

Frequently Asked Questions

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What takes place on a Global Health Outreach trip?

The focus of Global Health Outreach trips is to share the hope and compassion of Jesus Christ the Messiah with those who have never heard of Him, or the joy of a relationship with Him. We do this by ministering to physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs in word and in deed. We provide high quality medical, dental, and surgical care to many people who lack the resources or access to such care, and seek opportunities to pray with our patients and their families, and to share the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ where culturally appropriate.

We work with many national partners who have a similar passion. Our national partners greatly appreciate the sacrifice made by our team members in finances, time, and travel, and are deeply invested in using the medical skills of our team members to build the church based on the model given to us in the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20.

Do you openly evangelize and preach on your teams?

We have missions teams that work in Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, and animist cultural contexts, and in the cultural Christianity and cultural Catholicism that is widespread in the Americas. We provide holistic care that addresses physical, psychological, social, and spiritual needs. Where culturally appropriate and with the consent of those to whom we are ministering, we share the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

What kinds of people are on the team?

Our teams mostly provide primary medical and dental care. We have physicians, surgeons, anesthesiologists, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and dentists; nurses, pharmacists, dental assistants, dental hygienists and physical therapists, scrub nurses and scrub techs, CRNA's, pastors, and many non-medical people who help out in the pharmacy and in other settings. As a matter of fact, about a third of our teams may be people with no medical training. We call these people "Logistics".

I live in Canada. Can I go on one of your trips?

Yes! People from Canada, Australia, England, Brazil, and Columbia have served with Global Health Outreach. If you are a health care professional, your credentials and license from home are turned in to the national Ministry of Health with those of the rest of the team. For Canadians, we have a partnering agreement that often makes it possible to get a tax-deductible contribution receipt for all trip and travel costs that is good in Canada.

Is it safe? You go to some places that seem pretty unstable!

No place on earth is perfectly safe, and the best place to be is in the center of God's will. We travel by commercial aircraft, and then often by bus to get to our ministry site. Many of our teams go to places where people do not have good access to healthcare. Some of these are in larger cities, where there are always threats of accidents, theft, kidnappings, gangs, and terrorism. Many of our trips go to remote areas, where there may be increased risk of infectious diseases, natural disasters, and highway accidents. We take security risks very seriously, and work closely with our national partners to understand the risks and take sensible precautions. We work with a global security company called Red24, and use their network and experience to protect against risks. We follow the example of Jesus Christ in Hebrews 13:12-13. He went outside the camp – the safe, familiar, friendly home – and suffered to sanctify us through His own blood. We are likewise called to go outside the camp, to leave the comforts of home.

Can students go on Global Health Outreach teams?

Absolutely! We welcome undergrad students, nursing, pharmacy, physician assistant, physical therapy, medical, dental, and just about any other kind of student! Students are primarily assigned to a professional in their area of study, but will also be rotated around to participate in other aspects of the medical team.

How old do you have to be to serve on a Global Health Outreach trip?

You need to be old enough to serve! We have had kids who are 7 or 8 years old help with children's programs, and have had 80-year-olds working in the pharmacy and teaching students! Willingness and motivation to serve is the key issue. Contact us at gho@cmda.org to explore your specific case.

Do you have to be 18 to go on a medical missions trip?

Absolutely not! We have plenty of students and family members go on trips. Many parents have said that it is much more bonding as a family for Mom, Dad, and several kids to serve together in another country and minister to the needs of the needy than taking a family vacation to the beach or the mountains! We have many missions teams going to areas that are appropriate for young people to go!

What extra paperwork do I have to complete if I am under 18?

If both parents are going on the trip, then the only extra form is the Supplemental Application for Minor Children that both parents must sign.

What paperwork is needed if I am under 18 and only one of my parents is going on the same trip?

In addition to the Supplemental Application for Minor Children that both parents must sign, the parent NOT going on the trip must sign the Parental Authorization that allows the other parent to take you out of the country. If NEITHER parent is going on the trip, a Limited Temporary Custody and Power of Attorney must be completed by both parents. Contact us at GHOApps@cnda.org to discuss these additional forms and other requirements.

Where is the starting point of the trip?

Since team members come from all over North America, the teams often meet up in one of the gateway airports in the United States: Miami, Atlanta, Houston, Washington, DC, New York, or Chicago. For some Central America trips, you may meet up in the airport in the country where the team will serve. Don't worry, no one is sent alone!

Do I have to attend a meeting before the team departs?

Many teams will meet by phone conference or by GoToMeeting several times before the trip. Others may communicate totally by e-mail. If a number of team members are coming from the same area, there will often be a meeting prior to departure. No one will be required to make a separate trip to attend one of these meetings.

Do I have to be a Christian to be eligible for a Global Health Outreach trip?

We invite people to come on our teams who are from all kinds of faith traditions, or even no faith tradition, as long as they read and accept our Biblical basis of ministry at the end of our trip application, and agree to the personal standards of conduct. We have had people from many backgrounds – cultural Christians, Catholics, Buddhists, Hindus, and no particular belief – in addition to people who are committed followers of Christ. There are a few faith traditions that are diametrically opposite those outlined in the Bible. Several people from these faith traditions have come on our trips and found that it was too uncomfortable for them to participate in a ministry effort such as ours. We encourage

these people to seek a service opportunity with a group that is more like-minded to their preferences. We have had a few people who have grown up in these faith traditions but have not continued following the faith tradition as adults, and they have done just fine on our teams.

What is an EvangeCube? Why did you send me one?

The EvangeCube is a wonderful tool that makes it easy to share the gospel using pictures and a story. Did you know that 80% of the world's population prefers to learn by stories, poems, or skits? Sometimes the people we serve are illiterate or semi-literate, but in much of the world, people learn by stories and pictures. The EvangeCube puts both of these together and provides a very easy tool to use to walk someone through the gospel. Read the instructions that come with the EvangeCube, and bring it along on the trip. There is also a great YouTube video demo [here](#). You will definitely use it!