CHRIST CHURCH
CHRISTIANA HUNDRED

June 16 - 23, 2027

Youth Mission Trip

JALONGA,
Dominican Republic

Be Bold, Be You

505 East Buck | PO Box 3510 | Wilmington, DE 19807 | (302) 655-3379
www.christchurchde.org

Project Overview

In November of 2001, the Global Missions Team was invited to explore a mutual mission opportunity with the Episcopal Diocese of the Dominican Republic by the Rev. Canon Ricardo Potter. Fr. Potter was a retired priest with an outstanding record of service within the Episcopal Church and worldwide, and his goal was to build a community center to house a school for young children outside the city of Santo Domingo. We accepted Fr. Potter's invitation to partner with him and his community and have led numerous Family and Youth Work Camps there, accomplishing much good work in the village of Jalonga. In 2015, the Academia Episcopal in Jalonga was blessed by the bishop, and the Academia Episcopal Preschool in Jalonga opened in the fall of 2017 with 64 children. Currently, over 100 children are enrolled in the school.

Trip Enrollment

This year's trip enrollment will be capped at 20 students, and we encourage missioners to invite a friend to join. The friend does not have to be a member of Christ Church but will need to participate in the pre-trip events. Register with a $600 deposit at www.christchurchde.org/youth-mission-trip.

Air Travel—Non-stop Flights between Philadelphia and Punta Cana, DR

American Airlines:	Departure	Wednesday, 6/16	PHL → PUJ
	Flight 1056	7:00 AM → 10:55 AM	
	Return	Wednesday, 6/23	PUJ → PHL
	Flight 1056	11:56 AM → 4:10 PM	

We will carpool from CCCH to the airport on 6/16 (details TBD), and we need volunteers to drive. Parents are asked to pick up their youth at Philadelphia Airport when we return from our trip on 6/23.

Baggage Fees

While booking your flights, please check the fees associated with American Airlines. Typically, it's easier to pay baggage fees online for both legs of the trip at the time of booking, but bring a credit/debit card to the airport if you plan to pay the fees in person.

Cost

The cost per participant for the 2027 Youth Mission Trip is $1,200 + round-trip airfare. This fee includes meals, accommodations, the cost of project materials in Jalonga, insurance, and the many other services required to make a trip like this happen. It is our vision that no one will be turned away due to his or her ability to afford the trip. If you have a financial need, please discuss this directly with the Rev. Ruth Beresford or Mason Cruz.

Leaders

This year's trip leaders are Brad du Pont, Ruth Beresford, Mason Cruz, Miguel Potter, and Hannah Walker.

Passports

All US citizen travelers to the Dominican Republic are required to possess a valid US passport to enter or re-enter the United States. Apply NOW if you do not have a passport. Your passport must be valid 6 months past our return date; this is a US Customs requirement, so please check this carefully.

Authorization for Foreign Travel with a Minor

Any youth who is not yet 18 on the day we depart will need to have both parents/guardians complete the Authorization to Travel with a Minor form. This form must be notarized and returned to Mason Cruz prior to departure.

Travel Insurance

CCCH will purchase travel insurance for all participants through the Episcopal Church. Details on this policy will be available once all names are confirmed.

Medical Prevention

Since 2004, there have been several reported cases of malaria in areas frequented by tourists. Consult the CDC website, wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel, for the most up-to-date recommendations on malarial prophylaxis. Information on vaccinations and other health precautions such as safe food, water precautions, and insect bite protection may be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention's hotline at 1 (877) FYI-TRIP or on the CDC's website above. For information about outbreaks of infectious diseases abroad and other information for travelers, visit the World Health Organization's (WHO) website, www.who.int/en.

In addition, you may contact Christiana Care's Travel Medicine Division of Occupational Health Services. Call (302) 428-4250, then select the prompt for Travel Medicine Services. It is the responsibility of the trip participants and their parents to ensure proper immunizations and medical precautions are addressed based on their medical profile. Please consult your medical provider.

Dress Code

We will discuss the dress code and provide a list to you prior to the trip. For safety reasons, sandals and open-toed shoes are not permitted at the worksite in Jalonga. To avoid harassment in the DR, girls are not permitted to wear spaghetti strap tops or other revealing clothing at the worksite or in the streets of San Pedro. Apparel for church is slacks and skirts. If you are dressed inappropriately for an activity, you will be asked to change your clothes. When we are at Rancho by ourselves, the atmosphere is much more casual, so sandals and shorts are allowed there. Long basketball shorts and T-shirts with sleeves is typical work attire.

Lodging

We will stay at Rancho Turistico Dona Callita in Hato Mayor. It is a fairly new hotel complex located close to Jalonga. We will have our own private gathering places, including a pool and access to the activities throughout the complex. The youth will stay in air-conditioned hotel rooms with 2-3 youth per room. Each room will have its own bathroom with a shower.

Meals

Breakfast and dinner will be served at Rancho. The trip leaders will arrange for the group to eat lunch at a different venue each day.

Transportation in the Dominican Republic

Bus transportation is provided for us while in the Dominican Republic. We have used the same bus and driver now for many years. The bus rides tend to be a lot of fun with Dominican music blasting in the background. In addition to the bus, we will rent a small "chase" car. This vehicle will help if we need to run errands or to transport someone if they are ill.

ATM/Credit Cards/Cash

There are ATM machines in the Dominican Republic. Also, many shops take Visa/MC. It is wise to contact your financial institution to let them know that you will be traveling to the Dominican Republic so they do not think there is fraudulent activity on your account and prevent access to your money or credit line.

