

2024

TEAMS GUIDE



GO MINISTRIES



Table of Contents

1

Welcome to GO!

2

Contact
Information

3

Team Leader
Responsibilities

4

Team Leader
Timeline

5-6

Focused Areas
of Ministry (FAM)

7-8

Fundraising

9

Packing List

10

Share Your GO
Story

11-12

Team Member
Forms

Welcome to GO!

GO Ministries is a global missions organization with a mission to empower local leaders to make disciples as God redeems people, renews communities and restores creation.

For more than 30 years, short-term mission trips to the Dominican Republic have been an integral part of that mission.

When you come on a trip with GO, you get to spend eight days experiencing Dominican culture and GO's disciple-making culture.

What does that mean? It means that you get a front row seat to see how God is using local leaders to make disciples in their cultures and contexts. It means that you get to experience the Holy-Spirit-led power of mutual transformation while serving alongside our local leaders. And it means that you go home empowered to be a local leader in your own context.

Mission trips with GO are so much more than an opportunity to serve overseas. We pray that your time on the island will help you understand your identity and purpose as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

OUR APPROACH TO DISCIPLE-MAKING

At GO Ministries, we believe that disciple-making means trusting and following Jesus while entering into relationships with others to help them trust and follow Jesus.

We also believe that disciple-making is a threefold process:

1. Mentorship: cultivating one-on-one relationships with others, which leads to God redeeming people.
2. Mission: meeting the needs of your community, which leads to God renewing communities. When we live on mission, we witness the Church emerge.
3. Multiplication: when we mentor and live on mission, the Kingdom of God grows exponentially, which leads to God restoring creation through the global movement of the Church.

These three big concepts are woven into everything we do, and you'll be able to see how mentorship, mission, and multiplication are lived out among our local leaders and staff. Don't worry: we'll spend intentional time unpacking these words over the course of your trip. We can't wait for you to learn more about our disciple-making culture and how you can live it out long after you've left the island!

Contact Information

FOR TRIP BOOKING AND GENERAL INFORMATION:

Adrienne Sweat

asweat@gomin.org

Abby Mullins

amullins@gomin.org

502.493.9846

TRAVEL AGENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

High Point

www.highpointgo.com

866.532.7580

In light of inflated air travel costs, we encourage you to seek airfare options as soon as possible. Most travel agencies can reserve a group fare with just dates and a maximum seat count.

Additionally, American has discontinued the Humanitarian product. Please remind team members to factor baggage fees into their trip costs.

TRAVEL INSURANCE OPTION BY INSURANCE SERVICES OF AMERICA:

Insurance Services of America offers a travel insurance plan that covers Covid-19 and other medical care if needed while in the Dominican Republic. They recommend the Roundtrip Elite travel insurance policy for our team members. You can apply online at <https://purchase.sevencorners.com/policygroup/HW7C6WN/HWMY7YS/> (If you apply online, please use a "\$0" trip cost.)

OR Contact Adam Bates - Vice President, Insurance Services of America

Phone number: (800) 647-4589 or (480) 821-9052 / (866) 793-4779 (fax)

Policies may be paid with Visa, Master Card, Diners Club, check or money order. Plan costs are non-refundable after 10 days of purchase.

COVID-19 GUIDELINES

In light of the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have put several guidelines in place to keep our North American, Dominican, and Haitian partners safe and healthy. These guidelines are subject to change depending on requirements of the US and Dominican governments, the CDC, and WHO.

Our complete and current COVID-19 Guidelines are available on our website, and are updated within 24 hours of policy changes from any of the above entities.

