



GO. GIVE. SERVE.



## TEAM MEMBER PACKET

[www.nwhcm.org](http://www.nwhcm.org) | [trips@nwhcm.org](mailto:trips@nwhcm.org) | 812.786.9660

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**“I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these brothers, you did for me.” Matthew 25:40**

a little bit about us.

**W**elcome to the Northwest Haiti Christian Mission! We are so glad you're interested in coming on a trip with us. We also want you to have a great experience – so please read this packet carefully. It's packed full of helpful information about the mission and what to expect on your trip.

Northwest Haiti Christian Mission was established in 1979 by a group of missionaries who traveled to Haiti and saw the deep need for a mission devoted to sharing the good news of Christ and meeting the many urgent physical needs of the Haitian people.

Since its beginning, Northwest Haiti Christian Mission has grown vastly in size and scope. At the main campus in Saint-Louis du Nord, the mission has a church (built on the site of an old Voodoo temple), schools, a nutrition program, orphanages, a Bible College, an Aquaponics program, Gran Moun (elderly home), surgical center, birthing center and various clinics. In a typical month, the campus bustles with activity – local Haitians come and go for general medical care, babies are born, students shuffle to and from Bible classes, old men and women come to visit friends, and children run to get in line for hot meals. Add to that the constant ebb and flow of visiting American teams, and it can often feel like a small city.

meet our people

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	HAITI STAFF AND MISSIONARIES	

In another city a few hours away, the mission runs an orphanage with nearly 150 children in Salines Mayette. A seven-year drought in that region left many people dead and multitudes of children without parents, prompting the mission to step in and offer them a future with hope. They now attend classes and a church on the campus. Some of the orphans who came to the mission years ago have become active workers for the Lord and for the mission.

Northwest Haiti Christian Mission is continually building new churches, schools, clinics and orphanages throughout the area, expanding most rapidly in the Far West region of the country, an extremely rural zone with many needs and little assistance. NWHCM now has established campuses in La Baie, Beauchamp and Mole Saint Nicolas. The Neighbors Project is a program that NWHCM created to partner American churches with Haitian churches, helping expand the impact of NWHCM throughout the region.

The mission employs Haitian preachers, school teachers, medical personnel and support staff. Stateside, we're headquartered in Zionsville, Indiana. Our office there receives, sorts, packs and ships thousands of pounds of clothing, food and medicine for Haiti every year.

There is so much happening at NWHCM-- please read on and learn more! May God smile on you as you embark on this incredible journey and explore His purposes for you!

preparing for your trip.

**P**lanning ahead is one of the most important things you can do to ensure you experience the best possible trip. International travel can be unpredictable and always requires flexibility, but being well prepared can eliminate many "surprises."

**PASSPORT**

Haitian authorities require that all Americans have a passport. You **won't** be allowed into Haiti without one. Check with your post office for a passport application, or go to the U.S. Department of State web page: <http://travel.state.gov/passport>. For good measure, bring a copy of your passport along, too.

**IMMUNIZATIONS**

We encourage you to update your tetanus and influenza immunizations. We also strongly recommend a Typhoid vaccine, as well as Hepatitis A and B vaccines, which provide long-term protection. Consult a physician or local health department about these and other immunizations you'd like to receive.

**MALARIA PILLS**

We require that you bring 8 weeks worth of chloroquine or other anti-malaria medication. **For liability reasons, NWHCM can't provide chloroquine. You must bring your own.**

**MEDICAL INSURANCE CARD**

We provide and require emergency traveler insurance through International Volunteer Card. This minimal fee is factored into your travel costs.

**PHYSICAL CONDITION & MEDICATIONS**

You should have a thorough physical examination before traveling to Haiti. Also, medical identification (tags, bracelet, card, etc.) must be carried by anyone with chronic illnesses like diabetes or heart conditions. We ask that each person bring an antibiotic such as Cipro, as well as an anti-nausea/motion sickness drug like Phenergan and an anti-diarrheal medication. This helps save our supplies for sick Haitians.

Trips to Haiti are moderately stressful and, sometimes, greatly so. Persons with mental illness

or physical disability are required to disclose such information to the mission before being approved to travel. Nonetheless, there is a place for anyone who feels led by God to go on one of our trips if he or she is in reasonably good health.

**CHOLERA**

The risk for cholera is very low for people visiting areas with epidemic cholera. It's not likely to spread directly from one person to another; therefore, casual contact with an infected person is not a risk for illness. All people in areas where cholera is occurring or has occurred should take these precautions:

- Drink only bottled, boiled, or chemically treated water and bottled or canned carbonated beverages. When using bottled drinks, make sure the seal has not been broken.
- Avoid tap water, fountain drinks, and ice cubes unless we tell you it's safe.
- Wash your hands often, especially before eating or preparing food. If no water and soap are available, use an alcohol-based hand cleaner (with at least 60% alcohol).

NWHCM provides safe drinking water on all campuses and heeds all recommended precautions.

**MEDICAL PERSONNEL**

Any qualified travelers who come as part of a medical team (doctors, nurses, dental hygienists, etc.) will need to bring a copy of each of the following:

- Medical License
- Drivers License
- Birth Certificate
- Any specialized license within their field

**Medical personnel interested in being part of a surgery team in Haiti must coordinate their plans by contacting [trips@nwhcm.org](mailto:trips@nwhcm.org).**



## why go to Haiti?

**E**ach year, more than 1,500 people travel to Haiti with Northwest Haiti Christian Mission. Short-term mission trips are an incredible opportunity to grow spiritually, to cultivate an awareness of the world and needs around you, and to respond to God's call to share the Gospel through personal and servant ministry. As a mission, we covet the opportunity to introduce visitors to all the work God is doing in Northwest Haiti. We hope you will catch a glimpse of our vision and are excited to be a part of it.

No two mission trips are the same. The most successful trips generally have a few things in common: Strong group leaders, humble team members with a willingness to learn and serve, a common respect for the host country and missionaries, and host missionaries who are willing to facilitate groups.

