



Dear Student,

On this trip, we hope to create a safe and challenging place for you to grow in your love for Jesus. We also want you to become more aware of your own role in God's Kingdom as you build relationships with other team members. We have partnered with Hope Haven Rwanda and we hope that you add value to the amazing Kingdom work that is already taking place in Rwanda. Lastly, we hope you experience more of God's Kingdom and that it changes you!

This packet has been prepared to acquaint you with the application process and general expectations of trip participants. This is not an easy road that you are taking, but we are glad that you are willing to exercise your faith. We'll be praying with you that God will use this opportunity to continue transforming you into the person He created you to be.

Sincerely,
Red Rocks Youth



PRE-TRIP EXPECTATIONS

TEAM MEETINGS

Trip participants are required to participate in all team meetings. We will have FOUR meetings that are as follows:

- **Vision Night**
 - Sunday, February 5 , 2023 2:30PM @ Lakewood Campus
- **Meeting 2**
 - Sunday, February 26 , 2023 3:00PM @ Lakewood Campus
- **Meeting 3**
 - Sunday, March 26 , 2023 3:00PM @ Lakewood Campus
- **Meeting 4**
 - Sunday, April 30 , 2023 3:00PM @ Lakewood Campus
- **Meeting 5**
 - Sunday, May 30 , 2023 3:00PM @ Lakewood Campus

OBTAINING A PASSPORT

All international short-term trips participants are required to have a valid passport. It is the responsibility of the trip participant to obtain and pay for their own passport. The process of obtaining a passport takes some time and team members should submit their applications at least three months prior to the trip. This is particularly important if your destination country also requires a visa for entry since you cannot usually apply for a visa until you have a passport. Current passport processing times are available at www.travel.state.gov/passport/get **Note: your passport date must extend six months past your date of departure from Rwanda.**

Passport applications are available at local post offices or online. In order to complete the application, you will need several forms of identification, which are detailed on the passport application, but in general include a driver's license, an official copy of your birth certificate and two passport photos. Passport photos must be a certain size and identical. We recommend getting pictures at Walgreens, CVS or Costco because they are less expensive than other stores.

If you have lost your birth certificate, you can usually obtain an application for an official copy of your birth certificate from the state where you were born online. If you need to obtain a copy of your birth certificate quickly, we suggest you use the service at www.usbirthcertificate.net.



OBTAINING A VISA

Your trip leaders will apply for visas for the entire group at one time. The cost of obtaining a visa is included in your total trip cost. Please be aware that you usually need to have a passport before you can apply for a visa.

IMMUNIZATIONS

It is the responsibility of each trip participant to schedule and pay for their own immunizations. Your trip leader will inform you of the immunizations required to participate on the trip. The Center for Disease Control's website at wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/ is also a helpful tool in determining what immunizations to get. Some immunizations require several rounds of shots so make sure you allow yourself time to complete the required shots in time for departure.

We recommend getting immunizations from the following sources:

1. A Personal Doctor

*This is the best source if you have insurance that covers travel vaccinations because they will bill insurance companies directly, though this type of coverage is not common. Please note that personal doctors do not offer all travel related vaccines (i.e. yellow fever is only available from travel clinics).

2. Passport Health

405 Urban Street, Suite #320
Lakewood, CO
(303) 442-8728

GLOBAL MEDICAL INSURANCE

Most US-based medical insurance policies have limited coverage overseas. It is your responsibility as a trip participant to research if you need additional coverage. Trip leaders will collect this information from you and obtain global medical insurance coverage for all trip participants who are not covered. The cost of this insurance is included in your total trip cost.



RAISING SUPPORT

The total cost of the trip is \$3,700.

Each trip participant is expected to raise funds to cover the full cost of the trip.

This cost includes plane tickets, visas, accommodations, in-country travel, international medical insurance, most in-country meals and ministry expenses. Trip participants are personally responsible for the following additional costs: passport fees, immunizations, souvenirs, some in-country meals and entertainment.

Summary of Fundraising Process

1. Trip participants commit to raising/providing 100% of the predetermined amount for their trip.
2. Trip leaders have established have deadlines for turning in funds:
 - a. **Deadline 1 Application w/ \$100 Deposit due by January 29**
– Decisions will be made by **January 22**
 - b. **Deadline 2 – \$1500 due by March 26**
 - c. **Deadline 3 \$3000 due by May 28**
– Around 6 weeks prior to the trip and roughly 85% of the cost of the trip. This deadline is designed to provide sufficient funds to cover pre trip expenses such as plane tickets.
 - d. **Deadline 4 \$3700 due by June 25**

A Rwanda meeting will be scheduled for each deadline to allow students to turn in any physical checks.

