TRINIDAD MISSION TRIP 2017 FAQ’S, Financial Deadlines, & Contact Info

Dates?
March 11-18, 2017 (Spring Break)

Cost?
$1,900 that each student will raise. They will be required to pay $50 personally. Our main way to raise support is through support letters, which will be explained and outlined at our first meeting. We will also have a bake sale, a t-shirt fundraiser, and encourage students to work or do whatever they can to raise the money to go.

Where is Trinidad?
Trinidad and Tobago are the southernmost set of islands located in the West Indies 7 miles off the coast of Venezuela.

Who will you be working with in Trinidad?
We will be working with Trinidad and Tobago Urban Ministries in Port of Spain, Trinidad. Their website is TTUM.org

What will you be doing there?
We will be sharing the gospel throughout the city by performing a drama that is designed to create hundreds of conversations centered around the gospel. We will also be running backyard Bible clubs in the same neighborhoods each day working with children. We will also be helping the local churches and TTUM with construction projects.

Will you be doing anything other than ministry?
On the last day, we will travel to unique part of the island to reflect on our week in Trinidad, to celebrate what God has done. Last year we went to Toco, northeastern part of the island, and then to one of Toco’s beaches to play on the beach and swim in the beautiful Caribbean ocean. Plans for what we will do on this day aren’t set yet, and are subject to change, but all you need to know is it will be awesome! The $50 you personally pay will cover the expenses for this day.

*Will my son or daughter need a passport?
Yes! This is a must and should be the first thing you do because it typically takes 6 weeks to get back from the government. (Don’t forget to check over the expiration date on your passport!) (travel.state.gov click on passport)
Where will you be staying in Trinidad?
TTUM has a missionary compound in Port of Spain. It is a gated facility with apartment and dorm style housing. There is a cafeteria on sight that will serve us 3 square meals a day. The cooks do their best to accommodate most dietary restrictions. It is the same place we stay every year and is actually quite nice. The water at the compound is filtered, and the students fill their water bottles before we leave each day. Also, later we will give out the TTUM member missions packet which includes emergency contact information for the staff there that you can reach anytime.

How will my son or daughter travel to Trinidad?
We will break students up into “travel groups” consisting of about 4-5 students and one leader. As we go through the airport, they are to go through all the checkpoints with that travel group and wait on each other to move to the next checkpoint. Each group has an adult leader with them at all times. This is even when they get food, use the restroom, and go anywhere in the airport. If we waited for the entire group to check in before going through security - we would never make our flights. That is why we break them up into smaller groups, then have a handful of central meeting points once they go through checkpoints. A DBSM staff member is always at the front of the pack and the very last to go through, to ensure it is smooth and any hiccups that may arise are worked out. Throughout the airport travel, your student will be responsible for their own passport. Once we arrive at the compound in Trinidad, we will take up the passports and lock them in the safe at TTUM.

How will my son or daughter travel around Trinidad?
We will split into teams of about 20 each. Each team will consist of DBSM staff, leaders, students, and at least one staff member from TTUM. Each team will travel by bus to their different ministry sites and neighborhoods for the day. Your student will never be alone in any of these areas and are put into “ministry groups” to ensure their safety. They must stay in these groups while on a site and cannot be off alone at any point. The staff at TTUM sets up our entire schedule before we even arrive, and will always be with us out on ministry sites.

Will my student be responsible for his or her passport?
Yes, while traveling through the airport, they will be responsible for taking care of their own passport. Once at the compound, we will be collecting them and storing them in TTUM’s safe.

What if my son or daughter gets sick?
We will pack well-stocked medical kits with us as we go. If there is an emergency, we will contact you and be able to take them to the doctor or hospital there in Trinidad, with a Trinidad and Tobago Urban Ministries staff member. They also will receive short term trip insurance through DBC Missions while they are abroad.

How do I contact my son or daughter while they are there?
There is no cellphone use or internet for your student in Trinidad. There is internet at the compound (sometimes) that staff will use to send updates on The City if the internet is working.
You will be given emergency contact numbers that are the cellphones of TTUM staff members if you have to reach your student. Likewise, if something happened and we needed to reach you concerning your student— we have the capabilities to do so, and will do so. One reason why this trip can be so impactful is because the students don’t have use of their phones and are taken away from the general distractions of daily life. Away from those distractions, they are able to see God in a different and new way.

**Can the students bring cameras? Ipods? Phones?**

Any electronic devices or anything of high value are the sole responsibility of your student on the trip. We will not be responsible if their items are lost or stolen. That being said, cameras are encouraged for this trip as students will want to have such an experience well documented. iPods and phones won’t be allowed (or really even work!) during the day as we’re out doing ministry and will be left behind at the compound.

**Will they need extra money for the trip?**

All food, lodging, and transportation is provided for with the money the students raise. The exception is food at the airport/while traveling. If a student wants to get a souvenir, that will be up to them and they will need their own money for that. TTUM has a store on sight that sells different Trinidad stuff. Also, we will stop at a souvenir shop at some point in the week. They will need their own money for souvenirs.

**How much cash should my student bring? Where can he or she exchange it?**

We’re recommending around $60-75 for spending money. The only items students will need cash for include souvenirs and 4 meals at the airport. Our staff and leaders will be assisting students in exchanging their money in Trinidad.

**Do the students have insurance?**

Through DBC’s missions department, the International Medical Group covers each person for medical insurance for the duration of the trip. It covers emergency medical expenses and evacuation.

**How will I know how much support my student has raised?**

You will receive regular support updates leading up to this trip. These updates will either come in printed form, handed out during our meetings or available during a Sunday morning service, or will come by email. Updates will become more frequent as we get closer to the trip. Additionally, this year, the Missions Office will be handling the gathering, compiling, and inputting of the support money. DBSM’s role in support raising will be to communicate to each student what their support update looks like. So if you have any questions regarding money amounts on support updates, as in any discrepancies, please contact the Missions Office, whose contact info is on the following page.
Financial Deadline Dates:

Here are the deadline dates to hit regarding support raising:

- **Have $900 raised by Wednesday, January 11, 2017** - this is the date we finalize and purchase our plane tickets. If a student misses this deadline, we will be unable to purchase airfare for him or her. Therefore, he or she will not be able to go on the trip to Trinidad.
- **Paid in full ($1,900) by Sunday, February 26, 2017** - this is the date we are required to pay TTUM for lodging, meals, and transportation and finalize any payments for supplies, drama costumes, makeup, and more.

Students will receive various updates of their total support raised, which gives a good snapshot of where they are at financially. We will gladly walk alongside you all every step of the way and we are confident that everyone will be fully supported.

As we are preparing for this trip, if you see that you might be short any funds by our deadlines, please come talk with a DBSM staff person prior to either of the due dates.

Contact Information

**DBSM Staff Contact**

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**SERVE Missions Office Contact**

This year, the Missions Office will be handling the gathering, compiling, and inputting of the support money. Contact the Missions Office if you have any questions about money amounts on support raising updates or any paperwork documentations.

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Trinidad 2017