We take short-term trips very seriously, and so should you. Haitian lives are changed as a result of the groups that visit, and just as many American lives are changed, too. We strive to offer everyone the opportunity for hands-on ministry. We trust that God will work through all the planning, preparation and prayer to make your trip a powerful experience and to glorify Christ.

## a few ways to serve in Haiti

### CONSTRUCTION & PAINTING

Many trips involve some type of construction. These often include laying block, shoveling, pouring cement, laying foundations, etc. Carpenters, electricians, and plumbers are always in demand. There are always painting projects and opportunities for assisting in building churches and homes.

### EVANGELISM

We believe that every type of service has built-in opportunities for evangelism, but travelers looking for more focused evangelism experiences can visit Haitian homes door-to-door to share the Gospel in loving and respectful ways.

### VBS & CAMP PROGRAMS

Many groups choose to put on VBS programs or various camps for youth and children. These can be taught just about anywhere. Please prepare everything for such activities before arriving in Haiti.

### MEDICAL, SURGICAL & DENTAL

We have a large and diverse medical ministry and can always use doctors, nurses, dentists, and anyone who is interested in medical work. Various medical and surgical teams travel to NWHCM every year. Please let us know if being part of a medical team interests you.

### ELDERLY PROGRAM ("GRAN MOUN")

We have two programs for seniors in Haiti. In the afternoons, the elderly come to the mission campus for a meal. People sometimes help serve them food and sit and talk with them. You can also be a part of delivering food to the elderly in town by participating in our Meals on Heels program. People also enjoy doing programs at our residential home for the elderly. Consider spending time there!

### PREACHING & SEMINARS

With more than 25 churches across Northwest Haiti, NWHCM offers plenty of opportunities for preaching and leading praise and worship. Groups are also welcome to hold a revival at a church or lead seminars for teachers, preachers, and anyone else at our churches.

### NUTRITIONAL PROGRAM

Each day, more than 60 sponsored children come to NWHCM's main campus for meals. Hundreds more are fed everyday at other NWHCM locations across Northwest Haiti. Spend time playing with these children, helping them do crafts, or leading them in devotions or song. There are

also opportunities for activities and group seminars with the children's mothers.

### KITCHEN

Visiting groups always need food. NWHCM has a qualified staff of professional cooks, but they always appreciate help! You should coordinate any meals ahead of time with your group leader and with NWHCM staff.

### DEAF SCHOOL

If you know sign language, we would love to have you help us teach or hold a special program for the students in NWHCM's deaf school.

### BIRTHING CENTER

Hundreds of Haitian babies are born in our birthing center every year. Visitors can help dress newborn babies, as well as offer a comforting hand to new mothers.

### ORPHANAGE

There are more than 200 children in our orphanages – ranging from babies, to youth, to special-needs children – who would love your attention. You can run a day camp, simply visit them or play, hold a VBS, etc.

### MIRIAM CENTER

The Miriam Center provides three major services for special-needs children: a safe home, physical and occupational therapy, and watchful care for fragile or terminally ill orphans of all ages. You can participate in this important ministry by simply being with the children or helping them with everyday tasks.

### PRISON AND BROTHEL MINISTRY

Your team can participate in the local prison and brothel ministries. This is a great way to bring joy to people and be the hands and feet of Jesus when you visit and pray with the women and inmates.

### SMALL GROUPS

Consider leading a devotional with men or women, youth or children. You can meet at their homes and lead them in a Bible study.

### TEEN MINISTRY

The next generation is often overlooked. Consider holding a teen conference, lock-in, sports camp, or VBS geared towards teens.

NWHCM offers two trip packages to choose from, depending on your needs:

- **Package 1. "The Weekend Warrior."** This package includes up to five nights on campus. It's perfect for those who need a Haiti fix, have a few extra vacation days to use, or want to spend spring break with NWHCM.
- **Package 2. "The Impact Classic."** This includes up to ten nights in the Northwest. It's perfect for those of you coming with a mission project in mind, perhaps as part of a surgery team, the Neighbors Project, or another ministry initiative.

There are three travel options for each package. An explanation of each with accompanying cost breakdown is below. These prices include all accommodations, three meals a day, travel expenses in the northwest zone, translators and security. **You must indicate your package and travel option on your application.**

- **Option A: Adventure**

This is a great roundtrip way to travel to Saint-Louis du Nord, via bus or Land Rover. This six-hour ride across the beautiful and startling countryside of Haiti is worth the time to experience fully the land and people where we serve. You will experience firsthand the beautiful mountain views, the valleys, vistas, desert and lush forest, as you drive across the changing terrains that make up Haiti.

**Price: Weekend Warrior- Airfare to Haiti, plus \$765**  
**Impact Classic- Airfare to Haiti, plus \$1070**

- **Option B: High/Low Combo**

This option combines the best of both worlds. It gives you the ability to fly one way on Tortuga Air, viewing Haiti's beautiful mountains from 6,000 ft, then experience the ride of your life in the bus/car while traveling the other way.

**Price: Weekend Warrior- Airfare to Haiti, plus \$855**  
**Impact Classic- Airfare to Haiti, plus \$1160**

- **Option C: Deluxe Traveler**

This option gives you the fastest route to the Northwest, without the cross-country adventure. You will fly both directions on Tortuga Air, where you will land and travel by vehicle to one of our campuses. Please note that if you choose this option you may have to overnight in Miami or Port-au-Prince to make your connecting flights. Tortuga Air is an independent company, as such we are at the mercy of their scheduling.

**Price: Weekend Warrior- Airfare to Haiti, plus \$930**  
**Impact Classic- Airfare to Haiti, plus \$1260**

**\*\*Please note there will be an extra \$100 fee for all packages if your return flight to the U.S. requires an overnight hotel stay in Port-au-Prince.**

### how you can help and be helped.

#### TRIP PAYMENTS

There will be a payment schedule set up with each group, as follows:

- \$500 due 90 days before your trip
- Another \$500 due 60 days before your trip
- Final balance paid 30 days before your trip
- If you're not paid in full 14 days before your trip, it may be canceled.