3. Trip participants determine how much they will personally contribute to their trip and outline a fundraising strategy.
4. Trip participants write and mail a fundraising and/or prayer letter regardless if they are raising funds or not to build a support team around them.
5. **Financial supporters mail checks directly to trip participants.**
 6. Trip participants turn in funds as soon as they are received to their trip leader. They also update their own contribution tracking records and mail thank you letters.
 7. Following the trip, participants follow up with financial and prayer supporters letting them know about the impact of the trip on the community they visited and them personally.
 8. If you have not contributed or raised the required amounts by these deadlines, you **must pay the difference yourself.**



Steps to Raising Support

1. Determine how much you will personally contribute to your trip.

Red Rocks does not assume that you will pay for this trip completely by yourself, but we do encourage you to prayerfully consider giving sacrificially in order to help pay for part of your trip. Giving sacrificially means something different for each person. For some, giving several hundred dollars is a major sacrifice and represents a serious commitment to the trip. Others can afford to pay their own way and may want to give sacrificially by covering part of the costs for other trip members. Either way, we do want you to contribute toward the trip in a way that reflects your willingness to make sacrifices in order to make this trip possible.

If you are giving sacrificially, you may want to set up a personal budget so that you can be more disciplined about setting aside money on a regular basis that you will use to meet your commitment.

2. Outline a support raising strategy.

It is important to explore a variety of ways that you can use to raise support during the fundraising process.

Here are a few sources of income you might consider:

- Get a part-time job to earn additional money that you can contribute toward the cost of the trip (i.e. babysitting, mowing lawns, or a retail job).
- Ask friends and relatives to contribute towards your trip in lieu of Christmas, or birthday.
- Have a one-on-one conversation with close friends and family members to share about your trip and how they can support you both in prayer and financially.
- Send a support letter to people with whom you have a personal relationship, asking them for prayer and financial support. Red Rocks Church recommends sending out 50-60 letters.

3. Write and send support letters.

One of the most common and successful ways of raising trip funds is through support letters and follow-up appointments with close friends and family. Not only do they help raise financial support, but they also build a prayer team and share with people who aren't following Christ about why you want to go on this trip. These letters and appointments might even help you bridge into spiritual conversations with friends at work, the gym, or with neighbors. Moreover, they are good opportunity for you to step out in faith, learning important lessons about humility, courage, and trust.



Remember through this process that God is the Ultimate resource supplier. Please have confidence that God is calling you to this short-term trip and in so much as He has called you, He is going to provide for you. Also, know that under the right circumstances, people love to give. As you are communicating with potential supporters, make sure you clearly explain what you are asking for and why you are asking for it.

By doing this you can present the opportunity for some to give in a meaningful and significant way.

The **first step** in sending out a support letter is “namestorming” – generating a list of people you can either send a support letter to, set up an appointment with, or perhaps do both. Personal relationships lead to the largest amount of support and are the easiest, most comfortable place for you to start. One rule is important to keep in mind as you “namestorm.” Be sure you send letters to people with whom you have a personal relationship. Mass mailings to people you barely know, including leaders at the church, are not an acceptable way to recruit financial partners. This rule also applies when determining whether or not you should send letters to a specific group of people (i.e. a small group or ministry team). Before you do that, you should ask these questions:

- a. Is this a group that I regularly interact with?
- b. Do I have several good relationships in the group?
- c. Would it be better to make personal requests of these people?
- d. Do I have permission from the leader(s) of this group to make this request?

Below is a list of people you may want to consider (if you have a personal relationship with them):

- Parents
- Siblings
- Relatives
- Friends
- Current and former employers
- Friends of the family
- Medical doctor
- Civic club members
- Neighbors
- Coaches
- Veterinarian
- Teachers
- Lawyer
- Dentist
- Beautician/Barber
- Community leaders
- Police officers
- Insurance sales people
- Realtors
- Classmates
- Teammates
- Bible study friends
- Prayer groups
- Fitness club
- Accountant
- Secretaries
- Banker members



When you “namestorm” try to come up with 75 names of people you think would want to invest in your ministry opportunity. Don’t leave anyone out. You can prioritize later. Once you have finished “namestorming”, begin tracking down addresses for each of the people on your list. This will take some hard work, but the hours you put into this effort will be well worth it later when you have a team of people who are eager to pray for you, when you have bridged into new spiritual conversations with some people in your life, and when you have raised enough support to go on this short-term trip.