- <https://gomin.org/mission-trips/trip-details/>

VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

- In order to safely participate in a GO Ministries trip, we require that you have a current TDAP (tetanus) vaccination before arriving on the island.
- The CDC may have other recommendations for travel to the Dominican Republic, which you are welcome to pursue at your discretion. (cdc.gov)

Team Leader Responsibilities

1

The Basics

- Recruiting a team of 10 people or more
- Leading team meetings
- Sharing information with their team
- Encouraging team fundraising efforts
- Overseeing pre-trip preparations, such as lesson development, material/donation gathering, medical forms, etc.
- Ensuring all forms are completed in VolunteerHub and/or submitted to the Louisville office
- Acting as spiritual leader for the team

3

Choosing a Focused Area of Ministry (FAM)

- If your church/organization already has an established partnership with a FAM or specific local leader, your coordinator will work to develop a week of ministry tailored to deepen your existing relationships.
- If your team is new, you will have the opportunity to choose a FAM to work alongside throughout your week. The following pages provide more details.
- Your team coordinator will help you determine what kind of construction/service projects, children's ministry and community outreach activities best fit your team make-up and the needs of your chosen FAM.

2

Making Flight Arrangements

- We encourage you to begin making flight arrangements as soon as possible to ensure availability of seats and best prices for your airfare. All flights, unless specified by your Team Coordinator, will be in and out of Santiago – Cibao International Airport [STI].
- Ideally, arrivals are after 5 pm local time, and departures are before 9 am local time. This allows our staff and local leaders time to make necessary arrangements for the next week's teams.
- See page 2 for travel agent recommendations. You may use your own travel agent or book your own flights. We require that you let us review your flight itinerary prior to booking.
- The Dominican Republic now requires a digital immigration form (eTicket) to enter and leave the country. This can be found at (<https://eticket.migracion.gob.do/>) or with a Google search for "eticket Dominican". (See p. 10 for more information.)

4

Tracking Team Finances

- Your \$1000 team deposit is due 30 days after choosing dates. This and a completed application mean you are officially booked!
- Keep track of team members' balances as they receive donations. Donations for individual team members should NOT be sent directly to the GO Ministries office.
- Make final payment (\$1250/person) four weeks prior to travel, at which point funds are non-refundable.

Team Leader Timeline

6+ months before trip

- Get Started – contact GO Ministries TEAMS to request a week.
- Welcome Email - After dates are confirmed, you will receive a Welcome email with your team's timeline, application/covenant and information for paying the team deposit (\$1000 non-refundable, non-transferable). Deposit, Application & Covenant are due within 30 days of Welcome Email.

6 weeks before the trip all team members are registered, flights are reserved and sent to GO Ministries for approval, and an invoice is sent. At this point all medical release forms and Team Member Covenants should be completed and sent to GO.

All team members should be registered 6 weeks prior to the trip. Unregistered team members will not be permitted to attend.

2 weeks prior to trip

Reminder Email - all team members will receive an automated reminder email with travel information including emergency phone numbers and eTicket information. This info is also listed in this guide.

4-5 months before the trip

- VolunteerHub Email – when your team is officially on the calendar (your application/ covenant and deposit are all on file) you will receive a link to our online registration platform, VolunteerHub.
 - Every team member will need their own account!
 - Minors will need to print their release form, have it signed by a parent, and return to GO.
- Coordinator Introduction – while your team is getting registered, you will begin working with a team coordinator to plan your time on the island.

4 weeks prior to trip

- trip fees are paid in full
- team t-shirts are sent

Final Team Meeting – Packing Party

- Gather to distribute donations, field day supplies or other ministry supplies so no one bears all the weight or has all of one item.
- Review eTicket information, or take a few minutes and have everyone fill this out together!
- Pass out team shirts (or wait until travel day, if your team are likely to misplace them)

Travel Day– Immigration forms (eTickets) will need to be filled out before check-in at the airport. See page 10 for directions. Also, please have all team members wear their shirts, as it will make airport pick-up more seamless.

Arrival – Your facilitator will take a team photo to post to social media and let everyone know you made it. Our staff will take it from there!

Focused Areas of Ministry

Every short term mission trip with GO is primarily focused on one specific area of ministry. We hope to provide each group with activities that fits well with their participants.