Every traveler must fill out and sign an application prior to approval for travel. The first \$500 payment is non-refundable. If you decide not to go, you will be responsible for any additional airline ticket costs.

Please make checks payable to Northwest Haiti Christian Mission and mail to 7271 Mayflower Park, Zionsville, IN 46077 or pay online at [www.nwhcm.org](http://www.nwhcm.org) (click on DONATE). If you mail checks, please include a note telling us that the gift is for your trip. If people donate toward your trip, please collect those checks and then mail them to us. That way, you know whom to thank. These checks should also be payable to Northwest Haiti Christian Mission. All donors will receive receipts for their tax-deductible donations to NWHCM.

#### HOW CAN I RAISE SUPPORT?

- Tell your church. Consider going to your elders, ministers, or mission committee and tell them what you are doing. They'll often offer to help pay for your trip. Many people who go to Haiti get financial help from their church.
- Write support letters. Even if your friends and family aren't believers in Christ, many still believe in good causes and will help you financially. It is very rare for anyone in our groups to write letters and not get enough money for their trip. Send letters to friends, your parents' friends, coworkers, neighbors, etc. You might be surprised to find out how many people are willing to help. All donations payable to Northwest Haiti Christian Mission are tax deductible. If you need guidance, please read the sample support letter included here. It's

also a great idea to include the mission's web address somewhere in your letter, so supporters can better inform themselves about what you'll be doing.

- Get your community involved. Make it a project with your youth group, friends, family, or neighbors. Hold a garage sale, car wash, bake sale, auction, etc. Get creative!
- Use holidays. Instead of asking for birthday or Christmas gifts, ask family and friends to help you go on a mission trip. You'll find that the sacrifice of giving up a present will pale in comparison to the joy of serving Christ!
- Take advantage of our Points scholarship program. It's a great way to serve the poor in Haiti and earn support for your trip. See page 10 for more information.
- Be sure to send thank-you notes to your supporters. And while you're at it, bringing them small gifts from Haiti is also a great way to show your appreciation.

#### HOW CAN I SUPPORT NORTHWEST HAITI CHRISTIAN MISSION ON MY TRIP?

- Pack extra medical supplies. Medical supplies are one of the greatest material needs of the mission, as we use them so quickly. Instead of packing toys or candy in your luggage, load your bags with extras like Tylenol, ibuprofen, aspirin, multi-vitamins, antibiotic/antifungal cream, exam gloves, peanut butter, baby formula, soap and shampoo.
- If you still have extra room in your luggage, bring muffin mix, cake mix or pancake mix. These have a short shelf life in Haiti and we can't buy them in bulk.
  - Tell your church, family and friends about the work God is doing through the mission and how they can help. We rely on people like you to spread the good news about our ministry. When you go home, use your God-given talents to write letters, give presentations, share photos, or develop a website about your trip.

Dear Friends,

I hope things are going well with you. I have some exciting news that I wanted to share!

A group from my church will be going on a mission trip to the country of Haiti. I have thought about this, prayed, and talked it over with many close friends. I really feel like this is an opportunity that I cannot pass up.

We are making the trip with Northwest Haiti Christian Mission, an organization that has worked for over 30 years in Haiti spreading the gospel and providing food, medicine and education for Haitians. The dates of the trip are \_\_\_\_\_. The total cost of the trip is \$\_\_\_\_\_.

I am writing to you to ask for your financial support. Anything you are able to give would be helpful! Gifts to Northwest Haiti Christian Mission, designated for my trip expenses, are tax deductible. If I am unable to participate in the trip, your gifts are still tax deductible and will be used to support the mission.

If you are unable to give at this time, I completely understand! I truly covet your prayers as I begin to plan for this mission trip. As you can imagine, raising support is sometimes difficult, but I know that if it is the Lord's will that I make this trip, then He will provide.

While in Haiti, I will have the opportunity to:

- Work in an orphanage that houses nearly 200 children.
- Work on construction teams building churches and other mission buildings.
- Share Jesus with a country that has very little.

If you're able to help, please check the appropriate box on the response card below and send it with your check, payable to Northwest Haiti Christian Mission, in the enclosed envelope to me by (DATE). Donations toward my trip may also be made online at [www.nwhcm.org](http://www.nwhcm.org), but please remember to include my name and trip date in the gift notes field.

To learn more about the mission and its ministry, please visit its web site at [www.nwhcm.org](http://www.nwhcm.org).

My desire is to allow God to use me to impact others for Him, and to allow Him to change me at the same time. Please continue to pray for me as these plans fall into place.

Love,

**Response Card**

We want to partner with Northwest Haiti Christian Mission to provide hope for Haiti and are sending our gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_. We prefer this gift be used to support the short-term trip of \_\_\_\_\_. We understand that the use of our gift is subject to the discretion and control of the mission.

Donor(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**earning scholarships for your trip.**

**POINTS**

Our Points program is a unique way for others to support your NWHCM mission trip and help the needy at the same time.

Anyone who creates a new sponsorship in any Northwest Haiti Christian Mission program can earn Points that will go toward supporting your trip. You can then convert those Points into a scholarship for your trip, funded through a special mission scholarship program.

**HOW IT WORKS**

- Supporters go to [nwhcm.org](http://nwhcm.org) and sponsor a child or adult in any mission program. The greater the sponsorship amount, the more Points a traveler earns.
- When creating a sponsorship, sponsors **must include** the words "Points Sponsorship" and the traveler's name in the notes field.
- The traveler specified in the notes field will automatically earn Points from the sponsorship, and those Points will be automatically credited toward a scholarship for their upcoming mission trip. Unused Points can be used by the traveler on future mission trips.
- There is no limit to the number of Points a traveler can accumulate. However, unused Points will expire 18 months after the trip for which they were initially earned.

*To qualify for Points, a sponsorship must be:*

- Established online at [nwhcm.org](http://nwhcm.org), or made over the phone
- Established with an automatic donation plan via credit card or Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)
- Established indefinitely or for a minimum of one year
- Established for the full amount of the Sponsorship Need, except for Miriam Center sponsorships. Partial Points will be awarded if Sponsorship Need is less than the program amount.