The **second step** is writing the letter.

Go to www.redrockschurch.com/youth/rry-rwanda-mission-trip/ There are several pieces of information that you should include in your letter so that people understand what you are doing, recognize their opportunity to participate, and know how to respond. We suggest that you:

- Date your letter and personalize your greeting.
- Bring yourself up-to-date with the reader if necessary.
- Educate the reader about your trip and include:
 - Dates and destination of the trip.
 - What the team will be doing. One good way to explain what you and the team will be doing is to explain the schedule of a typical day will be what your role on the team will be
 - Explain how God has led you to participate on this trip.
 - How much money you need to raise and what the money will be used for (i.e. airfare, food, ministry needs). When writing about this, it is important for you to include the following information:
 - **Monday I raise will go to fund the (insert destination here) Red Rocks Youth Short-Term Trip**
 - **Any Monday I raise supports the needs of the entire trip and any that is above my target for the trip will be used to support other trip participants on my team or future trips.**
 - **All contributions are tax deductible.**

In order to be tax deductible, the check must be made out to “Red Rocks Church” and must NOT have your name on it.



- A P.S. that is hand-written. Let them know you will follow up with a visit or a call on a specific date
- Include your phone number for any questions or concerns.
- Include an empty, self-addressed and stamped envelope so they can send support checks back to you
- If you have any artistic sensibilities, be creative with your letter. Pictures are great ways to make a letter feel more personal and to communicate your commitment and sense of enthusiasm about the trip. Try to think of what you get YOUR attention and then come up with a way to use some creativity in your mailing and presentations. The amount of time you invest in presenting the opportunity for ministry will affect the type of team you assemble.

Things to keep in mind as you write:

1. **People will give to short-term trips when they feel informed.** Think about...Why am I going? How will the money be used? How can others become involved? How do you expect to grow spiritually through this trip?
2. **People will give because they believe their gift will change lives.** Help them understand how their gift will benefit God's Kingdom.
3. **People will give if you make them feel as much a part of the trip as those going.** It is important to communicate with them before, during and after the trip so that they feel like they are part of the team. They will want to know how to pray specifically for you during the trip and they will want to hear how the trip impacted you after you return.
4. **People will give when they sense you are completely committed to this trip and enthusiastic about it.** Explain how you felt applying for this trip and why you are going. Share your story!

This **third** step is raising support involves following up with individuals to whom you send letters. Sending hand-written thank you notes to those who have committed to supporting you in prayer or financially in a timely manner is extremely important.

The **fourth and final** step involves communicating with supporters after your trip letting them know about the impact on the community you visited and you personally. Ideas include sending out newsletters that contain images and stories that paint a picture of your trip in reader's minds. Or, host an open house and share stories and pictures from your trip while eating food from the country you visited.



PACKING FOR RWANDA

Everyone gets **one checked bag** and **one personal item** (backpack/purse). If your bag is over 50 lbs, you will be responsible for paying the oversize baggage fee.

We recommend packing the following items in your backpack for while we are traveling:

- Wallet
- Passport
- Headphones
- Phone charger
- Neck pillow
- Ear plugs
- Books
- Journal
- Personal medications (if needed)
- Contacts and glasses (if needed)
- Toiletries such as toothbrush and toothpaste, face wipes/wash, dry shampoo - A change of clothes in case bags get lost

CLOTHING

We are to match the Rwandan staff in how we dress. This means avoiding old, baggy tshirts/shorts and packing more "smart", which is the Rwandan way of saying nicer outfits. However, you should bring 2-3 outfits you don't mind getting dirty for when we do house projects in the village.

