



HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP -

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - JUNE 13-19, 2026

The Dominican Republic is situated on the island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean. Hispaniola is the second largest island in the Caribbean behind Cuba. Home to 10 million residents, the Dominican Republic shares the island with Haiti to the West. While the Dominican Republic has seen growth in recent history due to a boom in the tourism industry, 50% of the rural population are still considered to be living in extreme poverty. **Servant Life** is excited to partner here to help transform these impoverished communities of the Dominican Republic with the good news of Christ.

We are partnering with a Dominican-led ministry organization focused on sustainable community development work in the impoverished regions of the Dominican Republic. Their vision is to “transform the marginalized and vulnerable communities with the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,” which is accomplished through local church partnerships. Short-term teams will work in conjunction with churches in this network to host youth and children's day camps such as VBS, organize and run evangelistic community-wide block parties, go door-to-door to engage in prayer and evangelism, help with food distribution initiatives, and even participate in light construction projects.

COST: \$650 + Airfare (approx. \$1,000-\$1,500)

DEPOSIT: \$250 due 2/21/2026

AIRFARE DUE: 3/21/26

FINAL BALANCE DUE: 5/6/2026

CURRENT PASSPORT DUE: 3/21/26

International airfare varies greatly and is dependent on many factors such as time of booking, dates of travel, and country of destination. Land cost is all-inclusive. *Trip participants applying within 30 days of the date of departure are required to pay a \$200.00 late application fee.

****LIMITED TO 20 PARTICIPANTS****

Oneighty Mission Trips are considered *leadership events* and students are held to a higher standard to attend. To qualify for the High School Mission Trips, students must have three of the five:

1. Current High School Student 2025-26
2. 75% Attendance of Sunday morning LG in 2025-26
3. Attended 180 Weekend 2026
4. Registered for Summer Camp 2026
5. 75% Attendance of Wednesday Nights in 2025-26

LETTER TO PARTICIPANT

Thank you for heeding the call of Christ on your life and participating in this life-changing experience. Experiencing how The Lord is working around the world can forever alter your world-view. Short-term mission experiences allow Americans to catch a glimpse of how the rest of the world lives, teaching us to view that culture through the eyes of Christ. We begin to see not just physical poverty or a lack of infrastructure, but a deep need for a Savior.

We at Servant Life desire for you to live a life worthy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as Paul commands us in Philippians 1:27. We desire for you to live out the Great Commission, in which Jesus commands those who follow him to “make disciples” (Matthew 28:18-20). The purpose of this trip is to “make disciples”, but don’t let that cause anxiety or fear! After all, Jesus tells us clearly, “Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” That’s a promise to which you should cling.

Disciple-making is about sharing life in Christ. It’s that simple. Share your ransomed life in Christ with everyone you encounter and allow the Spirit to do the work of changing hearts. It is God who works through you and God who gets all the glory; we are simply faithful instruments of his plans and purposes.

We have prepared this field manual to equip you for the task ahead and help you navigate the important questions you have about your experience. As always, we are available and willing to answer any questions you have, via email, phone, twitter, or any other means of communication. Thanks for partnering with us to change the world.

In Christ,

The Servant Life Team

The Week at a Glance

Sample Daily Schedule

<u>Day 1</u>	<u>Day 2-6</u>	<u>Day 7</u>
Arrive in the Dominican Republic	7:30 AM - Devotional	Off day. For no additional cost, visit the market or the beach. At \$40, be chartered to an island and have a fun meal there.
Get connected with the Integral Christian Mission staff	8:00 AM - Breakfast	
Drive to and settle into your living area for the week	9:30 AM - Work at mission site	
	1:30 PM - Lunch	
	2:30 PM - Continue at mission site	
	7:00 PM - Dinner	
	8:00 PM - Team Meeting	
		<u>Day 8</u>
		Depart from the Dominican Republic

Please keep in mind that this is just a **sample** schedule. Your group might be asked to leave earlier in the morning, work later in the afternoon, and lunch and dinner likely won't be exactly at these times. Remember how important it is to **be flexible**.

