites however sometimes we find it necessary to mix teams due to the size or scope of the project. If teams are mixed at the worksite an adult from each team will be a part of that mix to provide oversight for their team members. If the occasion arises where the additional team desiring to come on the selected trip is comprised of ages other than the original team that registered, that original team will be notified.

Q: How many people do we need to run a trip?

A: The minimum number of people that we can run a trip for is normally 15 people. If your team has less than 15 people we will work with you to place you on a trip that is already partially filled. If you have less than 15 people please contact us before purchasing tickets or registering your team so that we can work out these details with you.

Q: Can I create a custom trip?

A: If you would like schedule a custom week exclusively for your team, please contact our office so that we can discuss your options.

Q: What adult to student ratio do you recommend?

A: To ensure that your students have the best possible trip, it is highly important for them to have the right amount of leadership. For Senior High teams, the recommended minimum student to adult ratio is 7:1. That's Seven students to each adult leader. You can have more leaders if you desire to. For Junior High teams, the required minimum student to adult ratio is 5:1. That's Five students to each adult leader. You can have more leaders if you desire to.

Q: Is transportation included?

A: International Trips - Upon arrival to your international location, all transportation is included. Team members are responsible to cover the booking and cost of their round trip airfare to the destination airport.

Q: Who will lead my trip?

A: An Experience Mission staff team of 1-3 people will be in your community to lead your team. These staff members are normally present in the community throughout most of the summer and work alongside EM's Community Partners there to ensure that trips runs as smoothly as possible. EM Staff take care of vital details like making sure your team has projects and materials, making sure that food is prepared, that housing and bathrooms are ready and handling any other logistical details that may arise.

Q: Are there any additional expenses for my team?

A: All basic necessities such as food, housing, major work project materials and Kids Club curriculum are included in your trip fee. All in-country transportation is covered in our international locations with the exception of Tecate, Mexico.

Q: What time should I plan to arrive and depart?

A: For teams traveling to Haiti, you should book your flight to arrive between 10am-1pm on the first day of your selected trip and book flights to depart between 8am - 12pm on the last day of your trip

Q: What is the "Evening Gathering"

A: The "Evening Gathering" is a time set aside in the evening for worship, prayer, and a short message led by our staff. It normally lasts between 30-60 minutes. Following this, there will be additional time for individual teams to meet together to share, debrief, have fun and deal with team issues. We make this time a priority for you to spend with your team. You are free to lead your team in a time of worship and devotions of your choosing in place of "Evening Gathering".

Health & Safety

EM's Health & Safety plan provides the following:

Staff certification: All Summer Staff are certified in First Aid and CPR.

Medical kits: Medical kits that include first-aid supplies for general accidents and ailments are provided for each site. In international locations, we will also carry a Trauma Kit or First Responder Kit. In these remote locations we will have medications like Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Benadryl and Imodium on hand. We make these available to adult team leaders for their sole discretionary use with their team members. EM Staff will not dispense any medications. In our domestic locations, we ask that teams supply their own medications like Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Benadryl and Imodium as they deem necessary.

Emergency response plan: Based on the severity of each emergency, EM has a plan for appropriate response.

- If a team member becomes seriously ill, they will be taken to a local doctor to receive appropriate medical attention and medications. If they are a minor, their Team Leader along with our staff will accompany them to the clinic. If needed, their parents will be contacted. Their recovery will be carefully monitored by our staff.
- If there is an accident that requires a doctor, but is not life threatening and does not have the potential to cause permanent damage, Experience Mission staff will locate the Team Leader, contact parents or guardians (providing the injured is a minor) and provide safe but quick transportation to a local clinic.
- In the event that an accident occurs which is life threatening or has the potential for permanent damage, emergency medical care will be secured and arrangements will be made if necessary, to transport the injured person to the United States as quickly as possible providing they are serving in one of our International locations. In our domestic locations, local 911 services will be contacted immediately. The family will be contacted immediately to assist in guidance for appropriate response.

All medical care is the sole responsibility of the team member. Experience Mission requires every team member to be covered by domestic medical insurance and recommends that team members traveling abroad carry additional international travel insurance to cover any medical needs their domestic medical insurance may not cover.

Immunizations: As with all mission trips, it is essential that volunteers are up to date on all childhood immunizations. Each volunteer must also have a tetanus shot.

For a more information about health concerns and recommended immunizations, you can visit the CDC travelers guide to Haiti. You should consult your local doctor prior to receiving any immunizations.