GO Medical

GO Medical teams consist of 6-10 members who work alongside the GO Medical staff and a local leader in their community by hosting a mobile medical clinic. Most clinics are hosted in a church or school in the community, and are composed of a triage station, consultation area, pharmacy and prayer station. Non-medical team members can also serve by packaging and handing out assigned medications, guiding patients through the clinic, praying over the patients, and assisting medical professionals. Mobile clinics help us provide a mixture of primary, preventative and immediate care to patients in our Church Planting communities, thereby aiding in the overall discipleship of those communities.

GO Medical personnel oversees the purchase of medication and supplies for the clinic here on the island. GO Medical teams have a \$4000 fee added to the total group cost.

A team can be larger if approved by the GO Medical staff - examples include: university/college programs and split ministry teams who conduct additional ministry initiatives in the community.



Focused Areas of Ministry

GO Sports

GO Sports teams consist of a minimum of 10 members. Sports teams do not need to be made up of athletes or coaches. Anyone is welcome to be a part of a GO Sports trip. Sports teams spend the week with local leaders working in sports ministry at the Leadership Development Complex or in communities around Santiago. They can concentrate their time on a specific area of the sports academies (baseball, basketball, volleyball, soccer, English classes, Bible classes, coach/staff development, etc.), host a camp or clinic in one of our outreach neighborhoods, or serve alongside coaches and athletes through community service projects. Our team coordinators work hard to strike a perfect balance between the passion of your team and the mission of GO Sports.



GO Church Planting

A group of at least 10 members will support the work of the local pastor and leaders through construction, service projects, children's ministry, prayer walks, distributing donations, giving away Bibles or any number of encouraging activities that serve the community, draw attention to the local church and bring glory to God. We can tailor our trips for all ages and abilities. These initiatives and other projects provide creative avenues for local leaders to clearly communicate the Gospel in their specific context, build relationships between teams and local leaders, and support the work of the local church in their community.

Fundraising Ideas

1

Prayer Team

Before you begin any type of fundraising, give it to God in prayer. We often plan, execute and then pray for the best, but the plan usually fails because we forget to ask God first.

Begin preparations for your trip by raising a prayer support base of at least ten people. These people will pray regularly for you as you prepare and daily during the actual trip.

These must be people whose prayer life you know and trust. They need to be mature Christians who will take your prayer covenant very seriously. They should not be members of your team.

Send your prayer team prayer requests during your preparations and before you leave. Include things like fatigue, your attitude, your reactions, flexibility, safety, and health. You will sense their prayer support on your trip and will be able to get through situations beyond your own strength because of their prayers.

3

Collide Coffee Fundraiser

Collide Coffee Co is an extension of GO Ministries. At Collide, we invite everyone to be a part of the good. For us, that means supporting community empowerment in the countries where our coffee comes from. 10% of every purchase is given to GO Medical to support their local-led health initiatives in the Dominican Republic.

Partnering with Collide supports your mission and ours! Simply buy coffee from us at wholesale prices, sell it at retail prices and you get to keep the difference!

If you are interested in getting more information, email info@collidecoffee.co and we would love to help you raise funds for your trip.

2

Letter Writing

We have found that the best way for raising funds for a trip is through letter writing. In order to do that, we often must push aside our pride and let others in to help us, remembering that they will become a part of your trip by supporting you. *Remember that people give to missions when they feel informed, when they believe their gift will change lives, when they feel like they are an important part of the trip, and when they sense your enthusiasm about it.

Make a list of family members, friends, and church members who may be interested in supporting you.

In your letter, do the following:

- o Explain the purpose of your trip
- o Give details of how God has led you to this trip
- o Explain why you chose to participate
- o Tell the reader of planned activities
- o Explain the need
- o Ask the reader for specific actions based on the need

4

Host a Potluck or Pancake Breakfast

A pancake breakfast fundraiser is a wonderful way to raise money. The concept is simple: gather your community together and raise money by serving a pancake breakfast or potluck meal. You can keep it basic with pancakes and juice or get creative and do a potluck with different food. You charge a set price for them to eat and you keep the profits. Basic items for this fundraiser can be purchased at places like Costco and Sam's Club to buy in bulk at a cheap price. Make sure you make fliers and let your town know of the event and be sure to leave a donation jar out for people to chip in a little extra if they choose.

