

SHORT-TERM TRIP FAQs

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A TRIP?

How do I apply for a trip? All applications are submitted through a trip management system called Focus Missions.

- To apply through Focus Missions, look at available trips that are [currently open for applications](#)
- Click the blue button “Learn More” on the trip you are interested in
- Once on that trip page, to apply to that trip, scroll down, and click “APPLY TODAY”. You will be taken to a Focus Mission log in page.
- [How to Apply for a Mission Trip](#)
- [How to Apply for a trip with multiple family members](#)
- How to request a [New Password](#)

HOW LONG DOES A SHORT-TERM TRIP GENERALLY LAST?

Our short-term trips typically last between six to fourteen days, depending on the country and the amount of travel required.

WHAT HAPPENS ON A TRIP?

The trip preparation process starts about 4-6 months before the actual departure date, through the application and acceptance process and the individual/team preparation process (focus on personal spiritual development and team training). Once in country, each trip’s project or mission will vary depending on the needs of the local church/partner ministry. Some types of ministry could include evangelism and the local church, orphan care, medical work, theological/pastoral training, Bible distribution and much more!

WHO CAN JOIN A TRIP?

We invite all members of our MBC family who have a committed relationship with Jesus Christ to consider applying to serve on a team!!

WHAT AGE GROUPS CAN GO ON A TRIP?

Each trip page will indicate if there is a specific group that the trip is recruiting for (ex:

Young adults, women's team, men's team, medical etc.). Children: There are a variety of trips where students (grades 6-12) are welcome to join, as well as families. *For children 7 years old and younger, we will take this on a case by case basis - considering the destination/travel requirements of the trip, the projects that will be done, the maturity of the child, and the flexibility/understanding of the parent etc. There are some trips that are not suitable for very young children due to the demands of the mission.*

CAN I JOIN A TEAM IF I DON'T ATTEND MCLEAN BIBLE CHURCH?

Applicants for our short-term mission trips should be members or regular attendees of an MBC Campus.

WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

If you are interested in joining a short-term missions trip this year, please see the [list of open trips](#). Once the application period for the trip closes, you will be contacted by the trip leader to schedule an interview.

WHAT HAPPENS ONCE I AM ACCEPTED TO A TRIP?

Once you are interviewed and accepted, you will receive further instructions from your team leader. They will provide you with a team guide, where you will find schedules, timelines, support raising information, cultural information, travel & health information and much more. Team meetings/trainings will be held monthly, if not more frequently, up until departure, and once or twice upon return for debrief and sharing.

ARE THE COUNTRIES WE TRAVEL TO SAFE?

There is always an inherent risk in any type of travel, whether that be national or international. Our intention is to mitigate risk and engage missions with wisdom. Global Outreach and MBC takes the safety and security of our teams seriously. In preparing for any international trip, we continually consult three sources; our ministry partner(s) in-country, The State Department, and our Insurance team. Should a situation arise that potentially compromises the ability for us to travel to a destination, options and alternatives would be considered.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PER PERSON COST FOR EACH TRIP?

The per person cost for each trip includes trainings or retreats prior to departure, the base cost for each person's flights/visas, in-country costs for lodging, transportation, food, insurance,

interpreters (if applicable), ministry supplies and projects, plus a Global Outreach Admin fee to cover the cost of printing the pre-trip guide, the in-country guide and the t-shirt that each team member receives.

HOW MUCH DO TRIPS COST, AND WHO PAYS FOR IT?

The cost of each trip varies depending on the project and the location. Most trips range from \$1,200-\$3,500 per person. Even if financially able, individuals should not default to paying the full trip cost themselves, but rather are encouraged to first engage in “support raising.” Team members work to raise the support necessary through personal support letters and fundraising, and each trip participant should commit to fully participating in this process to raise their necessary funds. Once you are accepted to a team, you will be given resources to help in this support raising process. If you feel God is leading you to participate on a short-term mission trip, He will provide the necessary funds...so, we encourage you to step out in faith. It is the expectation of Global Outreach that each member fully raises their support. Each trip participant should have a plan to personally contribute any funds that they fail to raise through donations from donors so that their trip is fully funded.

ARE TRIP DONATIONS TAX-DEDUCTIBLE?

Yes. All contributions for Global Outreach short-term mission teams are tax deductible (to the extent allowed by law) and therefore nonrefundable. You (the donor) are acknowledging that you are releasing control of how this contribution will be utilized for the team. However, if the team is successful in raising their financial goal, all excess funds will be applied to either the needs directly related to the ministry of this trip or to fund additional mission needs within the Global Outreach ministry. In the unlikely event that a trip is cancelled, funds raised by the team will help cover any cancellation costs for the trip. Any remaining funds will be donated to efforts in the country with the partnering ministry and/or help to fund additional needs within the Global Outreach ministry. Funds raised for one trip cannot be used for a subsequent trip (Donors give to the original trip).

