

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST:

- ✓ Completed Application
- ✓ Copy of the first page of my passport for a foreign trip **or**
- ✓ A Copy of my Current Virginia Drivers License for a domestic project
- ✓ Completed copy of my Medical Form
- ✓ My Deposit for the trip (half of the posted trip cost)
- ✓ Yes, I can live with all of the team member qualifications
- ✓ Yes, I can get the time off from work
- ✓ Yes, I understand that my trip must be paid for before I leave

Make certain you have each of the requested pieces noted above attached to **this complete application booklet before turning it in.** We cannot count you as a part of the team until we have your deposit and **all** requested paperwork.

Most people prefer to pay for their trip by check or credit card. In the event you pay by cash – be sure and get a receipt from the missions department to verify proper credit when you turn it in. Never leave cash in an envelope without handing it to us directly.

If you have questions about any of our projects - **before turning in your application**, please call Cindy Johnson in the

Mission department at (804) 774 4315 or email at [cj@weag.org](mailto:cj@weag.org)

**WEAG Missions reserves the right to restrict any application that potentially could negatively impact a team or the applicant.**

Your WEAG

# Short-Term Mission Project Application



## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Thanks for your interest in a WEAG short-term mission project. Please take the time to thoroughly read through this application packet. The information requested and the contents of this application are designed to help you through the project process, save you later headaches and possibly some unexpected fees. So, completely fill in the application and all medical info – *even if you have done so in the past*. Current medical info makes it possible for the team leader to properly seek help in the event of an emergency. Failure to disclose medical conditions can invalidate your trip insurance coverage.

### TEAM MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS

#### Spiritual –

Team members should be committed Christians who desire to serve Jesus Christ and His people. A willingness to submit to team policy and leadership is imperative.

#### Physical-

Team members must be able to withstand long hours of work, often in hot, humid and less than ideal conditions. Team leaders must be informed of any condition that could hamper the work of the team.

#### Social-

Team members must be able to interact socially with one another and with local people. A withdrawn person who demands his or her space and privacy will not fit in well within the confines of team life. Meals can also be a challenge for a team. Projects are definitely a place where we eat what we are served and are graciously thankful.

## Medical Information

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Complete the brief medical information requested below. This is confidential and used for project safety & health as we work together.

Are you currently under a doctor's care? ☐ No ☐ Yes If yes, why?

Are you on any prescription medications? If so, please attach a list:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any physical challenges that would limit your participation on any part of this project? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any of the following?

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Diabetes            | <input type="radio"/> Joint Replacement                          | <input type="radio"/> Asthma             |
| <input type="radio"/> Celiac Disease      | <input type="radio"/> Dietary Restrictions                       | <input type="radio"/> Allergies to foods |
| <input type="radio"/> Drug Allergies      | <input type="radio"/> Pregnant or planning a pregnancy this year |  |
| <input type="radio"/> High Blood Pressure | <input type="radio"/> Sleep Apnea                                | <input type="radio"/> Migraines          |
| <input type="radio"/> Lactose Intolerant  | <input type="radio"/> Heart Disease                              | <input type="radio"/> Other??            |

Are you ☐ vegetarian or ☐ vegan?

A current tetanus shot and all childhood immunizations must be updated for all travels with a WEAG team. *Initial that you have these vaccines, and understand you may need boosters or special medications for your selected project that could cost you additional money.* \_\_\_\_\_

For specific projects dealing in disasters, medical/dental clinics or humanitarian relief, there may also be additional medications recommended by the CDC or your physician. These will be listed in one of your team handbooks. It is your responsibility to make certain you check with your personal physician for all needed inoculations and medications based on your personal health history.

## STEREOTYPES

Around the world an American is perceived as being a loud, know it all that wants to take charge. While you are on a WEAG trip, please do your part to help change others impressions of what an American Christian and a WEAGer looks and acts like. Won't they be surprised?

## HELPING WITHOUT HURTING

WEAG teams strive to meet the needs of our host missionary and the nationals working with us. We want to be good stewards of our resources while equipping, but not enabling, those we serve alongside. Successful projects allow us to work and support nationals while building and strengthening relationships – whether we are building, teaching or offering aid.

We ask you to limit the items, funding and gifts you give out while on a trip. Always run your gift ideas through the team leader first and then the missionary host. Americans are generous and giving. Sometimes our best intentions may undermine local church, missions, and our host's benevolent practices. In some instances we create hardship or can put local merchants out of business through sudden large influxes of cash or gifts. Why should someone spend money for clothes and shoes if they are given them for free?