**REDEEMING POINTS**

It takes almost no time at all to begin benefiting from Points. When the amount of Points you've earned reaches any of the benchmarks below, NWHCM will automatically credit your Points toward your upcoming trip.

**POINTS BENCHMARKS**

<b>15 Points</b>	\$75 scholarship
<b>30 Points</b>	\$150 scholarship
<b>45 Points</b>	\$225 scholarship
<b>90 Points</b>	\$450 scholarship
<b>120 Points</b>	\$600 scholarship
<b>180 Points</b>	\$900 scholarship
<b>300 Points</b>	\$1,500 scholarship
<b>350 Points</b>	\$1,750 scholarship

**FAQs**

**How is the Points program funded?**

Points is paid for through a dedicated scholarship fund that NWHCM has established. This money has been generously set aside by donors to provide scholarships for people traveling on mission trips with NWHCM. The goal of the scholarships is to make overseas missions more accessible and to encourage lasting investments in the lives of children and adults in Haiti.

**How long can I earn Points for my trip?**

The cutoff for earning Points for a particular trip is 30 days prior to the travel date. New sponsorships created 30 or fewer days prior to the travel date will earn Points for a future trip.

**Please visit [www.nwhcm.org/points](http://www.nwhcm.org/points) for complete rules and details.**

**\*GREAT IDEA! Photocopy the facing page or download it from our website and include it with your support letters. ---->**

# Sponsor one. Send one.

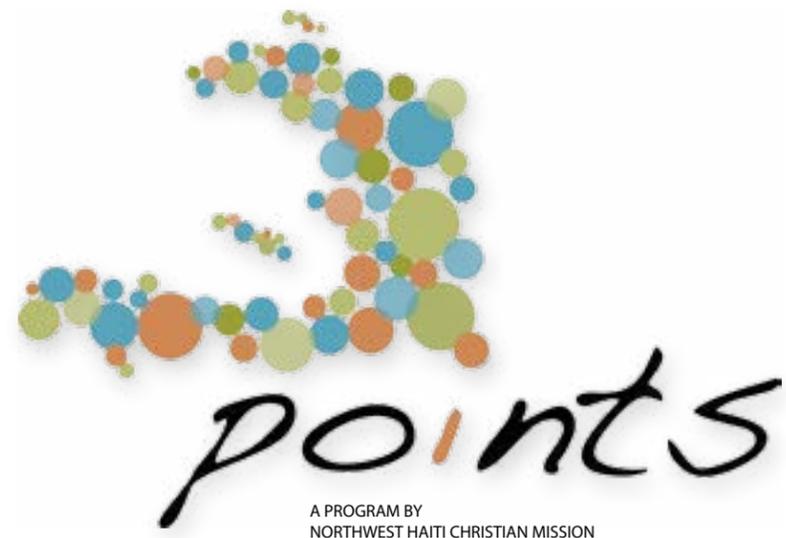
At Northwest Haiti Christian Mission, we believe sending missionaries to the field and helping the poor shouldn't have to be in competition.

That's why we created Points, a way for you to do both.

Sponsor a child or adult in any NWHCM program today, and you'll earn Points for a short-term missionary that you designate. Those Points will be redeemed for a scholarship toward that traveler's trip.

Sponsor. Send. Serve. It's that simple.

Learn more at [nwhcm.org/points](http://nwhcm.org/points).



Thank you for supporting my mission trip to Haiti! Please be sure to include the following information when creating a sponsorship:

Traveler Name:

Trip Date:

## a few things to remember.

### WATER

You shouldn't drink or brush your teeth with any water in Haiti unless you are told by mission staff that it's safe to drink. There is potable water at all our campuses. When in doubt, ask a staff member or intern. Fill your water container(s) in Miami and make sure you have enough water to get you to the Northwest, which is normally a six-hour bus ride (sometimes longer) or a one-hour plane ride. For bus trips, water or drinks will be provided.

### FOOD

While in Haiti, it's best to eat only foods prepared by the mission. When eating in public places, avoid eating salads or fresh fruit, and eat only food that has been thoroughly cooked. If you're going to be away from campus for a bit, pack some granola bars or dried fruit to sustain you. Do the same for the trip from the airport in Port-au-Prince to the Northwest.

### CLOTHING

We require that girls wear dresses or skirts. Sleeveless tops or dresses are permitted, but no spaghetti strap tank tops. Girls have to wear dresses or shirts with sleeves in church. In the evening, girls may wear shorts while on campus. Skirts should be at least knee-length and comfortable; remember, you'll be working in these clothes. You might consider buying a skirt or two at Goodwill, Target, or someplace similar.

Guys may wear shorts or long pants/jeans, but must have a nice shirt and pants (and tie if you are preaching) for church. Make sure that you bring one or two pairs of comfortable shoes, as you'll walk almost everywhere. Rain gear, such as a plastic poncho, can also be a valuable asset.

### MONEY & VALUABLES

The amount of money you take will depend on your desire to buy souvenirs. When traveling in Haiti, make sure you keep your passport in a safe place in your carry-on and always keep it in

the same place. Do not bring travelers checks, as they're nearly impossible to change. We recommend bringing \$50 - \$100 in cash for souvenirs and emergency situations. Don't bring any bills larger than \$20 - we recommend that you bring several \$1 bills. Most Haitians will take \$1 bills for anything you buy.

### INSECTS

Extra-strength insect repellent and insecticide spray are useful for repelling mosquitoes and spraying sleeping quarters.

### MEDICAL KIT

Everyone going to Haiti should bring their own mini medical kit. Make sure it contains chloroquine, any prescription medicines you are taking, Band-Aids, first-aid ointment, diarrhea medication, cold tablets, ibuprofen, insect-bite medication, and a prescription antibiotic such as Cipro, Bactrim, or Flagyl.

