

Frequently Asked Questions – Passports & Visas

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[Do I need a passport to go on a GHO mission trip?](#)

Yes, all GHO trips are to countries outside the US so passports are required for all team members, whether you are a U.S. citizen or a citizen from another country.

[Do I need a visa to go on a GHO trip?](#)

It depends on where the team is going. Passports only are required for U.S. citizens going to countries located in Central America, South America, and North America. With few exceptions, visas are required for all other countries. Trip participants will be advised by the team leader if a visa is required. Citizens from other countries may need a visa for trips to the Americas, so contact us at GHOTravel@cmda.org to determine what exactly you need.

[How do I go about obtaining a passport?](#)

The link below will guide you through the process with step-by-step instructions for filling out and submitting your passport application.

<http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports/apply.html>

[How long will it take to get my passport?](#)

According to information on the above website the processing time is 3 – 6 weeks* depending on whether or not you choose to pay the additional cost for expedited service.

*Please note the U.S. government will be receiving a record number of passport renewal applications in 2016

due to more passports being issued within a year or two following the incidents on 9/11 so more processing time may be required than what is currently stated on their website.

I already have a passport. When should I apply for a passport renewal?

It is recommended that you begin the application process to renew your passport approximately 9 months before it expires although the application can be submitted at any time. Passports issued to applicants age 16 or older can be renewed by mail up to 5 years after the expiration date.

Does my child need a passport?

Yes. Even infants need a passport to travel outside the United States.

After I get married and change my name, is a new passport "required" or just suggested?

It depends. Some countries will accept your current passport with your name prior to marriage **IF** accompanied with a marriage certificate. Other countries require the name in your passport match that on your plane ticket or any other document they might request (e.g., driver's license).

Keeping the current name in your passport would necessitate two things. One, you would need to contact the consular section of every country you intend to visit to ask concerning this issue and, two, you would possibly have to take your marriage certificate with you each time you travel.

The only way to avoid this is to change the name in your passport.

I am not a U.S. citizen. What are my passport and/or visa requirements?

Non-U.S. citizens are responsible for knowing and understanding the passport and/or visa application requirements of the Consulate for the country of the mission trip they wish to attend.

My question was not addressed here. Where can I find it or who should I contact?

Answers to many more questions can be found in the FAQ section of the U.S. Passport Service Guide website below.

<http://www.us-passport-service-guide.com/passport-faq.html>