

2025

TEAM LEADER GUIDE



GO MINISTRIES

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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:

Abby Mullins
Director of Teams
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. 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 emergency medical care, trip cancellation, evacuation, and more. They recommend the Day Tripper travel insurance policy for our team members. You can apply online at <https://quote.hccmis.com/group/?AppName=DayTripper&referid=23600AB>
OR Contact Adam Bates - Vice President, Insurance Services of America
Phone number: (800) 647-4589 or (480) 821-9052

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)

GO Mission trips at a glance

HOW MUCH IS IT?

- Per person cost: \$1250 for ages 12+. \$680 for 11 & under.
- Medical trips are charged an additional \$4,000 per team to cover additional expenses incurred.
- Flight costs

HOW LONG ARE THE TRIPS?

- 8 days. Spring & fall teams are typically Saturday-Saturday while summer teams come down Tuesday-Tuesday. We can make exceptions to this schedule if needed.

DOES GO MAKE FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS?

- No, GO Ministries does not make flight arrangements. We do have a travel agency we recommend (see pg 2). Many of our teams go through them or buy directly off an airline website. Flight arrangements should be made to STI (Santiago Cibao).

WHAT WILL WE DO?

- Each team is curated to the gifts and interests of the team! The first thing a team needs to do is find out which focused area of ministry you want to spend your week working with (Sports, Medical, or Church Planting). Then we will partner you with the FAM coordinator, who will help make your itinerary for the week. This can consist of construction, children's ministry, medical clinics, sports clinics, or many other activities.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN OUR TRIP FEES?

- All lodging, transportation, work materials, and meals are included in the team fee. We recommend each team member bring approximately \$50 in cash for other miscellaneous purchases during the week.

WHERE WILL WE SLEEP?

- Each team stays at one of our dorm facilities. We have separate dorm space for males & females with bunk beds and large community bathrooms in each.

WHAT WILL WE EAT?

- All of our meals are prepared by local cooks in your dorm kitchen and we can accommodate most diets and allergies. Team members can expect a variety of traditional Dominican fare, including chicken, beans, rice, and fresh fruit.

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL TEAM DO?

- A typical team will have 2 days of travel and 4 days of service. Teams also attend a local church service and head to the beach at the end of their week to debrief.

WHO LEADS THE TRIP ON THE ISLAND?

- Each team has at least one GO Ministries staff member as their team facilitator for the week. The facilitator is with the team every day to lead devotions, explain work projects, translate, and answer any questions throughout the week!

CONTACT THE DIRECTOR OF TEAMS, ABBY MULLINS, AT AMULLINS@GOMIN.ORG WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

Team Leader Responsibilities

1

The Basics

- Recruiting a team of 10 people or more (6 or more for a medical trip)
- Leading team meetings
- Sharing information with their team
- Encouraging team fundraising efforts
- Overseeing pre-trip preparations, such as lesson development, material/donation gathering, etc.
- Ensuring all forms are completed
- Acting as spiritual leader for the team

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."

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.

4

Tracking Team Finances

- Your \$1,000 team deposit is due 30 days after choosing dates (\$2,000 for medical team). This and a completed application & covenant 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.
- See note on p. 9 for information on cancellations.

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 (\$1,000 non-refundable, non-transferable; \$2,000 for medical teams). 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 should be completed.
- **All team members should be registered 6 weeks prior to the trip. Unregistered team members will not be permitted to attend.** See p. 9 for more information.

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.

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.
- Vision Call - A GO staff member will reach out to you to begin planning your trip.
- 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
 - Please see important information regarding trip fees on p. 9
- Team t-shirts are mailed to you

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 members are likely to misplace them)

Travel Day - Immigration forms (eTickets) will need to be filled out before check-in at the airport. 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 \$4,000 fee added to the total group cost to cover additional expenses incurred. Because of this extra cost we now require a \$2000 deposit for medical teams.

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:

- Explain the purpose of your trip
- Give details of how God has led you to this trip
- Explain why you chose to participate
- Tell the reader of planned activities
- Explain the need
- 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!)

Our Responsibilities:

GO Ministries is committed to providing our teams with a safe environment to serve the local population and experience mutual transformation. We provide transportation, sleeping arrangements, meals, a GO Ministries facilitator, and opportunities to serve.

Your Responsibilities:

In order for us to provide every team with an awesome experience here are the things we need from you:

- ALL team members signed up on volunteer hub no later than 6 weeks prior to travel. This allows our team to successfully prepare for your arrival!
- ALL trip fees paid in full no later than 4 weeks prior to travel.

Please note:

GO Ministries is committed to providing an excellent experience for all of our teams. We carefully plan and customize each trip to best fit every group. Because of this, we need advanced notice of any change to the number of team members. **Any team member who cancels 0-7 days before travel (for any reason) will forfeit 50% of the trip cost. Any team member who cancels 8-14 days before travel will forfeit 25% of the trip cost.** All trip fees are non refundable. Trip fees paid and not forfeited can be used as a credit towards a trip in the next 12 months. All fees paid are forfeited if not used within 18 months (including deposits).

