

Traveling to Panama on a Mission

Welcome to Panama Missions! We are happy that you have chosen to spread God's word by being part of the work of Panama Missions.

We intend for our work to be a spiritual experience for every team member. Each participant should have a spiritual view of life and must agree to conduct themselves in a manner that honors the Christ-centered nature of our work. It is not a requirement that participants be members of the church of Christ.

Because we are working in a land of people who are very different from North Americans, it is necessary for us to remain culturally sensitive. Some practices that are acceptable in our culture are considered by Central Americans, and especially Panamanians, as offensive or unacceptable. Smoking is an example. Most Christians in Panama consider smoking to be a habit of an unbeliever.

Team members of Panama Missions are expected to adhere to the following rules:

It is the position of Panama Missions that all who participate in mission trips do so with Jesus as their example. We want to always demonstrate Christ likeness in all of our actions. Jesus needs to be seen in our lives as we work in His Kingdom. The following rules are not meant to sound legalistic or hard but to help us be careful in what we wear, what we say, and where we go. They are given in the spirit of Christ.

1. Each person going must be recommended by their church leadership. See enclosed forms.
2. Panama Missions requires a leader for each 10 people. The leader is responsible for all under his or her care from the time we depart the United States until we return home. Because we have people from different parts of the U.S., each group will be responsible for those within their group. We will normally all get together in Atlanta or Houston for the final leg of the journey. We will get to know each other there. A special t-shirt will be designed for each mission trip.
3. Before departing the U.S each person needs to know what his or her job will be in the mission field. We will design each trip so we can be good stewards of our time.
4. Depending on the location of the mission there will be certain shots they may be needed. Normally the shots required are: Tetanus, typhoid, yellow fever good for 10 years and Hepatitis A, a series of 2 shots. One each 6 months. One can be taken before the trip and the other in 6 months. Malaria medication is required if we work in the Darien area. You can check with your doctor to find the best medication suited for you. Doxycycline is usually the drug of choice. If you need help please contact Larry Brady.
5. Short Shorts or halter tops cannot be worn at any time. When swimming in the hotel swimming pool a shirt of some kind must be worn over the swim suit boys and girls, men and women. No two piece swim suits.
6. No kind of shorts are to be worn to worship. Long pants are fine for ladies.
7. No outward display of affection.
8. If a problem is encountered please notify the group leader and then if needed the team leader will help solve the problem.
9. Alcoholic beverages and tobacco are prohibited.

10. No one is allowed to go out alone.
11. If you are a jogger you must jog with a partner.
12. All are expected to participate in planned events.
13. Our days start early and end late but there is free time to interact with local youth.
14. The cost all of the trip depends upon the airline fare, so we make the statement \$600 plus the ticket. The \$600 covers all expenses with the exception of personal souvenirs and snacks.

It is the responsibility of each team member to provide contact information to Panama Missions in the event that communications are necessary between stateside workers and the families of participants.

Panama is a developing country and sometimes experiences instability. All precautions will be taken to assure the safety of team members in all situations. However, all participants must understand that there are risks inherent in traveling, living, and working in other countries. Each team member assumes a certain amount of risk by deciding to participate in the work of Panama Missions. As an organization, Panama Missions cannot be responsible for loss or injury incurred by those who participate in its work.

It is the desire of Panama Missions that every team member has a positive, enriching, and life-changing experience by participating in the Lord's work in Panama. Toward this end, we request that you comply with all conditions described here.

May God bless you richly in the work you have chosen to do.