### LAUNDRY

Haitian women arrive at the mission as early as 3am to do your laundry almost every day. This allows them to have some income. This service is not included as part of your trip cost. Laundry normally averages from \$4 to \$7, depending on the load. You will pay for your laundry when you drop it off in the morning. Please bring plastic garbage bags, a roll of duct tape and a marker to mark the bags with your name. Include your own detergent if you'd like. Otherwise, your clothes will be washed with lye.

### SOFT DRINKS AND SNACKS

Local stores and a snack bar at the mission's main campus have food, drinks, and souvenirs for purchase. These costs are not included in your trip price.

Everyone is permitted two large pieces of luggage weighing no more than 50 pounds each, though be advised that most airlines charge for checked bags on the domestic portion of your trip. Some groups only allow travelers one bag and use the other bag to bring group items or supplies. Each person is also allowed one carry-on bag and a personal item such as a purse or briefcase. You might want to take a backpack to use during travel while you are in Haiti. Wrap items in plastic bags inside your suitcase. Girls must be wearing skirts or dresses upon arrival in Haiti.

Pack your carry-on with things you need for a day or two, as you may not get your checked luggage until your second day at the mission. Remember, you're allowed an additional personal item, too. Please wear your NWHCM t-shirt on the flights to Miami and Port-au-Prince.

**IN YOUR CARRY-ON**

- NWHCM Devotional Booklet
- Alarm Clock (battery operated)
- Medical kit – any prescription meds you are taking, antibiotic, malaria meds, Band-Aids, first-aid ointment, diarrhea medication, cold tablets, ibuprofen or equivalent, insect bite medication, alcohol wipes\*
- Flashlight
- Sunscreen\*
- Extra-strength bug repellent\*
- Snack food for airport and travel to mission
- Northwest Haiti shirt (wear it!)
- Girls – 2 skirts & 2 shirts
- Guys – 2 pairs of pants/shorts & 2 shirts
- Underwear & socks for 2 days
- Quart-sized Ziploc bag and Sharpie
- Towel and washcloth
- Rain poncho
- Toilet paper (1 roll)
- Camera
- Moist towelettes (you will use lots of these!)
- Passport
- Money – mostly \$1 bills
- Toiletries – soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, hairbrush, etc.\*
- Girls – female items
- Bible and journal
- Watch
- Stuff to do on the plane
- Pillow and twin size sheet set
- Vinyl mattress cover – twin size (optional)

**IN YOUR LARGE LUGGAGE**

- Several bottles of water
- Snack food
- Girls – 3 skirts/jumpers
- Guys – 3 pairs of work pants/shorts, 3 shirts
- Girls – shorts to wear under skirts
- Girls – knee-length shorts for evenings
- Girls – nice skirt/dress for church
- Guys – nice shirt and pants for church
- Extra pair of comfortable shoes and sandals
- Hiking boots (optional)
- Light jacket for evening
- Light-weight blanket or sleeping bag (winter mos.)
- Underwear and socks
- Work gloves
- Towel and washcloth
- Shower shoes (flip-flops)
- Tent (optional)
- Beach towel
- Extra Wet-Ones
- Photocopy of passport
- Extra film and batteries
- Hat (girls - bring something to put your hair up)
- Plastic bag for laundry
- Roll of duct tape and permanent marker
- Shower curtain liner –keeps things dry (optional)
- Swimsuit (girls – one-piece suit)
- Package of paper plates
- Toilet paper – 4 roll package
- Roll of paper towels or napkins
- Clothes line and pocket knife

Please bring two of the following items with you as well:  
Bisquick, pancake mix, cake mix, muffin mix, brownie mix

\*The Transportation Security Administration (ww.tsa.gov) allows you to carry up to three-ounce size containers of liquids, creams or gels that fit comfortably in ONE quart-size, clear plastic, zip-top bag through security checkpoints. You can take items that you buy in the secure, boarding area on-board the aircraft. We recommend you pack larger liquid, cream, and gel items in your check-in bag. When you arrive in Haiti, retrieve the zip-top bag from your check-in bag to take with you on the small plane to the mission.

campus and cultural rules that demand respect.

Mission trips to Haiti bring two very different cultures into close contact for a short and intense period of time. Remember, cross-cultural relationships are complicated and prone to misunderstandings. How you conduct yourself while in Haiti can have a real and lasting impact for good – or not-so-good – on the ongoing ministry happening there. For those reasons, we ask that everyone make a covenant to respect the following guidelines during their trip. Failure to do so will result in limited trip participation and privileges.

**CHARITY**

It has been our experience in Haiti that people will often beg from others more fortunate than themselves. You will find yourself being asked to give often. It is ESSENTIAL that you adhere to the following rules about giving. If even one person breaks them, it spreads unhealthy behavior through the entire community and undermines the charitable work of the mission.

- If you choose to bring items to give away while you are in Haiti, mission leaders will collect them and distribute them properly with help from groups.
- Please do not give out money unless you coordinate it with your group leaders and mission staff.
- Travelers may not pay rent or finance home construction for anyone without the approval and supervision of mission staff.
- There are areas on all our campuses where only missionaries and staff are permitted. Please respect these boundaries.
- We do not facilitate people being supported outside of our programs. We can't guarantee that the money you give them is being used correctly. People you meet on the street may ask you to send them to school or finance them in other ways. Many of these people already have benefactors, or they may take the money and not go to school at all. There are several children in our programs who do need support, and we encourage sponsoring them.

**CAMERAS**

We want visitors to be respectful of the communities in which the mission works. We also want to avoid becoming a spectacle. So we ask that

during your first day in Haiti, you leave your camera in your bag. This helps everyone focus on building real relationships rather than being tourists. And when you do take pictures during your trip, please do it respectfully – not leaning out of tap-taps or bus windows, or photographing while walking down the street. You would not want a stranger randomly taking pictures of you or your home. Neither do our Haitian neighbors.

**PERSONAL CONDUCT**

Carry yourself in a way that honors Christ and offers a positive witness to the Haitian people.

- Be enthusiastic, positive and supportive of group members and team leaders.
- Avoid conflict and criticism of each other, leaders and mission staff.
- Loud, obnoxious, or unedifying conversations send a bad message about our witness and our culture and are not permitted.

