

Connection Pointe Mission Trips

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I apply for a trip?

Complete the [online trip application](#) and submit the non-refundable trip deposit to hold your place in line. The trip deposit is actually a tax-deductible donation that gets credited to your trip account once confirmed for the team. A personal interview may also be required.

Do I have to be a Connection Pointe member to participate on a mission trip?

No. We know our members love to share how CP is engaging globally and invite others to experience it for themselves. However, active Connection Pointe members and attendees will be given preference over non-members in the event the applications exceed team capacity.

How does Connection Pointe decide where to take short-term mission trips?

All mission trips serve alongside current ministry partners and missionaries.

If I want to serve on a short-term mission team, how do I decide on a trip?

Current trips can be found at connectionpointe.org/globaltrips/. Some mission trips are specific to a particular group, as in a student trip, and will be specified in the name. Click on the trip name for a description and details.

As rewarding and life-changing a short-term trip experience can be, they can also be stressful. Travel can be difficult and unpredictable these days. Please consider health and any personal factors that may distract or prohibit you from full commitment to the trip mission and adapting to unusual conditions. Staff and trip leaders are aware of potential stressors on trips and may address those as teams build.

If a trip mentions visiting a sponsored child, is being a child sponsor a requirement?

If you sponsor a child, great! If not, don't worry. It's not required. Sponsorship can be very rewarding though. We recognize the importance of giving sponsors the opportunity to meet their sponsored child on a trip, when possible. If you're interested in sponsoring a child, please visit the [Child Sponsorship](#) area on our website to learn more about our sponsorship partners and locations. You can be confident in knowing we have ongoing relationships with these partners, and the experience has been overwhelmingly positive for our sponsors. If you do choose to sponsor a child, please let us know!

What does the trip cost include?

Trips are typically listed as a land cost + airfare. The land cost includes ground transportation, lodging, food, emergency medical insurance, project costs, and visas, if required. The Global staff will purchase flights for the entire team all together. The purchased price per ticket will then be added to the land cost for a total trip cost. The trip cost does not include required or recommended immunizations, passport application fees, food at the airport, souvenirs, or snacks/drinks purchased outside of meals.

How do I pay for the trip?

Trip participants are encouraged to invite friends and family in their efforts to raise financial and prayer support for the mission trip. Raising support is an integral part of your short-term mission experience. God could be waiting for an opportunity to show you how big He is!

Trip participants may begin fundraising after having been notified of acceptance to the team and informed of proper fundraising procedures. Fundraising guidelines, materials, and deadlines will be provided. If full support is not raised, any balance is the team member's responsibility. The easiest way to donate to a trip is through our Global Giving link: connectionpointe.org/globalgiving/

How much money will I need to bring?

Trip leaders can advise regarding how much is needed for souvenirs, airport meals and extra snacks.

Can I travel separate from my team, meet my team there or stay longer?

For global trips, team members are expected to travel to and from Indianapolis together unless prior approval is given for special circumstances, i.e. a team member lives in another state. In that case, we would try to schedule flights to meet in a connecting U.S. city before flying abroad.

What if I am unable to participate in the trip for any reason after being accepted?

The Global Impact staff must receive cancellation as soon as possible. If travel expenses have been incurred, trip members may be responsible for those costs. Monies paid towards mission trips are considered charitable contributions and are non-refundable.

How will my family know that I have arrived safely, and will they be able to contact me in case of an emergency?

Your Team Leader will either have an international data plan or wi-fi will be available at your destination to make calls online. Your Team Leader can communicate with your family to let them know you've arrived if you choose not to bring a personal phone on the trip. You will also receive emergency contact information from your Team Leader to share with your family.

What if I have dietary restrictions such as food allergies?

If you have special dietary requirements, please discuss these with the Team Leader or Global staff prior to applying. In most cases, dietary restrictions are able to be accommodated.

Do Connection Pointe mission trips comply with COVID safety regulations?

All mission trips are planned in compliance with current regulations from the Center for Disease Control, the U.S. state department, destination country regulations, and state or local health regulations, recognizing these may fluctuate. This includes following common practices such as testing for entry, social distancing, and wearing masks when in closer proximity or indoors. Each country has different requirements, and this includes airports in countries where travelers may transit. Many countries now require proof of completed COVID vaccination for entry.

What if there is a medical emergency, and is there a COVID contingency plan?

Trip Leaders and ministry partners are familiar with the closest medical facilities and are prepared if the situation arises. Additionally, all of our partners work with us and the frequently changing testing requirements for country-to-country travel. If the need arises for a quarantine, our partners are ready to assist in accommodating or directing us to those accommodations.

Also, if you have specific medications, please bring enough for the entire trip plus a couple of days in case of delays. Please do not pack necessary medication in checked bags.

What if I do not have a passport?

A passport is required for all trips out of the continental U.S. Your passport must be valid at least 6 months beyond the date you return.

Don't wait! Renew or apply for a passport immediately following your approval! New and renewal processing times can take up to 10-12 weeks. Go to <https://travel.state.gov> to apply.

Requirements:

- birth certificate
- government-issued photo identification document
- cost can be \$135-\$200 or more
- allow 10-12 weeks for your passport to arrive
- 2 passport-size photos

Note: If visas are required for the destination, 2 more color passport sized photos may be required.

What immunizations are required?

Each destination country is different. Our Global staff support the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control, but recognize that team members assume the responsibility and liability for their personal health decisions.

Many countries now require proof COVID vaccinations were completed 2 weeks prior to departure and list on their embassy websites which COVID vaccinations are acceptable.

Passport and immunization costs are not included in the trip cost and are the responsibility of the team member. Check with your health insurance to see if any of these immunizations are covered by your insurance. Plan to spend anywhere from \$10 - \$500.

Connection Pointe does not specify where to obtain immunizations. However, upon request, our Global staff can offer suggestions of places past team members have recommended.