Each participant may want to bring cash for incidentals and souvenirs. You will probably not need more than $150 (this does not include money for purchasing paintings in the village). The currency used in the DR is the peso, and you may convert US dollars at the airport in the DR.

Cell Phones

We recommend not bringing cell phones to the Dominican Republic. Cell phone use is expensive in the DR and interferes with mission trip life, activities, and interaction with others. However, we are aware that our youth use their phones for the camera and music. If your child brings their cell phone, it is at their own risk. All charges, loss, or damage will be your responsibility. Please remember, this trip is a time for separation from our life back home and focuses on our relationships in the Dominican Republic and with each other. If there is an emergency, parents may call or text Mason Cruz at (272) 201-4057.

Jewelry

Do not bring expensive jewelry on the trip. If you want to buy jewelry, we will visit a few shops, and some sell the native stone of the Dominican Republic—Larimar.

Electricity

Appliances used in the US can also be used in the DR. However, electricity in the DR can be very spotty. The power goes off and on routinely. We should use electricity sparingly as it is expensive in the DR.

Water

Drink only bottled water and keep your mouth tightly closed in the shower. At no time should you drink tap water since it is not purified for drinking. Please bring an empty water bottle to refill during the week.

Forgotten Items

Don't panic. There is a very large store nearby that carries almost anything that is necessary from toothpaste to jeans.

Workdays

We will work primarily on the Jalonga school property. Normally, we work from about 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM since it is extremely hot during the day, and we need to ensure that we stay well hydrated. The work could include digging, hammering, lifting, sifting, mixing, painting, or any other construction-related activity. We hope to have additional time for visiting in Jalonga this year since we are staying so close to the village. This will give us more opportunities to play baseball and interact with the children and people in Jalonga.

A final schedule for our trip will be given at the last parent/youth meeting in June.

Bag Drop-off/Check-in for the Trip

Participants will drop off the bags they plan to check at the airport to Christ Church on Tuesday, June 15, from 2:30 to 3:00 PM. We will weigh each bag to ensure it weighs less than 50 pounds and will mark each so

that we can easily identify them once we get to the DR. We will re-verify that all forms have been submitted, including a copy of your passport, your medical form, and the notarized Authorization to Travel with a Minor form. If we do not have these forms, you cannot travel.

Time Zone

During US Daylight Saving Time, the Dominican Republic and the East Coast of the United States are in the same time zone.

Communication/Emergency Contact

One of the group leaders will email parents upon the group's arrival in the Dominican Republic and its return to the Philadelphia Airport. Group leaders will be available by email and text during the trip. Please be understanding if we do not get back to you right away as cell phone reception and Wifi are not always consistent.

If you need to contact us in the DR, please call or text Mason Cruz at (272) 201-4057.

Questions

All questions concerning this trip should be discussed directly with Mason Cruz.

Packing List:

DOCUMENTS & PAPERS

- **PASSPORT**
- ATM/Credit card
- Spending money (about $150)
  - -Housekeeping tip
  - -Souvenirs
  - -Snacks
  - -Does NOT include:
    Airline baggage ($35/$125/$200 one way!)
- Wallet/Money pouch
- International cell plan

SKIN PROTECTION

- **HAT WITH A BRIM**
- Lip balm
- **SUNSCREEN**
- **SUNGLASSES**

PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS

- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Dental floss
- Soap
- Face wash
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Feminine hygiene products
- Hand sanitizer
- **PRESCRIPTION DRUG(S) that you may need (in original containers)**
- Prescription glasses or contacts (+ 2nd pair)
- Tissues

ACTIVITIES

- Books/magazines
- Cards (optional)
- Journal (optional)

CLOTHING

- Blue jeans
- Clothes for church
  - -Ladies: long skirt or pants and modest top (no shoulders visible)
  - -Men: collared shirt and long pants
- T-shirts
- Underwear
- Pajamas
- 2-3 Swimsuits
- **WORK SHOES (w/ sturdy soles/closed toes)**
- Comfortable shoes
- Sandals
- Socks
- Inexpensive watch

LINENS & TOWELS

- Beach towels
- Microfiber towel (optional)
- Washcloth/loofah

MISCELLANEOUS

- **WORK GLOVES!**
- **WATER BOTTLE (or 2)**

WHAT NOT TO BRING

- Expensive items
  - -Cameras
  - -Watches
  - -Jewelry

Remember, we are only going for one week!
Pack accordingly.

Pre-Trip Events & Meeting Dates

January 25	First Payment ($600) and Flight Confirmation # Due
February 9	Shrove Pancake Supper Fundraiser (details to follow)
May 1	9:00 AM-1:00 PM UrbanPromise Wilmington Workday
May 3	Last Payment ($600) and Final Paperwork Due
May 30	Final Parent/Youth Meeting (MANDATORY)
June 15	2:30-3:00 PM Drop off Bags at CCCH (MANDATORY)
June 16	Gather at CCCH @ TBD
June 23	Return Flight—Parents will pick up youth at the PHL Airport
June 27	Missioners will preach and share at the 10:30 AM service

Payment Schedule

January 25, 2027	$600 and Flight Confirmation # due Register and make first payment at www.christchurchde.org/youth-mission-trip
May 3, 2027	$600 and Final Paperwork due Pay online at www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/christchurchde Fund: DR Mission Trip 2027 Or mail payments to Christ Church Christiana Hundred Attention: Mason Cruz, DR Trip P. O. Box 3510, Greenville Wilmington, DE 19807-0510