If you'd like to read more information about positive ways to help the impoverished without having lasting negative effects, please read:

**Toxic Charity by Robert Luftin**

**Helping Without Hurting in Short Term Missions by Corbett and Fikkert**

## WHY PROJECTS?

Trips offer each of us a way to connect with career missionaries, locals and team members. They give us a broader view of the needs and challenges in our world and an opportunity to spend some time reflecting on Christ's instruction to us from the Great Commission. It's why we go, disciple, pray, send and teach.

*Reaching out through projects, we accomplish 3 significant things:*

- we meet real needs & encourage the world's hurting people*
- individual team members experience a new spiritual awareness as a result of what they see and experience during the project*
- our church is revitalized through the excitement, spiritual energy and renewed vision of returning team members.*

## HOW ARE PROJECTS SELECTED?

Locations for projects are based on requests from our missionary partners. We assist them in their work and give WEAGers an opportunity to use their skills (and some they haven't discovered yet) for a greater good. Each year we receive multiple requests for a WEAG team. This year's selection offers construction, teaching, medical, evangelism, orphan ministry and humanitarian aid projects – something for everyone, with a variety of dates, distances, languages and in all price ranges! Hopefully, you have found the project that fits your schedule and your wallet, will enable you to use your talents and the one that (after praying about) will challenge you in new ways.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

Team members are housed depending on the location of the project. Usually, accommodations are very simple--an inexpensive hotel, church classrooms, a rented house, or even tents. Accommodations are frequently dormitory style. Depending on facilities available, husbands and wives may not be able to room together. A highlight of every project is the sense of shared community team members enjoy. Eating together, fellowshiping at night, or sleeping in primitive conditions create opportunities for each of us to get to know our teammates better.

Many WEAG teams include a team cook whose sole responsibility is to prepare and serve meals. All team members--men and women alike, are expected to help with kitchen chores and share in the preparation of meals and snacks.

## PASSPORTS

All countries now require a passport for international travel. If you are considering participation in a project, we strongly recommend you apply *immediately* for a passport. Most countries also require at least a 6-month period of time extending past a return date in order for the passport to be usable. *Check your passports today if you are thinking about traveling this year!*

## GROUND TRANSPORTATION

Once a WEAG team arrives at the country of final destination, some form of ground transportation is necessary to move the team around. Usually, vans, buses and/or other assorted vehicles are available. Traveling in developing nations can be a very dangerous activity. Safety standards are often nonexistent. Although we do our best to arrange reliable and safe ground transportation, there is always an element of risk involved in ground travel.

## Mission Project Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print your full, legal name as it would appear on a passport.)

Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Street / Box \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to register for the following project:

Do you plan to use frequent flyer miles or make your own arrangements? Yes, \_\_\_\_ No, \_\_\_\_ **Team members must have a designated ticket – you are not allowed to fly stand by or with an airline or buddy pass.**

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Team Guidelines in this application. I also understand once I sign up for a project and send in my deposit, I am obligated to pay for the complete project cost in the event I am unable to go for any reason. I also understand cancellation of the trip on my part means funds I have turned in become property of the Missions Department of WEAG to use for short-term projects in accordance with IRS regulations and the total cost of the trip is due before departure or I will not be allowed to participate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Legible Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Complete these forms, attach your deposit, passport copy for international trip or drivers license copy for domestic project, and then mail or give everything to: Cindy Johnson – Attention: WEAG Missions Dept. -401 N. Parham Road, Henrico, VA 23229**

## **SICKNESS**

Every effort is made to minimize the potential for sickness. Everyone should drink only purified water. Produce should be washed thoroughly & avoid eating from street vendors. Even with these precautions, some team members will have stomach problems. A selection of over-the-counter medicines will be provided in the first aid kit. Team members supply all personal prescription medicines and it is a good idea to check with your personal physician for any recommendations they may have for your particular health situation.

We make every effort to keep you informed of recommended medications needed. The Health Dept. and CDC are contacted prior to each trip for current information on medical needs in each country we visit.

Each team member will be required to sign a liability waiver stating their knowledge of the medication recommendations for their particular project. Every member of a medical or disaster relief team must have Hepatitis A and B vaccines. All team members should have a current tetanus shot and current childhood vaccines.