Activities

Vacation Bible School

It is very likely that for 4 afternoons in a row, you will be doing a Vacation Bible School. These VBS sessions might be carried out among in different communities, so you may be able to repeat some curriculum. Come prepared with Bible lessons, crafts, games, and songs. There could be upwards of 90-120 children, so plan accordingly! Candy can be brought to give to the children every day.

Note: Servant Life also offers helpful Vacation Bible School guides for your group to use.

Light Construction

In addition to meeting the spiritual needs of the community, you will have the opportunity to

provide physical support as well. This might involve painting, landscaping, cleaning, upkeep, and other forms of labor. Residents will be drawn to your ministry when they see that you are helping to transform and develop their community.

Clothing and Food Distribution

You may have the opportunity to participate in food and clothing distribution. This is another great opportunity for your team to help meet the physical needs of the community.

Home Visits

Your group may have the opportunity to visit homes of some of the community or church members. Most of the time, regardless of the size or condition of their homes, people will be thrilled and honored to host you as visitors. You may have the opportunity to encourage believers, pray with them, and even share Christ with nonbelievers.

Lodging

Your team will either be staying in a hotel with 2 beds and 4 to a room, or in a camp style room with twin beds for everyone. We will be able to let you know a month or two prior as to which location your group will be staying so that you can pack accordingly. We encourage you to bring your own towel, regardless of where you are staying. However, you will only need linens if your group is staying at the camp. Each day, the Integral Christian Mission staff will help you travel back and forth between your lodging and your ministry site in the city.

Translators and volunteers The missionaries have a team of translators for the sole purpose of facilitating communication at the mission site and during VBS. Translators are volunteers and are rotated among the different groups. Translators are aware and instructed regarding appropriate and respectful contact with the mission team and their leaders: *We do not recommend any exchange of personal information or social media between the teams and the volunteers.* We are not responsible if team members or volunteers keep contact after the mission trip is concluded.

Trip Expectations

What are your expectations for this missions experience?

By now you have probably spent some time imagining what your mission trip will be like. You have thought about what the culture will look like, how the food will taste, what type of work you will be doing, and many other aspects of your trip.

There is nothing wrong with having expectations, but we have to hold on to them loosely. Mission trips never go exactly as planned and foreigners often have a difficult time imagining what life in another country, or even a sub-culture in their own country, will be like before they experience it. There is a good chance that many of your expectations will not be a reality, especially if this is your first time serving in another context.

It is crucial to begin a mission trip with proper expectations. Consider this equation: if **(Expectations $\neq$ Reality)**; then **(Reality = Frustration)**. Don't spend the first few days of your trip unlearning what you expected to be true prior to the trip and getting frustrated as a result. But even worse, you could miss the point of the trip altogether.

The purpose of missions is to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ. Therefore, you should expect:

To serve missionaries and the local church

- Making disciples takes longer than a week, therefore, Servant Life partners with missionaries and the local churches to create long-term ministry strategies. Making-disciples is about sharing life in Christ with others. A short-term team can establish great initial connections or even deepen the faith of the local church, but the ministry must extend past the 7-10 days your team is on the ground. In order to make disciples, we support the missionaries and the local church in their mission.
- In Matthew 20:28, Jesus tells us that, *"the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."* This is what we are called to do as those who follow Christ. We are not heroes coming to save the world in a week. We come humbly with a heart to serve the Church in the way that will best help them in their ministry.

This heart of service may lead you to cleaning toilets, washing clothes, or mopping floors, but know that, *"whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."* (Colossians 3:23-24)

To share your faith

- As we "go and make disciples" we must proclaim the Good News.
 - For *"everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, *"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"* (Romans 10:13-15)
- We must be sent and preach so the nations will believe and call on the name of The Lord for salvation.

To experience difficulty

- In John 16:33 Jesus says, *"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."* We are promised difficulty in this world. Since the fall of man this world has been warring against man. When we take mission trips, we do not escape the the sin of this world. In fact, when the Church is proclaiming the Gospel we often enter dark places and Satan is working much harder to distract us. Go into this trip expecting to experience difficulty, but know that our God is bigger than delayed flights, broken down vehicles, the weather, or any other obstacle that you may encounter.