**RELATIONSHIPS**

We work in close quarters and often experience intense emotions together, so the potential for romance is high. But remember you are coming to Haiti to serve God, not find a match. Dating is proactively forbidden for the duration of your trip, even for existing dating couples. Do not pursue romantic relationships with team members, team leaders, mission staff or nationals you meet. Romantic entanglements complicate mission work and distract from building friendships in the communities we serve. Violators will not be accepted back to the mission for future trips, and may be dismissed to go home early.

**CAMPUS LIVING GUIDELINES**

- Use of alcohol and tobacco is never allowed.
- Ladies need to wear knee-length dresses, skirts, or skorts. Shorts, sun dresses and slacks are permitted only after sundown and are restricted to the compound. Shorts need to be knee-length! And no spaghetti strap tank tops anytime.
- Girls must wear shirts or dresses with sleeves to all church services in Haiti.
- Guys are not permitted in the girls' area and girls are not permitted in the guys' area on the mission campus except on official business such as cleaning, repairs, etc.
- Ties are required for men in church services if you are preaching. Dress clothes are required for church attendance- no shorts.
- When in church services, strive to behave as you observe Haitians behaving.

group leaders and placed in the mission safe. Extra money, credit cards, and wallets can also be placed in the safe. You will have access to those items every day.

- **DO NOT GIVE OUT YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS**, phone number, or mailing address to Haitian friends, unless you are prepared for your information to be shared with all their friends. You can communicate with them via the mission if necessary.
- If someone asks you for something of yours, don't say "maybe." "Maybe" often means "yes." We discourage giving away personal items in public. Simply say "no" or arrange for someone at the mission give it to them at the end of your trip.

**COMPUTERS AND COMMUNICATION**

Internet and telephone access at the mission campus is for missionaries and staff only, except in case of emergency. Internet access in Haiti is limited and expensive. Group leaders can bring a laptop and pay for service if staying at our St. Louis du Nord campus. It's hard to be effective in Haiti with one foot still in the United States. Though it can be a difficult adjustment to make, we have found it is a blessing to groups.

Group leaders will be permitted to send one e-mail home for confirmation of safe arrival. Beyond that, family and friends can visit the facebook fan page ([www.facebook.com/nwhcm](http://www.facebook.com/nwhcm)) or our website ([www.nwhcm.org](http://www.nwhcm.org)) for daily photos and updates of group activities.

## “How you conduct yourself can have a real and lasting impact for good or not-so-good.”

- Modest swimwear is required of everyone. Women must wear one-piece suits.
- Please refrain from wearing excessive and distracting body piercings and jewelry during your trip. Even seemingly simple jewelry can create a big distraction among nationals who cannot afford jewelry at all.
- Electricity and water on the campus are limited, so please be considerate...especially with showers.
- Do not go out for a walk or visit a home alone. You must take someone with you.
- Keep your personal area clean at all times on campus, and clean up after yourself when eating snacks, changing clothes, etc. You may be in close quarters with other team members.
- Lights out is at 10pm every night, and everyone must be in their respective areas by then. Please be respectful others who may already be asleep.
- Devotions are at 6:45am and 7pm and are mandatory.
- ALL passports and the card you receive from Haiti customs need to be collected by your



### if you can't get enough of Haiti...

**I**f you'd like to be considered for a longer trip, missionary internship, or to be a summer intern, we welcome the interest of committed people with a passion to serve Christ in Haiti. Interested individuals must complete an internship application and go through a selection process. In general, all applicants must meet the following minimum criteria:

- Applicants with previous experience on a Northwest Haiti Christian Mission trip are preferred, but comparable international missions experience will also be strongly considered.
- Applicants must be at least 18 years old.
- Final approval is granted by Northwest Haiti Christian Mission, according to our ministry and staffing needs. We strive to ensure all approvals are in the best interest of the individual and the mission.

**For more details about internship opportunities, application forms and deadlines, please see [www.nwhcm.org/get-involved](http://www.nwhcm.org/get-involved).**

background we all should know.

**GEOGRAPHY**

Haiti occupies the western third of the Caribbean island of Hispaniola, sharing a border with the Dominican Republic. It sits about 700 miles off the coast of Miami and occupies an area just slightly smaller than the state of Maryland.

**CAPITAL**

Port-au-Prince

**CLIMATE**

Being a tropical climate, Haiti is hot and humid during most months of the year. Some areas of the country, however, can be desert-like and dry where the mountains cut off the trade winds.

**TERRAIN**

Most of Haiti is rugged and mountainous. Deforestation and poor environmental controls have left large swaths of the country bare and contributed to large-scale loss of topsoil. Much of the countryside suffers from chronic drought.



**DEMOGRAPHICS**

Haiti has a very large young population, in part because of a high birthrate and shorter life expectancies – 42 percent of Haitians are younger than 14, 54 percent are between 15 and 64 years old, and just 4 percent are 65 and older.

**POPULATION**

Over 7.6 million people live in Haiti, making it the second most densely populated country in the Americas and one of the fastest growing.

**ECONOMY**

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Its economy is less than half the size of Vermont's. More than two-thirds of the population is unemployed. Its main exports are light assembly of goods, coffee, oils, cocoa and sugar.

**LANGUAGES**

Primarily Creole, some French

**RELIGION**

Roughly 80 percent of Haitians are Roman Catholic, while fewer than one in five claim to be Protestant. Roughly 95 percent of Haitians – regardless of religious affiliation – hold at least some Voodoo beliefs or superstitions.

**HISTORY**

Haiti was a bustling French colony (and part pirate hangout) long before the American Revolution. Black African slaves were imported by the thousands to work on sugar, tobacco and coffee plantations. A long and violent slave uprising finally led to Haitian independence in 1804. However, the country could not revive its profitable plantation economy. Most Haitians squatted on small plots of land around the country, resulting in the motley collection of small subsistence farms that still exists today.