CHURCH OUTFITS (we will be there for 2 Sundays)

- Girls - dresses or skirts that go to knees, tanks should be at least three fingers wide. A cardigan or jacket can be worn over spaghetti straps
- Guys - non-ripped jeans or khakis and a collared shirt

DINNER OUTFITS (we will probably go out 3-4 times)

- Girls - jeans and a casual tank or top
- Guys - jeans and a casual top

DAYTIME OUTFITS (we will be teaching VBS, running a sports camp, and helping with house projects)

- Girls - joggers or jeans and tshirt
- Guys - shorts or jeans and tshirt



****NOTE:** Pack enough clean clothes for the length of the trip. The school takes pride in cleanliness and sends students home if they come in dirty uniforms. We need to respect their standards.**

OTHER

- Comfortable clothes for travel
- Loungewear for evenings (sweatpants & sweatshirts)
- Rain jacket
- A light jacket or sweatshirt (it can get chilly in the evenings)
- Pajamas
- Socks, underwear, sports bras

SHOES

- Old, comfortable tennis shoes (they will get covered in red dirt) - Flip flops for the shower
- Nicer pair of sandals/shoes for church and going out to eat
- Walking sandals such as birkenstocks, tevas, or chacos are nice to have but not necessary

TOILETRIES

- Shampoo & conditioner
- Body wash
- Lotion
- Skin care regimen
- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Razor
- Hairbrush
- Feminine products
- Makeup

MISC

- Sunglasses
- Hat
- Sunscreen
- Non-aerosol Bug spray
- Power adaptor (European two prong)



- Medication - (advil, melatonin, pepto bismol, imodium, allergy medicine, emergen-c, midol)
- Water bottle
- Bible, journal, reading books
- A copy of your passport in your checked bag (trip leaders will also have a copy)

WHAT NOT TO BRING

- Jeans with rips or holes in them
- Girls - shorts and leggings/yoga pants (you can bring 1-2 pairs of athletic shorts to wear around your room and the compound in the evenings)
- Jewelry of value or anything else that you are afraid may be lost or stolen

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What about safety?

Life is about risks. Daily living in the United States is not without risks. While we cannot control what is happening in the world, we will do everything we reasonably can to minimize risks while on a short-term trip. We will also not shy away from participating in the lives of the people with whom we are ministering, which in some cases means entering areas that are more dangerous than our normal life here in the U.S. Each trip participant is asked to sign a liability waiver before traveling showing that they understand the risks associated with traveling abroad and that certain risks are out of our control as a church or as individuals.

Will I be able to contact my family or friends while I am on the trip?

Your trip leader will let you know if and how you will be able to contact family and friends while you are gone. In many areas of the world, internet and internet phone service are available, as well as SIM cards for cell phones. Your trip leader will want you to be fully engaged on the trip, but will also acknowledge the benefits of communicating in the moment to those back home.

How will I process the emotions and experiences on the trip?

Your trip leader will provide space throughout the trip for both personal reflection and team debriefs. You will also be able to spend time together after the trip where you will continue to share the impact that the trip has had on your life.



How do I pay for a short-term trip?

Short-term trips are expensive, but we believe that they are a worthwhile investment in your spiritual journey. With that in mind, we encourage short-term trip participants to pay

for their trip through a combination of resources. We encourage each team member to ask for support from family and friends. You might be surprised how many people are not only willing, but eager to invest in you and your team. Your trip leader will coach you through the process of raising support

What happens if something comes up and I can't go on the trip?

If you withdraw from a trip or are asked to step off of the team, the funds you have turned in up to that point are non-refundable. You are also expected to still pay the portion of the trip cost that is non-refundable or has already been spent based on your participation on the trip (i.e. plane tickets). This amount will be determined by your trip leader.

Individuals that experience a medical or family emergency that prevents them from participating in a trip can transfer the money that they personally contributed to another future Red Rocks Church trip, provided that withdrawing these funds does not adversely impact the finances of the trip in which they were originally scheduled to participate. The amount that can be transferred is the amount they personally contributed after all non-refundable expenses for the original trip have been covered.

Visit our website by scanning the QR code. Or visit www.redrockschurch.com/youth/rry-rwanda-mission-trip/





Emergency Information Sheet

Take a copy of this form with you on your trip. Leave a copy at home with a friend or relative along with copies of your passport and visa.

Personal Information	
Legal Name	
Nickname	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
Home Phone	
Cell Phone	
E-mail	
Birthday	
Social Security Number	
Passport Number	
Driver's License Number	
Emergency Contact Information	
Primary Emergency Contact	
Relationship	
Cell Phone	
Home Phone	
Secondary Emergency Contact	
Relationship	
Cell Phone	
Home Phone	
Medical Information	
Physician's Name	
Phone Number	

Health Insurance Company	
Policy Number	
Blood Type	
Known Medical Conditions	
Current Medications	
Allergies	