Also, any money applied towards a mission trip that is received in exchange for a service or product (i.e. selling baked goods, teaching music lessons, babysitting, auction, etc.) is not a donation. The person who receives your goods or services will not be given a tax-deductible receipt. *You must make this clear when receiving money from these types of interactions, and these funds cannot be given through your online FOCUS account.*

IS A DEPOSIT REQUIRED FOR EACH TRIP?

No. But each trip has an initial \$125 contribution soon after applications close. This initial \$125 “support milestone” accomplishes a few things; it shows that each person is serious about the trip process and the need to raise individual support and, if anything unforeseen happens (canceled trip, canceled flight etc.), it helps cover the costs for those changes so as not to hurt the overall support goals of the larger team.

IF I DECIDED NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN A TRIP I HAVE RAISED FUNDS FOR, WHAT HAPPENS?

Once a donation is given, it is non-refundable, for any reason. In this case, any donations raised for you towards a trip you are no longer able to participate in will go towards the overall team goal for that trip.

CAN DONORS SPECIFY WHAT THEY WANT THEIR DONATIONS TO BE USED FOR?

No. Donations to a mission trip are only “designated” for the trip itself. In donating, the donor acknowledges that they are releasing control of how their contribution will be utilized for the team. Practically speaking, they cannot specify/designate “how” the donation will be used (i.e. they cannot say “use this to buy food, sock, diapers” etc.).

WHAT IMMUNIZATIONS DO I NEED?

First, check with your primary doctor to make sure that all routine vaccinations are up to date. Depending on what country you are traveling to other immunizations may be recommended. Check the CDC website for the [country recommendations for travelers](#) to the location you will be going and discuss with your doctor what you may need. During team trainings, we will also review specific recommendations.

WHAT IF I DON'T SPEAK THE LANGUAGE WHERE WE ARE GOING?

Our partner organizations provide wonderful interpreters to help our teams communicate. During the months of travel preparation, it is wise and considerate to learn some phrases in the target language. There are many free apps available, such as [Duolingo](#) that can help!

DO MBC SHORT-TERM TRIPS REQUIRE A BACKGROUND CHECK?

Yes. MBC has set up certain volunteer guidelines for all people serving either here (USA) or

abroad. This is done to ensure the protection and safety for all participating in an event or those we are serving. MBC requires a background check (federal, state, county). Additionally, we require a comprehensive background check to include fingerprinting. If you have recently served at MBC you may already have these on file. If not, after you apply and are accepted to a trip, instructions will be sent to you about how to complete any missing checks.

CAN I EXTEND MY STAY IN-COUNTRY OR TRAVEL ELSEWHERE BEFORE/AFTER MY TEAM ARRIVES/LEAVES?

For mission trip donations to be considered tax-deductible, a participant's trip cannot include elements of personal pleasure, recreation, or vacation. Because of this, Global Outreach trip participants are unable to extend their trips in country or to another country in transit, either before or after the mission, for personal pleasure, recreation, or vacation (ex: Safaris, city tours, personal visits to family or friends etc.). Allowing that would mean tax-deductible funds from donors are being used to finance personal pleasure, something that MBC is unable to permit. In rare cases, Global Outreach may allow a team member to arrive early/leave late if they are considering serving long-term abroad and are doing extra mission work in tandem with the arrival/departure of the larger trip.

WHAT KIND OF LODGING AND FOOD IS TO BE EXPECTED?

Unlike a career missionary who is fully integrated into the culture and country they are serving in; short-term teams must maximize their usefulness in the short time they are traveling - so it is important that they remain healthy. Because of this, we try to secure lodging with high standards of care; both in the security of the property and in the food served to guests. In most partner countries, these tend to be hotels that we have long standing relationships with, where we have successfully sent previous trips.

CAN DIETARY RESTRICTIONS/ALLERGIES BE ACCOMMODATED ON TRIPS?

If you have a *medical* dietary restriction (due to allergy or illness), we will do our best to accommodate as able. This may not always be the case and depends on the country of travel. Please note: If you have a dietary "preference" (not medically necessary), due to the nature of these short-term trips, you must be willing to put aside personal preferences in order to grow spiritually and serve most effectively.

WHAT TRAVEL INSURANCE DOES MBC USE?

MBC currently has insurance with [Gallagher](#), a well-regarded travel risk, crisis management and response services organization to advise us in our security and emergency preparedness for all international trips. They provide travel medical insurance/medical and emergency evacuation coverage (and more) should any emergencies occur when we travel.

AM I QUALIFIED TO LEAD A TRIP?

We are always looking to recruit trip leaders. If you have prior experience with international travel and would like more information, please fill out the Global Outreach volunteer form and indicate your interest in leading trips on the form.

HOW CAN I DONATE TO A TEAM OR TRIP PARTICIPATE?

To make a financial contribution, please visit the link at one of the teams in the open trips above.

HOW CAN I BE ADDED TO THE GI EMAIL LIST?

Sign up [here](http://bit.ly/gienews) (<http://bit.ly/gienews>)