The Medical Questionnaire is designed to protect you and the team. Most countries we work in have less than adequate health care. Few come up to the standards of the US. So, it is vitally important for you to answer honestly.

Let us know if you have ANY serious or chronic health or diet issues, before filling out this form. Also, if you feel you are getting sick in the days just BEFORE your scheduled day of departure – be sure and visit your doctor. Upper respiratory infections, as well as viruses, flu and other ailments can develop quickly into a serious illness after a long plane flight, little rest, and differing climate conditions. Consider how your health challenges may affect the team. We reserve the right to limit anyone's participation for health reasons.

## **EMERGENCIES**

Generally we are able to supply a phone number or email address close to the project site if you need to be reached by loved ones.

## **PROJECT FUNDING**

We make every effort to keep trip costs as low as possible. Funds for project supplies come from our thrift store and MOYC sale proceeds and at times from donations. *No supply costs are passed along to team members.*

## **MISSIONARY HOSTS**

We work with career missionaries already positioned in various fields and working for a variety of sending agencies. The mission department as well as team leaders work closely with them when making plans and decisions. It is a great opportunity to meet, observe, and work alongside these remarkable men and women of God. Sometimes the best way for us to help is to support them in their work while we are serving their people.

## **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Only the portion of expenses related to actual ministry are considered tax deductible by the IRS. Anticipated expenses (except for personal ones like your visas, vaccines, medications, passports, souvenirs, and food while traveling) are included in the total cost charged. The amount we charge represents air travel, departure taxes, room and board, insurance, ground transportation, sightseeing and administrative costs. By your first team meeting, you will receive a breakdown of what part of the charges are tax deductible for your trip and what is not.

Unexpected airline charges and expenses can sometimes occur over which we have no control. *Thank you for your understanding if we have to increase the stated fees.*

## TEAM LEADERSHIP

Each project has a team leader-chosen because of their mature faith in Christ, demonstrated ability to lead wisely, and experience in past projects. It is mandatory for all team members to cooperate with team leaders. When decisions must be made, the buck always stops with the team leader.

Circumstances sometimes require team members to be extra flexible because needs at a site can change; also team members may be asked to do work that seems beneath their training or talents. Under these circumstances, please remember **Phil. 2:5-8**. If all team members follow the admonition of this passage, everyone will have a wonderful and fulfilling project experience.

## NECESSARY RULES

***Dress Conservatively!*** WEAG teams are representing Christ, our missionary host and His Church. Team members are instructed about proper dress prior to each project and are expected to comply. Standards and styles vary from country to country.

***The purchase and use*** of tobacco & alcohol is prohibited. This includes the project & travel to and from the destination.

Team members are required to participate in team ***devotional life***.

There should be ***no profanity*** on a missions project. This includes on clothing and in conversation.

You will be expected to ***limit your time*** on phones and the internet while on a project.

***Airlines reserve the right*** to *require* the purchase of an additional seat based on a persons weight or size. These costs are the responsibility of the individual team member and can cause an increase in the overall trip cost.

## CROSS- CULTURAL RELATIONS

Short-term projects offer each of us exposure to a variety of cultures and new experiences. Because of differing views on Americans, Christianity and gender/age roles, you may be asked to remove jewelry, cover tattoos, or body art, or wear clothing more in keeping with the standards of the national Christian community or the local population we serve. In some cultures, tattoos signify gang affiliation and can cause problems with the national church. This also applies to piercings and other jewelry and body art. *Our missionaries appreciate all we do to comply with their local guidelines.*

## TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE

Once your name is on your airline ticket you have the option of purchasing travel insurance for ticket cancellation through companies such as Travel Guard. This is not the insurance included with our trips for health coverage. The price of this particular travel insurance is based on a number of factors such as ticket price, age of the traveler, how long you are away, etc. It covers a sudden change in your plans that prevent you from going and using your airline ticket.

Visit the web for a complete list of companies offering this feature. If you would like to purchase this insurance, we will be glad to send you an email copy of your confirmation code and ticket. You will need this information before you can make a purchase. Please note that this is a personal transaction and the price is variable, so we do not handle any funds for trip cancellation insurance through WEAG missions.

## INFORMATION

You will receive several team booklets before departure. Please read through them completely before you leave. Hopefully they'll help you have a stress free trip preparation experience. ☺