



PARENT GUIDE



Dear Parent,

Thank you for caring enough about your child and the needs of the world (both globally and right here domestically) to consider allowing them to participate in a life-changing mission trip. Experiencing how The Lord is working around the world can forever alter our own world-view. Short-term mission experiences allow us to step outside of our comfort zones and see other people and other cultures through the eyes of Christ; seeing not just physical poverty or a lack of infrastructure or people who are “different,” but people who have the same great need that each of us has: the need for a Savior.

We at Servant Life are very aware that sending your child into a different context can be difficult. There are perceived risks and unknown situations associated with international travel or domestic travel into different contexts. ***We do not take this lightly.***

Your trust in us to provide a safe and organized experience is something we value greatly. Thank you for considering Servant Life. We desire for your child to live a life worthy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as Paul commands us in Philippians 1:27. We desire for your child to live out the Great Commission as Jesus commands in Matthew 28:18-20. And we desire to return your child home safely to you at the end of the trip— safe, but not the same!

We have prepared this guide to help you navigate some of the important questions you might have. As always, we are available and willing to answer any questions via email, phone, twitter, or and other means of communication. We look forward to partnering with you and your church as you seek to make disciples of all nations!

Blessings,

J. Roger Davis
Executive Director
Servant Life





Who will my child be serving with?

Your child will be serving with a team from your church. There may be other churches serving in your location for the week, but typically those churches will be engaged in separate ministry activities from your church. Your child will be working with people from your church under the leadership of Servant Life mission partners who do ongoing ministry in that location.

What kind of supervision will my child have?

Servant Life trips are led by our in-country ministry

partners. This partner serves as the host and leader for the team from the time they land in-country until they depart at the end of the trip.



How safe are these trips?

Servant Life makes every effort to keep your child safe during their entire experience with us. We carefully vet every trip location before sending a team, and work with

partners in the country who have extensive experience in the areas your team will be staying and serving. We research and plan the safest places for your child to eat, stay, work, and serve.

Who will our team work with?

All teams work with established Servant Life mission partners.

These are either missionaries, local church pastors, or other ministry leaders who have a history of service in that location and offer ministry opportunities that fit within Servant Life's mission and vision for short-term teams.

Who do I call in case of emergency while my child is traveling?

During the week of the trip itself, your child will be under the supervision of a local mission partner as well as the group leader from your church. Your quickest point of access will often be to the group leader at your church. If you are unable to reach them in the event of an emergency, contact our team at Servant Life at 800.772.2615 or email us at info@servantlife.com.

Will my child 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. As your child's trip approaches, more information will be given on phone and internet availability for that specific trip. In the event of an emergency, Servant Life will contact parents

immediately. So remember that no news is good news!



We have a frequent flyer program. Can we use those miles to cover my child's ticket?

Possibly. We cannot guarantee which airline each team will use, as we are watching for competitive pricing and schedules. Our travel agent typically cannot book using your miles, but we can often book the rest

of your team with the travel agent, and you can book your child on your own if your group leader is comfortable with that.

When should my child apply for a passport?

Your child should apply for a passport as soon as possible once you believe they will be going on an international trip. Passports can take up to 8 weeks to arrive. Costs related to obtaining a passport are the responsibility of the participant.

Is a visa required for my child's trip?

Most countries do not need a visa and only require a passport, but some Servant Life trip locations such as Kenya and Cuba do require a visa. This is typically built into the trip cost and we will give you instruction for securing these visas.

Will my child receive any training?

Servant Life has material for your group to go through four training sessions covering topics such as "Why do we go?", spiritual preparation, cultural preparation, and general tips and logistical info. Further training or orientation will take place with the ministry partner once the team arrives at their destination.



Why should my child go serve over seas when there are so many needs here in the United States?

The first and primary reason we believe in sending teams on international mission trips is that God has commanded His followers to make disciples of ALL nations (Matt 28:19), which certainly includes our own country, but goes beyond that. Knowing that we are commanded to play an active role in global disciple-making, we have found that missionaries and ministries around the world have needs that short-term mission teams can easily and uniquely fill, thus helping to advance the kingdom of God in those countries. Our short-term trips are designed to have a lasting, long-term ministry impact. We also hope that participating in an international mission trip will leave such an impression on your child's life that they will become supporters of mission work for the rest of their lives, whether through prayer, financial support, church leadership, or even life service.

What is not covered in my child's trip cost?

Typically the only expenses not covered in your child's trip cost are meals in airports on travel days, any souvenirs or snacks that your child may wish to purchase while in country, any additional excursion-related expenses that your team chooses to do, and any costs related to obtaining a passport and immunizations. Groups serving domestically in the U.S. may need their own transportation in that city.

Are there scholarships available for my child?

Servant Life does not offer scholarships, but we do provide guidance towards fundraising opportunities. We encourage participants to raise support through fundraising efforts such as church partnership and personal support letters, as needed.

Financial Guidelines

Servant Life is committed to providing a quality mission experience at the lowest possible price. Our goal is not to entertain, but rather to provide opportunities for you to live out the Great Commission.

DEPOSITS

Deposits are due November 1. If you register after November 1, we ask for deposits within 30 days of registration in order to secure your space. Please contact us if you would like our team to work with you on an adjusted deposit deadline. Deposits for summer trips are non-refundable as of January 1, although you will have the opportunity to adjust your team size until January 31. For spring break teams, deposits are non-refundable as of December 1, although you will have the opportunity to adjust your team size until December 31.

Deposit Costs are 25% of the base trip cost (excluding airfare). For example, if the Dominican Republic trip is \$699 plus airfare, the deposit amount would be \$175 per person. The remaining 75% of the trip, plus any airfare expenses, would be paid at a later date.

SUMMER MISSION TRIP PAYMENTS

- Deposits of 25% of the base trip cost are due on November 1. For groups registering after November 1, deposits are due within 30 days of registering for your trip.
- As of January 1, deposits are non-refundable. However, deposits remain transferrable until January 31. This means January 31 is your last date to decrease your trip numbers and still have the deposit payment roll toward the final balance.
- The first payment after the deposit, which is another 25% of the base trip cost, is due on March 1.
- The final balance of the trip cost, the remaining 50% plus any airfare costs, is due in the Servant Life office 45 days before your trip, along with waiver & release forms.

SPRING BREAK MISSION TRIP PAYMENTS

- Deposits of 25% of the base trip cost are due on November 1. For groups registering after November 1, deposits are due within 30 days of registering for your trip.
- As of December 1, deposits are non-refundable. However, deposits remain transferrable until December 31. This means December 31 is your last date to decrease your trip numbers and still have the deposit payment roll toward the final balance.
- The first payment after the deposit, which is another 25% of the base trip cost, is due on January 1.
- The final balance of the trip cost, the remaining 50% plus any airfare costs, is due in the Servant Life office 45 days before your trip, along with waiver & release forms.



Airfare

Servant Life offers to secure all airline travel through our travel agent to insure teams arrive together in the easiest way possible and at the best price. Once you have a group list in place, let us know as soon as possible so we can secure your tickets at the lowest possible rate. If you do not wish for Servant Life to handle your airfare, let us know. We allow groups to book airfare independently as long as we approve the itinerary first.

What else would you like to know?

Email us at: info@servantlife.com!



PO Box 36307 Birmingham, AL 35236 / 1-800-772-2615 / info@servantlife.com