There is a lot of good insight for these events online - just search for "Pancake fundraising Ideas"!!!

Sample Fundraising Letter

This is an example successful fundraising letter:

Dear friends and family,

I hope this letter finds you well! I have some exciting news to share with you. I have an amazing opportunity to work alongside of GO Ministries in the Dominican Republic during the dates of: _____.

This will be my _____ year working side-by side with the Local Leaders to make disciples as God Redeems People, Renews Communities, and Restores Creation.

GO Ministries is a faith-based, non-profit organization. They are dedicated to empowering local leaders, and by serving with them I hope to become a deeper disciple and a better local leader in my own context when I return.

While I am there we will be working alongside Dominican and Haitian brothers and sisters to serve communities, shed light on the local church, and bring glory to God. We will participate in a range of activities to serve the needs of the community, such as construction projects, painting, and children's ministry activities.

I am writing this letter to you in hopes of us partnering together to reach people in the DR and to further the Kingdom! I would like to ask you to prayerfully consider partnering with me in these two ways:

1. Pray for me and for our team and for the people of the Dominican Republic to receive the Gospel and for our work to be a blessing to those we are in contact with. Please pray for the Local Leaders of GO Ministries and all of the full- time missionaries working on the field. Prayer is the foundation of our mission!

2. I would also like to ask you to consider financially supporting me on my trip. I need to raise \$_____. This cost includes all travel expenses, food, lodging and helps with the cost of the ministry I will be a part of once I arrive on the field. I must submit final payment by _____. If you would like to support me, please send in a check to (name of Church) and please write my name in the memo line with "DR Mission Trip".

I would love to keep you updated on details of the trip and the ministry happening in the DR through GO Ministries! You can check them out by visiting their website www.gomin.org. If you would like more information about the trip or GO please do not hesitate to call or email me at _____.

Dios le Bendiga! (Spanish for God Bless You!)

Packing List

- Passport
- Plane ticket
- eTicket (Immigration form)
- Bible / Notebook / Journal / Pen
- Toiletries
- Sunscreen
- Insect Repellent
- Work Clothes / work shoes
 - Old T-shirts, shorts or pants, closed-toe shoes
 - Men, please plan to work with your shirts on.
 - Ladies, please no short/running shorts or low-cut tops
 - It will be hot, so pack extra if you know you'll sweat through everything
- Work gloves
- Twin sheet set, pillow & light blanket
- Flashlight
- Water bottle
- Church Clothes
 - Men: Slacks, shirt with collar
 - Ladies: Conservative dress or skirt & nice shirt
- Towels/washcloths
- Bathing Suit
- Spending Money (\$50-\$100)(Please bring cash - we will exchange 1-2 times a week)
- A flexible attitude
- Flip-flops for the shower
- Battery operated alarm clock
- Extra batteries
- Sunglasses
- Baby powder
- Appropriate snacks if you have food allergies or a special needs diet
- **Batey and Hato del Yaque Teams: Mos-quito net, scissors & yarn or string to hang from the bunk beds
- **Medical teams: scrubs for clinic days

Optional Items:

The following list contains things that many teams wish they had thought to bring:

- Dramamine (Recommended if you get motion sickness, for the plane and also for the curvy ride across the mountains from Santiago to Puerto Plata)
- Contact solution
- Feminine products
- Aloe Vera

DONATION OPPORTUNITY

- Team members are encouraged to pack things they wouldn't mind donating at the end of the week. Any clothes, bedding, toiletries, etc. left behind will be distributed within GO Communities. Please refrain from leaving English Bibles, winter clothes or prescription drugs behind.

SAVE SPACE in your luggage by leaving the following at home:

- Expensive jewelry
- Laptops
- A bunch of junk food
- Clothes that are inappropriate (short shorts, short dresses, strapless or spaghetti strap dresses/tank tops, bikinis, low cut-off t-shirts)

SHARE YOUR GO STORY!

