



High School Mission Trip – Dominican Republic

June 17 – June 24, 2025

We are very excited to be headed back to the Dominican Republic to partner with GO Ministries. More than 25 years ago, a young youth minister from a small town in rural Illinois had a passion to teach young people about the heart of God outside the walls of the church building. He desired to teach his students about God's love and compassion. Brook Brotzman was convinced these lessons were not the kind to be taught on a blackboard; they had to be taught through hands-on experience. For several years, Brook led teams and served as a bridge builder to create ministry partnerships between North American churches, businesses and individuals with Dominican and Haitian pastors and Christian leaders. By 2010, GO was partnering with over 100 indigenous Christian pastors and leaders, feeding over 1,000 children a hot meal six days a week through one of nine nutrition centers, offering education to over 600 children through its primary school, partnering with over 30 churches in the Dominican and Haiti, facilitating 12 sports leagues with at risk youth, and offering medical aid to the poor through a daily medical clinic. The organization employs over 20 full-time missionaries and staff. This is our fifth high school trip with them, and we look forward to continuing partnering with them going forward!

FAQ's

How do we travel there?

We travel to the Dominican typically with two flights, including a layover somewhere on the east coast. When we arrive in Santiago, GO Ministries representatives picks us up in busses and vans and takes us to our home for the week. Because it's international travel, a valid U.S. Passport is required.

What about transportation in the Dominican?

Teams will travel in the GO Ministries busses and vans driven by their local Dominican staff. Their staff (that is a mix of locals and Americans) who know the area transport us and stay with us the entire week.

Where do students stay?

Students will be staying in a GO Ministries dormitory located in Santiago, Dominican Republic. In the building there is a bunk room for the girls and a bunk room for the boys. The building is locked throughout the day as well as at night to keep us and our belongings safe.

What about showers?

Showers are located inside the bathrooms in each bunk room.

What about air conditioning?

There is no air conditioning. Students may bring a small portable fan in their bag if they can fit it in their bags. The temperatures are moderately warm at night – usually in the 70s. Although this past year was especially hot – so be prepared to experience sweating while you sleep 😊

What about meals?

Meals are served cafeteria style by GO Ministries and their staff. Expect an array of delicious chicken, rice, beans, bread, and fresh Dominican fruits. All food is prepared with purified water and bottled water will be available in the dormitory, at the worksite and at all meals. Small corner stores sell bottled soft drinks and snacks as well. Trust us, we eat good!

What is the cost?

The total cost of the trip is \$2,800. There is a \$250 deposit when you register. We provide resources and train students on how to fundraise. We

fully believe every student can pay for the trip in full through fundraising. If you have concerns about this, please reach out to us.

How much extra money should my student bring?

Students will have opportunity to purchase merchandise and snacks throughout the trip. This is completely optional. Many students like to buy pops and snacks at the local corner stores, GO Ministries merch, or gifts to bring home. They can exchange US Dollars to Pesos – but not back! So, most students exchange \$20-40 for the week.

When do you leave/when is pick up?

We will meet...Tuesday, June 17th at DTW Airport. Terminal and an exact time will be communicated closer to departure.

We will return...Tuesday, June 24th at DTW Airport.

Can my student bring their cell phone?

Yes, but they will have limited use for them. While in country, we ask students not to be on their phones throughout the day – except for its use as a camera! **Plus, they won't/shouldn't have service anyways. Please do not purchase an international plan for your student. We will talk more about this,** but they will get much more out of this trip being disconnected from distractions at home. They will always have access to call home from a leader's phone and you will always have access to call your students through us as well. Our staff as well as GO Ministries staff will always have phones on us to be able to communicate. Most students use their phones as cameras for pictures, and music while traveling. But please do not purchase an international service plan.

Medications?

Students who are taking medication during the time of the trip will give all medication to us along with a medication form. Please communicate with us their medication needs ahead of time so we can plan for this. We go into more detail in our trainings before leaving.

Security?

The GO Ministries staff will be coordinating and running security for us while we are there. They also have staff that live at the facility we will be staying – therefore they care as much as we do for our safety and our belongings.

Ministry Activities

We will have the opportunities to visit and participate in four major areas of ministry. We will be mostly working with community development, sports, and church planting. Although we will tour their medical facilities to learn about the impact they're making.

- GO Community Development – service projects
- GO Medical – touring medical facilities
- GO Church Planting – kids ministry in local communities
- GO Sports – support their sports teams and play some sports

Beach Day/Overnight Trip

Before we leave, we will have the opportunity to enjoy God's creation at the beach. The purpose of this time is to be able to step away from the ministry we have been doing and reflect on what God wants us to learn from our time there. It is important that our team processes all that they have seen and experienced before heading back to the States. This time is very powerful and important, so we don't jump back into our daily life and previous rhythms without really processing what we've experienced.

The team will leave after church on Sunday and travel 1.5 hours to Puerto Plata. We will stay at an all-inclusive beach resort. All meals are included.

Registration

Registration process:

1. Register with Kensington Church at: Kensingtonchurch.org/trips
2. There is a \$250 deposit that is due at registration. The rest can be either paid or fundraised through a donation page we setup for you.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 1!

Forms

All Forms will be emailed to you to complete after you're registered.

- 1) DocuSign
- 2) GO Ministries Website
- 3) Copy of Passport
- 4) Copy of Birth Certificate
- 5) Completion of Security Training (if not done previously)

Fundraising

We encourage students/leaders to fundraise for this trip. There are many different ways to raise support, but one of the most effective ways is by sending out support letters to family and friends. We will go over this in detail during our first team meeting, as well as mention some other ways to fundraise. If you want to get started earlier, go for it! Your fundraising page is setup upon registration, and you can view it when you log on to your profile on Kensington's website. When you login, look for the section "short term trips" on your profile page. You should see our trip, and you can then edit your personal page to send out. This is the link you should point people toward for fundraising. See the letter below to help you draft yours and get started!

The letter below is a generic letter and therefore needs to be edited by you for this specific trip and your personal info.

SAMPLE SUPPORT LETTER

Dear Family and 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 short-term trip to Pittsburgh, PA. 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 our church's middle school ministry, as the trip will be focused on serving the people of Pittsburgh in numerous service projects, building community, and personally growing in my faith.

The dates of the trip are June 21-26th. The total cost of the trip is \$450.

I am writing to you to ask for your financial support and prayer as anything you are able to give would be helpful!

If you are unable to give at this time, I completely understand! I truly covet your prayers as I begin to plan for this trip and ask God for a servant's heart when I'm helping the Pittsburgh community. 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 on the trip, I will have the opportunity to:

- Spend time ministering to the community with local outreach.
- Grow in my faith in small groups, teaching, musical worship, and serving.
- Learn what it means to live on mission and to have a servant's heart.
- We will be partner with Boys and Girls Clubs, housing organizations, local food pantries, international humanitarian aid organizations, among other incredible serving opportunities.

There are two ways you can make a tax-deductible donation to our trip. Either complete the enclosed slip and use the pre-addressed envelope, or donate on-line by going to the following link: www.kensingtonchurch.org/trips (click the Student Serve Camp Middle School event tag)

A reply by May 31st, 2019 would be appreciated.

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,