Haiti endured a series of occupations by U.S. Marines and, beginning in the 1950s, a period of rule by brutal dictators François “Papa Doc” Duvalier and “Baby Doc,” his son. During that period, an estimated 30,000 Haitians were killed for being opponents of the Duvalier regime.

The country returned to a few brief months of democratic rule under President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was temporarily overthrown in a coup that eventually led to intervention by the United Nations, which continues today.

A powerful earthquake on January 12, 2010, killed more than 200,000 people, destroyed much of Port-au-Prince, and left the country's economy severely damaged. Haitians currently live with a tentative restored government and a demobilized military.

lines we do not want you to cross.

**W**hen visiting Haiti, it is natural to feel affection for the people you are building relationships with and ministering to. But remember that when you come on a trip with Northwest Haiti Christian Mission, you are part of a very delicate and complex community that existed long before you came and will continue to exist long after you leave.

To help protect that community and make sure every group is contributing to the mission's ministry, we require all group members and leaders to abide by this agreement concerning relationships. Failure to abide by the agreement may forfeit future trips with the mission.

*As a member of a Northwest Haiti Christian Mission mission trip, you understand that:*

**ADOPTION AND HOSTING**

- Northwest Haiti Christian Mission does not adopt children from any of its orphanages. Attempting such adoptions undermines the mission's ministry among children, the chief aim of which is to raise up generations of mature Christian leaders in Haiti.
- Visitors are in no way permitted to attempt to bring Haitians to the United States, even for a “visit.” This is a complicated and risky endeavor. More importantly, it can encourage greedy attitudes toward Americans. The mission exists to reach Haitian communities for Christ, not to facilitate travel to the United States.

**ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS**

- Romantic relationships with team members, team leaders, mission staff or nationals cannot be allowed. Remember that you are in Haiti to serve God. Poor choices between sexes can damage years of ministry work and distract from your trip.

**SPONSORSHIP AND GIFTS**

- Northwest Haiti Christian Mission does not facilitate sponsorship of children outside mission programs in the communities it serves. The mission is always in need of sponsors for children enrolled in its school, nutrition and orphanage programs. Attempting outside sponsorships deprives deserving children of potential support and encourages attitudes of

- dependency.
- Northwest Haiti Christian Mission does not allow direct sponsorship of mission staff and interpreters. They are employed by the mission and earn a salary for their work. Offering financial support can encourage unhealthy motives for working at the mission. Visitors wishing to help deserving staff with a genuine financial need should consult the campus manager to discuss how to best address the situation.
- For the above reasons, Northwest Haiti Christian Mission also does not allow visitors to directly give gifts to staff or interpreters. Staff have been instructed not to receive such gifts from visitors – though an occasional Coke, etc., is certainly acceptable.
- The mission works closely with local churches to prioritize financial needs in the community, and awards support to individuals based on careful and prayerful evaluation of their character, spiritual maturity and demonstrated stewardship. PLEASE DO NOT UNDERMINE THIS SYSTEM BY TRYING TO TAKE MATTERS INTO YOUR OWN HANDS.
- The mission has a long and tested relationship with the Northwest. The best way to help the communities there is by deferring to the judgment of mission staff and working through that relationship. One of the greatest challenges about giving in Haiti is learning to humbly forego credit for a good deed, making benevolence not about you, but about God.

## not exciting, but important to know.

**Northwest Haiti Christian Mission respects the privacy of its donors and ministry partners.**

NWHCM collects and uses personal contact information such as name, address, telephone number, and email address when a donor voluntarily provides it to us. This information is kept on file for IRS purposes and is also used to build and strengthen relationships through the sharing of stories and other communication. We do not sell, trade, or share donor names or personal information with any other organization. We also never send out mailings on behalf of other organizations.

We use contact information of our donors and partners solely for the following purposes:

- Distribute receipts for donations
- Thank donors for their donation
- Inform donors and others about upcoming NWHCM activities and events
- Internal analysis and record keeping
- Report to relevant U.S. and state agencies as required

All access to donor financial information is strictly limited to those who need to process it. NWHCM uses secure, encrypted and authenticated online payment processing services.

### PRIVACY POLICY REGARDING TRAVEL GIFTS

Due to our responsibility to protect donor privacy, NWHCM cannot give information about specific donations to any other individual.

For travelers on short-term mission trips, we can provide a running total of trip balances. We cannot give specifics on givers or amounts given. All donors will receive a printed receipt or eReceipt within two weeks of making their gift. For trip supporters who are concerned whether their gift was received and credited to a particular trip, please have them personally contact our office at (317) 733-8770, or have them send us an e-mail at [trips@nwhcm.org](mailto:trips@nwhcm.org).

We recommend that travelers send thank-you letters after their trip to everyone who received support letters from them. This way, traveler can be sure to thank all those who supported their mission trip, whether in prayer or finances.

Dear Team Leader,

We are so excited that you are taking a short-term mission trip! We feel honored you have chosen Northwest Haiti Christian Mission as that potential mission. We want to take this moment to go over a few things with you in hopes of answering any questions/concerns you may have.

**STEP 1:** Go to [nwhcm.org](http://nwhcm.org) and click on “Northwest Haiti Trips” at the top of the page. You will see many dates listed throughout the year. You are more than welcome to go on any of those trips. If you don’t see a date that will fit your team, please let us know and we can work on setting up a new trip date.

**STEP 2:** Do you need more Team Member Packets or a DVD with video materials? We can mail those out to you. This Team Member Packet is extremely helpful in answering many of your questions. Because of that, we suggest group leaders look it over in detail and then come up with a set of questions for us afterward.

**STEP 3:** Set up a group meeting. Depending on your location, we may be able to send one of our mission staff to help host your first meeting. At this meeting you will distribute the booklets (or at least go over them), talk about the trip date, find out what your group would like to do in Haiti – what talents/desires your group has. We will come up with a daily schedule AFTER we know the make-up of your group. We don’t want to schedule you for a sports camp if your group has no desire or ability to pull that off.