To grow

- We have never known a person to leave a mission experience the same as they began it. Mission trips can forever alter your world-view as you become aware of the physical, spiritual, and social needs of the world. Expect to grow in your knowledge of the world you live in. Expect to grow in your love for The Lord and His people. Expect to be changed.

Pray that God will give you proper expectations for your missions experience. Pray daily throughout the trip that He will give you wisdom and discernment to handle everything that comes your way. Trust that He will never leave you, nor forsake you.

"Be still and know that I am God"
(Psalm 46:10)

Servant Life Mission Principles

Servant Life seeks to equip and encourage trip participants as you prepare for your experience. Outlined below you will find a list of character traits along with Scripture references. As you begin to process the attitude and posture of your heart and prepare for the trip, pray the Lord will supply you with these Christ-like traits.

1. Humility

- Go with a humble heart attuned to the Lord's plans for the trip, not your own agenda. You are not going to "fix" anything, but rather to selflessly serve alongside the long-term missionary partners. Fervently pray against pride creeping into your heart.
 - *Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. {Philippians 2:3-4}*
 - *When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom. {Proverbs 11:2}*

2. Flexibility

- A mission experience exposes you to different cultures, which often times means the schedule isn't always predictable. Having a "go with the flow" attitude is crucial, as plans may change from day to day. Flexibility allows you to continually find joy in each circumstance.
 - *I desire to do your will, my God; your law is within my heart. {Psalm 40:8}*
 - *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. {1 Thessalonians 5:16-18}*

3. Patience

- Patience is key as you encounter new people, places and cultures. Things may not always go as planned, and communication with locals may not always be as easy. Pray for the Lord to equip you with an attitude that is slow to speak and quick to listen.
 - *Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger. {James 1:19}*
 - *May God who gives patience, steadiness, and encouragement help you to live in complete harmony with each other – each with the attitude of Christ toward the other. {Romans 15:5}*

4. Perseverance

- You may experience unfamiliar or difficult situations while serving; therefore perseverance is important. The Lord will supply you with the strength to make it through each and every circumstance.
 - *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. {Galatians 6:9}*
 - *Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. {James 1:12}*

5. Love

- Love is central to each and every character trait that a Christ-follower embodies through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Love always, often, deeply, sacrificially, selflessly, and unconditionally.
 - *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. {1 Corinthians 13:4-5}*
 - *And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. {Colossians 3:14}*

Frequently Asked Questions

How will my airfare be handled?

Servant Life offers to book all airfare through our travel agency. If you're traveling in a group, everyone on your team should travel together. We book group airline tickets and cannot always accommodate special requests for different individual flights, but please ask us if you have exceptions and we will see how we can help. Due to commitments to our missionaries to have groups there on set dates, trip dates may not be flexible. Once a ticket has been purchased in your name, it must be paid for regardless of circumstances. All tickets are non-refundable and non-transferable.

If I have a frequent flyer program, can I use those miles to cover my plane ticket?

Possibly. We cannot guarantee which airline your team will use, as we are watching for competitive pricing and schedules. Please contact Servant Life if you are interested in learning more about using frequent flyer miles on a mission trip.

When do I need to get a passport?

If you do not already have a passport, we encourage you to apply for one as soon as possible. The amount of time it takes to get a passport can vary, and we cannot book plane tickets without a copy of each person's passport. Any costs associated with obtaining a passport are solely your responsibility. You can download a passport application and read instructions on obtaining a passport online at www.travel.state.gov/passport.

*Please note that your passport's expiration date should be at least 6 months after your trip ends.

What immunizations do I need to get?

Immunizations and any costs related to them are the sole responsibility of the trip participant. All childhood immunizations must be complete (measles, mumps, rubella, polio, diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus). We also HIGHLY advise any immunizations recommended by your physician and/or the CDC for the area of travel. Both Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B are strongly recommended for all international travel. It is solely the traveler's responsibility to obtain information on required/recommended travel immunizations and travel precautions for the area. The CDC website is www.cdc.gov and has up-to-date information on immunizations for every country.

Am I serving alone or as part of a team?

You will be part of a Servant Life team, which can be made up of groups and/or individual participants. If you are registering alone, you will join the team at a domestic or international airport, and stay and work with them for the remainder of the trip.

