

## Description

We are excited about this opportunity before us during Mid-Winter Break. This opportunity, no matter how good, cannot function without you who will potentially make up our team. We trust that you are carefully praying through your priorities and considering this outstanding opportunity for growth, training, and service.

## Why Short-term Mission?

As part of Bear Creek's commitment to service, the purpose of short-term mission is to put ourselves in a place where our awareness of the kingdom of God becomes fuller, richer, and more present. When we come home we're able to better view our lives in light of God's kingdom. We also grow in our service to Christ by setting an example and by listening to his direction. We experience community and partnership with brothers and sisters of other nationalities and see how God is using them to proclaim his love to their own people. Most of all, we go into the world both locally and globally proclaiming God's love because that is God's great commission for us (Matt. 28).

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Why the Dominican Republic?** Jeff Gephart, Dean of Students for Upper School, previously served as a full-time missionary in Albania, and as a college and missions pastor is an experienced global short-term mission trip leader. Dr. Gephart has not only led and sent teams to the Dominican Republic but also established a relationship with the Doulos Discovery School in Jarabacoa with whom we will serve. This ASCI school has a unique and important vision to reach Dominicans for Christ and train up the next wave of leaders. The director and staff of the school have a very good program and have proven to be organized and capable of hosting service teams.

Go to [www.doulosdiscovery.org](http://www.doulosdiscovery.org) for information about the school.

**Who is eligible?** All Upper School students may apply. However, we'll likely limit the team to about 15-20 participants if necessary.

**What does it cost?** Cost is an estimate at this point, approximately \$3,000 (depending upon airfare and the size of the group). There is a non-refundable deposit of \$200 due at registration by October 5th. We will then have 2 deadlines of partial payments prior to the whole amount being due. Families will be expected to pay the full amount, but students may raise full or partial support through opportunity letters if they wish. Dr. Gephart will provide training and instructions for fundraising at the first team meeting.

**Where will we stay?** At a guest facility within walking distance of the school.

**Who is leading this trip?** Jeff Gephart, Dean of Students, will be the trip leader. Please direct all questions to him at [jgephart@tbcs.org](mailto:jgephart@tbcs.org), or 898-1720 ext. 735. In addition, we will have other faculty chaperones. Some students will be given leadership roles on the team as well.

**What will we do?** Our purpose will be to serve and to learn, so we will do whatever is helpful for the organizations we serve and will probably not know fully until we get there. This is the nature of mission trips. We will share our testimonies, be ready to lead activities with children and help in whatever way we can. We

will see friendship with Dominicans as a priority. Most likely students will be in classrooms helping teachers with an important Expedition Week that is part of the school program. We will have fun!

**Is it safe?** There are always risks and liabilities associated with serving in mission, especially in less developed countries. However, the Dominican Republic is a safe place to take a team, and our hosts are very knowledgeable and prepared. As a team, we will take all reasonable and feasible precautions traveling in a different country.

### **Detailed Steps**

- ❑ Fill out an application and return it to Dr. Gephart **no later than October 5.**
- ❑ Turn in a nonrefundable deposit of \$200 by October 5 to reserve your spot—check payable to **The Bear Creek School** with **“DR Trip” in the memo line**
- ❑ Be sure to place all mandatory team meetings on your calendar. Team meetings will be on Monday or Wednesday evenings from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., at the school on the following dates: November 5, November 26, January 14, February 4, and March 6.

\*\* Pizza and soda will be provided for these team meetings.

- ❑ Parents who have specific questions that might determine whether a student will participate should email or call Dr. Gephart ([jgephart@tbc.org](mailto:jgephart@tbc.org)) directly and he will follow up with an email or phone call. A parent Q&A meeting will be held on **September 19 at 2:30 p.m.** in the Upper School Block Leadership Suite (upstairs) to answer any questions and talk briefly about the trip. After our team is established we will take the last 30 minutes of our first team meeting to cover more details.