**STEP 4:** Please have your group fill out applications online at our website, [nwhcm.org](http://nwhcm.org).

**STEP 5:** There are several ways to go about setting up a trip. We handle all the travel arrangements, from your arriving to departing flight. We can give you a trip estimate for your first meeting but cannot lock in a “for sure” price until deposits are submitted. There are two options for your team:

**A) If you have a group of 10 or more (or you suspect you will):** You can send in \$100 per person. We do NOT need to know names. We make a contract with the airlines and we lock in a plane ticket price. That means that if prices drop we can always get a cheaper fare, but the airline cannot charge us more if prices go up. The earlier we have deposits, the better chance we have of getting a schedule we want plus a cheaper fare. Those deposits are refundable up until 90 days before you leave. So if something happens and you can’t go or we saved 20 seats and only 15 can go – we are okay to drop seats or drop the entire contract. If it is 45 days – 90 days before you leave, then we only lose the 100.00 deposit. This is still a great deal because we haven’t lost several hundred dollars per person on purchased plane tickets. However, once those group seats have actually been purchased (45 days before you leave), you will then be responsible for the entire plane ticket price.

**B) If you have 9 people or fewer coming to Haiti:** We need a \$500 deposit per person to purchase actual plane tickets (not contracts). Once plane tickets are purchased, we’ll give you a final trip total. This is what all individuals do. At that time, we cannot refund the \$500 deposit under any circumstance (even if you cancel your trip) and the ticket MUST be paid off. The plane tickets normally run around \$700 - \$1000, depending on your departure city.

because the details matter, we'll mention these again.

**DEPOSITS:** Deposits can be paid online at [nwhcm.org](http://nwhcm.org) with a credit card or debit card. Alternatively, you can mail a check to NWHCM's U.S. offices at the address on page 8. We ask for all deposits (regardless of which option you choose) to be in no later than 90 days before you leave. We will accept people (as long as there are still seats available) up until one month out before you leave. However, last-minute tickets are normally more expensive. Any additions to the group will need to pay whatever the plane ticket prices are on that day.

Your group can fundraise and have checks sent directly to your church and you send one check – OR – those individuals can send checks to the mission with a note saying which trip and person that donation is for. All donations are tax deductible. If a group member raises more money than they need, we cannot refund those funds once tax receipts are issued. However, they can apply them to other group members, save it for a future trip, sponsor a child or put it towards a mission program.

**FINAL TRIP TOTALS** are due one month before you leave. Some groups set up deadlines within their team such as \$500 deposit due 90 days out, another \$500 due 60 days out, remainder due 30 days out. That's up to you. You just need to have the trip paid off ONE month before you leave. At 14 days, it's subject to cancellation.

**CANCELLATIONS:** The airlines are very picky about refunding tickets for medical emergencies/deaths. It will be your responsibility to fight that fight in such an event. You can contact the airlines directly to plead your case. We can offer guidance, but we still require for your plane ticket to be paid in full until we are refunded by the airlines. At that point in time, we can then refund you the cost of the plane ticket.

If you need to cancel your ticket and it's not refunded from the airlines, it's good for ONE YEAR FROM THE DAY OF PURCHASE. Because of tax receipts, it must be used for travel to Haiti. If your trip date is in October but we bought the ticket in July, it's good for travel until July- not October- of that next year. The airlines charge a fee for changing your plane ticket and if there is a fare difference (the plane tickets are more or less than what you paid) you will be given a voucher or asked to pay more. We'll handle rebooking your ticket once you decide when you'd like to come to Haiti.

Thanks for stepping up and leading your team. We depend on people like you to do everything we do. We're excited to have you, and please let us know if we can help in any way as you begin planning your trip!

NWHCM Travel Team  
trips@nwhcm.org

**BAGGAGE FEES**

- Please check with your airlines about baggage fees. Baggage fees are **not** included in the price of your trip, as they are paid at time of check in. The following airlines currently provide International flights to Haiti - Delta, CO Airlines, Air France, Insel Air, American Airlines, Air Canada, & Spirit Air. Please check directly with your airline provider about baggage fees.
- During certain times of the year there are luggage embargos. These typically run June-August and November – January. During embargos, you can't bring in tubs, coolers, boxes, or overweight bags. Please check with your airline provider about their luggage rules and embargo dates.

**BAGGAGE RESTRICTIONS/PACKING**

- American Airlines luggage restrictions state that each person can have two checked pieces that weigh 50 pounds or less, plus a carry-on bag and a personal item such as a purse or briefcase. They currently charge 40.00 for the 2nd checked in bag. Their price is subject to change.
- Please pack your carry-on with everything you will need for a day or two at the mission. It is likely that your checked luggage will arrive at the mission a day or two after you do.
- Please pack one or two of the following items in your checked luggage: Bisquick, oatmeal, Cream of Wheat, and muffin, brownie, pancake or cake mix. Each person should also bring a four-roll package of bathroom tissue, package of paper plates, and a pack of napkins or paper towels.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE**

- You do not need to purchase traveler insurance. Through an arrangement with a third-party insurance provider, Northwest Haiti Christian Mission insures all travelers on mission-sanctioned trips to Haiti. The insurance covers medical evacuation from Haiti, as well as damage to or loss of certain personal items while in Haiti. The cost of the insurance is already built into the price of a mission trip.

Traveler insurance is not the same as health insurance. We ask that every traveler carry proof of personal medical coverage with them when they travel to Haiti.

For more information about NWHCM's traveler insurance, please contact [trips@nwhcm.org](mailto:trips@nwhcm.org).

**MEDICATIONS**

- We recommend that each person consider getting a flu shot and typhoid vaccination, as well as making sure their tetanus vaccine is current. Please ask your doctor for a prescription antibiotic such as Cipro, Bactrim or Flagyl, in case of traveler's tummy.
- We also recommend bringing: anti-diarrheal medication, anti-nausea medication, sleep aid medications, Ibuprofen, Benadryl, hydrocortisone cream, antibiotic cream, bug spray, malaria medications, and any personal prescriptions.
- NWHCM does not provide antimalarial medication for travelers. Please note that some antimalarials require you to begin taking the medication two weeks prior to departure.

## NOTES