We hope that your trip to the Dominican Republic is a truly transformational experience, and we also hope you'll take time to share that with your friends, family and supporters when you get home. Here are some ideas to help you share your story with others:

- Be sure to send thank you cards to anyone on your prayer team and/or financial supporters.
- Get some of the pictures from your trip to send in your thank you cards, share on social media, and maybe even display in your home, office, locker, etc.
- At the end of the week you'll receive a video of your time on the island - that's yours to share! Use it on a Sunday morning to share with your church family, or post it on social media so everyone can get a glimpse of your life-changing week.
- Take some time to journal and reflect on your week - maybe even reread some of the notes in your devotional book from the week. Intentionally reflecting and recording your thoughts and feelings about the week will also help you talk about it with the people around you.



GO Ministries



@goministriesinc



- Dominican immigration forms, or E-Tickets are now entirely digital.
- Most airlines will require proof of this form (the QR code) before check-in at the airport.
- Step-by-step instructions:
 - Follow this link: <https://eticket.migracion.gob.do/>
 - You want to fill out a new application.
 - Fill out your personal information, and select that you are staying with "Family/Friends"
- Provide the GO Address
 - Province: Santiago
 - Municipality: Santiago
 - Section: Hoya del Caimito
 - Street & Number: 44 Calle 2
- Embarkation port: New York
- Disembarkation: Santiago
- Travel Purpose: Leisure
- Keep this web browser open on your phone, and open another for the exit ticket, or save a screenshot in your camera roll.

Team Agreement

AS A MEMBER OF THIS TEAM I AGREE TO:

1. Remember that I am representing GO Ministries, and more so the Gospel, and I will convey a servant's attitude in all circumstances.
2. Remember that I am a guest working at the invitation of my Dominican brothers & sisters, and I will receive their hospitality with grace.
3. Remember that we have come to learn and serve. I'll resist the temptation to inform our hosts about "how we do things." I'll be open to learning about other people's methods and ideas.
4. Respect the host's view of Christianity. I recognize that Christianity has many faces throughout the world, and that the purpose of this trip is to experience faith lived out in a new setting.
5. Respect my team leader(s) and his or her decisions.
6. Build up or shut-up. (Ephesians 4:29)
7. Stay flexible. I know that serving cross-culturally doesn't always go as planned. Instead of whining and complaining, I'll be creative and supportive.
8. Attend all team meetings before the trip as well as any follow-up meetings.
9. Remember not to be exclusive in my relationships and interact with all members of the team.
10. Refrain from any activity that could be construed as romantic interest in a national or teammate.
11. Remember that I can be sent home if I do not adhere to this Covenant or if my Team Leader believes it is in my best interest or that of the team.
12. I will refrain from drinking alcohol at any point during my week with GO Ministries.

Signed: _____

Date _____

GO Ministries – Medical Information & Release

Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Cell Phone: (____) _____ Phone #2: (____) _____

Group you are traveling with: _____

Medical Insurance Provider: _____

ID #: _____ Group #: _____

Name of Primary Physician: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Relationship: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Work Phone: (____) _____

Please check if you suffer from any of the following medical conditions:

Hypertension Hypoglycemia Bleeding Disorders Heart Disease Seizures Insect Allergies Asthma Chronic Anxiety Arthritis Diabetes Depression Glaucoma Migraines

Tetanus Vaccine up to date: Yes _____ No _____

Physical limitations (please list): _____

List any medications (prescriptions or OTC) taken on a regular basis: _____

List Medical & Food Allergies: _____

Blood Type: _____ Have you had any surgery in the past three years? _____

If so, please explain: _____

In an emergency, I give my permission to a licensed physician to hospitalize or anesthetize me, or perform surgery on me. I understand that every effort will be made to inform my emergency contact before these actions are taken.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (if under 18) _____ Date: _____

Relationship to Participant: _____