Is there any supervision?

Servant Life trips are led by our in-country missionary partners. This partner serves as the host and leader for your team from the time you land in-country at the airport until you depart at the end of the mission experience.

How safe are these trips?

Servant Life makes every effort to keep you safe during your entire experience with us. We carefully evaluate each location before sending a team, and work with partners in the country who are familiar with the area in which you will be staying and working. We research and plan the safest places for you to eat, stay, work and play.

Who will my team work with?

All teams work with established missionary partners in the Servant Life network. These are either missionaries or ministry leaders who have a history of service in the country and programs that fit with the mission of Servant Life. To read more about the mission partners in our global network, visit servantlife.com.

Who do my parents call in case of an emergency?

If an emergency arises where your parent needs to reach you, they may reach out to you directly or to your group leader who is overseeing your trip. If they are unable to reach you or someone on your team, please have them contact Servant Life, and we will work closely with our mission partners to be able to connect you.

Will I be able to call home and email while on the field?

Access to phone calls and email may be limited, and varies from location to location. In the event of an emergency, Servant Life will contact your church immediately. So remember that no news is good news!

Is a visa required for my trip?

No, but there is an entry fee of \$10 per person. In recent years, this has been rolled into your airfare and no longer has to be paid in person at the airport.

Will I receive any training?

Aside from this manual, Servant Life has a 4 session training manual that can be found on the online PrepCenter. We highly encourage you to complete the Servant Life training, or a different training through your church. And other training will take place with the ministry partner once your team arrives at your destination.

Is there anything not covered in my trip cost?

The only expenses not covered in your trip cost are meals in airports on travel days, any souvenirs that you may wish to purchase while in country, and any expenses related to obtaining a passport and immunizations.

General Packing List

Baggage policies are based on airline regulations and subject to change. Please visit your airline's website for their latest baggage policies.

Clothing

- ☐ Lightweight clothing for hot weather, such as athletic shorts and t-shirts
- ☐ Pants and shorts that you do not mind getting dirty
- ☐ One outfit that can and should be reused for activities that will cause you to get extremely dirty/muddy
- ☐ Shorts (at least fingertip length or longer)
- ☐ T-shirts – No tank tops
- ☐ Worship clothes can be casual.
- ☐ Comfortable shoes (an extra pair of tennis shoes that can be possibly thrown away at the end of the trip)
- ☐ Flip flops for use in the showers
- ☐ Bathing suit (use discretion)
- ☐ Hat
- ☐ Raincoat/Poncho
- ☐ Girls: it's a good idea to bring a couple of long skirts

Toiletries

- ☐ Basic Personal toiletries – toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, feminine items, etc.
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Disinfectant hand gel
- ☐ Dramamine/Gas X/Antacids/Imodium/Tylenol (as needed)
- ☐ Baby Wipes/Kleenex
- ☐ Chapstick with Sunscreen
- ☐ Aloe vera – for sunburn relief

Other

- ☐ Passport (place in your carry-on bag and have a copy in your checked bag)
- ☐ Linens (if needed; Servant Life will let you know as trip gets closer)
- ☐ Towels
- ☐ Bible, Journal and Pens
- ☐ Camera
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Work gloves
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Snacks
- ☐ Water bottle

*Keep in mind that there are no laundry facilities available for team use.

Arrival and Departure

You will be able to follow the flow of the crowd as you proceed through the airport in Dominican Republic, but we've also given you specific information to help this process go as smoothly as possible.

Arrival

Starting 72 hours before arrival in the Dominican Republic, each person should visit <https://viajerodigital.mitur.gob.do/english/> to record their entry data digitally. You are considered a tourist by the DR government so you can list that as your reason for entering the country. You don't have anything to declare unless you brought something LIVE over, such as an animal or plant (and we hope you didn't!). You will receive a QR code that you will be asked to present as you go through customs. The address you should put on your customs form is:

Calle 13 Edificio No. 1
Urbanizacion Juan Pablo Duarte
Santo Domingo

Follow signs to exit/customs once you get off the plane. To proceed to the customs area, a worker will review your QR Code. Once you process through, you'll be able to claim your luggage and proceed to the exit.

Upon exiting, there will be an Integral Christian Mission staff member waiting for you as well!

Departure

On Departure each person will need to visit the same <https://viajerodigital.mitur.gob.do/english/> site in order to receive your exist QR code. Customs and border control officials will request to see this from each person. Same as on entry, you are considered a tourist by the DR government.

COUNTRY INFORMATION

Dominican Republic

Population

Estimated to be 11.12 million people

Capital City

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Language

The primary language spoken is Spanish.

Primary Religion

The main religion/denomination in the Dominican Republic is Christianity, specifically Catholicism.

Time Zone

Dominican Republic is in the Atlantic Time Zone (UTC-04:00).

Currency

The currency used in the Dominican Republic is the Dominican Peso (DOP). United States dollars and Euros are also accepted at most tourist sites. As of July 2023, the currency rate was one US dollar to 55.76 Dominican Pesos.

Safety

Servant Life makes every effort to keep you safe during your entire experience with us. We carefully evaluate each location before sending a team, and work with partners in the country who are familiar with the area in which you will be staying and working. We research and plan the safest places for you to eat, stay, work and play. In general, you should always be cautious and aware of your surroundings when you are traveling internationally.

Food

The food in the Dominican Republic consists of typical Caribbean fare, with a lot of tropical fruits, rice, beans, and seafood. All of your meals, except for those while traveling, will be provided while you're in country.



Water

Do not drink anything that has not been pre-approved by the missionaries. Tap water, fruits and foods rinsed in tap water, and ice should be avoided. Bottled or purified water will be provided for you and should be used for drinking as well as brushing your teeth.

Weather

The climate of the Dominican Republic is mostly tropical. The average yearly temperature is 77 degrees. At higher elevations, the temperature averages at 64 degrees while temperatures near sea level are around 82 degrees. The coolest months of the year are January and February, while August is the hottest month. Some call the climate of the Dominican Republic "the endless summer," due to the warm and sunny conditions experienced pretty much everywhere in the country year around.

Immunizations

Please inform your physician as early as possible that you are going to the Dominican Republic and ask what immunizations are recommended. Some immunizations may need to be started sooner than others. You can also check the CDC website (www.cdc.gov) to see what immunizations are recommended for travel to the DR.

Partner Information



Servant Life is excited to partner with Integral Christian Mission to send American teams on short-term missions experiences to the Dominican Republic. Under the leadership of pastor Carlos Moya and his wife, Integral Christian Mission is an interdenominational Christian ministry organization focused on sustainable community development work in the impoverished regions of the Dominican Republic. Their vision is to “transform the marginalized and vulnerable communities with the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ”. Teams will work in conjunction with local churches to host youth and children’s day camps, organize and run evangelistic community-wide block parties, help with food distribution initiatives, and do light construction projects.

The Dominican Republic is situated on the island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean. Hispaniola is the second largest island in the Caribbean behind Cuba. Home to 10 million residents, the Dominican Republic shares the island with Haiti to the West. While the Dominican Republic has seen growth in recent history due to a boom in the tourism industry, 50% of the rural population are still considered to be living in extreme poverty. Servant Life is excited to partner with Integral Christian Mission to help transform these impoverished communities of the Dominican Republic with the good news of Christ.

TRIP INFORMATION

Emergency Contact Information

Servant Life Home Office

Bradley Isbell, Director
Email: bradley@servantlife.com
Cell phone: 205-516-0227

Karli Buckelew, Missions Coordinator
Email: karli@servantlife.com

Mailing Address:
Servant Life
P.O. Box 36307
Birmingham, AL 35236

Physical Address:
Servant Life
2190 Parkway Lake Drive
Suite A
Birmingham, AL 35244

Office phone:
1-800-772-2615

Integral Christian Mission / Dominican Republic

Carlos Moya, Executive Director
Email: integralchrismission@gmail.com
Phone: 646-737-6607

Address:
Calle 13 Edificio No. 1
Urbanizacion Juan Pablo Duarte
Santo Domingo
Dominican Republic

(Use this address on your customs forms
when you arrive in the DR.)