



**Summer 2023 Mission Trips
International Acceptance Packet**

Table of Contents

Getting Started (RIM Contact Info)	3
MUST READ THIS: Trip Cheatsheet (DON'T SKIP!!)	4
About RIM (Statement of Faith, Team Structure, Safety, Note to Parents)	5
Important Info (Passports, Insurance, Immunizations, Training, Required Forms)	7
Financial Info (Deadlines, Refunds, Receipts, How to Add Funds)	10
Pre-Trip Preparation	14
Participant Accounts (Tracking Donations and Forms)	15
How to Create your RIM Funding Page - Public Profile	16
Fundraising Guide	17
Sample Support Letter	20
Team Covenant (Conduct Agreement, Phone/Internet, Personal Commitment)	21
Country Info	Folder Pocket
Things to Bring	Folder Pocket
Language Tools (if applicable)	Folder Pocket
RIM Notarized Consent Form	Folder Pocket

*****ATTENTION PARTICIPANTS & PARENTS*****

If you don't do anything else with this packet...

READ THE TRIP CHEATSHEET

Bookmark www.realimpact.com/forms

Everything is there, all you need on one page, check it out!!

If you have any questions, RIM is available by phone 9am-5pm EST, Monday through Thursday at 1.800.774.6746 or by email anytime at GoInfo@realimpact.com.



Getting Started

Throughout the next few months, we hope that you will contact RIM if you have any questions or need help. We're here for you and want to make it easy to get on the mission field. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us!

RIM Contact Info:

- **1-800-77-GO-RIM**
- **1-800-774-6746**
- **GoInfo@realimpact.com**
- **PO Box 1532, Gainesville, GA 30503**

On the next page is a 1-page, cheatsheet for everything to do...

YOU MUST READ THE NEXT PAGE

Use realimpact.com/forms to submit forms or add funds to your account!!

Please note that if you are accepted to your trip AFTER one of the deadlines below, initial items will be due immediately. If you are late to sign up, you are responsible to complete all the deadlines that passed before your acceptance within 3 DAYS of your acceptance (this may include fundraising deadlines). Please contact the RIM office with any questions!

Near to your trip start, you will also receive:

- LODGING INFO** – So your family members will know exactly where you are
- EMERGENCY CONTACT INFO** – So your family can reach RIM and be put in touch with you in the event of an emergency that occurs at home while you are gone
- RIM T-SHIRT and/or DRAMA COSTUME** (If applicable to your trip)

Trip Cheat Sheet

Do Everything Online! All Passport, Insurance, Fundraising & Forms:

REALIMPACT.COM/FORMS

Application Process

- Apply Online, Submit Application Fee & Pastor's Recommendation**
- Submit \$95 non-refundable deposit** – Due 2 weeks after your acceptance to hold your spot
- Receive Acceptance Packet** from RIM

Immediately

- Apply for Passport/Verify/Renew** – If you need one, apply immediately
Renew if it expires before 1/15/2024 (RIM requires 6 months of validity beyond the trip)
- Verify Immunizations** – Make an appointment soon if additional shots are necessary
- Create your RIM Funding Page** – (See page 15) Plan several dates for fundraising on social media
- Send Support Letters, plan fundraisers, share at your church, etc.

By April 15th

- 1st Fundraising Deadline** – See chart in pocket to determine amount due for your ministry location

By May 15th

- 2nd Fundraising Deadline** – See chart in pocket
- Begin researching domestic airfare** (wait to purchase until trip is greenlighted)
- Online Form Due: PASSPORT UPLOAD** – Must be valid at least until 2/1/2023
- Online Form Due: INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE PURCHASE FORM** – buy required coverage (\$3.45 per day). See page 8 for additional information

By June 15th

- 3rd Fundraising Deadline (100%)** – See chart in pocket
- Online Form Due: DOMESTIC TRAVEL INFO**
- Paper Form Sent to RIM: NOTARIZED CONSENT FORM** – Print, notarize and mail original physical copy to RIM, PO Box 1532, Gainesville, GA 30503. Should be received by June 15th

Before You Travel

- Receive “Final Mailing” including RIM t-shirt that must be worn to the airport
- Leave lodging and contact details with your parents/spouse
 - Tell friends to **LIKE** RIM's page on Facebook for updates: facebook.com/realimpactmissions



About Us

Real Impact Missions is a multi-denominational Christian organization that mobilizes individuals and groups for short-term missions. We value strategic partnerships, intentional evangelism, exemplary leadership, and ministry that matters. Our heart and passion is to bring the lifesaving Gospel of Jesus Christ to the hurting and broken around the world!

Read more at www.realimpact.com!

On the trip application, participants signed to verify they read and understood RIM's policies and values. You can find our Statement of Faith, values, leadership structure, safety measures, and FAQs at: Realimpact.com/about-us.

Statement of Faith

RIM is a multi-denominational organization that boldly proclaims receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior as the only way to salvation. We recognize that individual participants may hold differing beliefs about certain theological topics (outside of salvation); however, application to a RIM trip implies that each participant has read and understands RIM's basic statement of faith, available in its entirety at realimpact.com/we-believe.

Team Structure

Teams consist of 15-30 participants who minister together throughout the trip. Multiple teams may be deployed to the same country. Team leadership consists of three levels of leadership.

- **Mission Advisors** – Remain with small groups of participants at all times
- **Team Leaders** – Train teams and accompany them throughout the ministry schedule
- **Project Directors** – Provide spiritual and logistical oversight for multiple teams

Safety

We take safety seriously! RIM takes calculated measures to protect our participants. You can read a summary below or full details at realimpact.com/safety.

- **US State Department** – Regular collaboration and monitoring of trip locations
- **Extensive Leadership Structure** – Three tiers of vetted leadership with accountability
- **Background Checks** – Routine for all team leaders and project directors
- **Never Alone Policy** – Leaders always accompany participants outside lodging complex
- **Alternate Locations** – Used when physical or political conditions make travel inadvisable
- **Behavioral Standards** – Participants may be sent home for violations of Team Covenant

A Special Note to Parents

One of the questions parents frequently ask is:

“Who is taking care of and watching over my child while he/she is overseas?”

Parents, whether your child is 14 or 25, we want you to feel confident about the safety and security of your child while he or she is on foreign soil. We understand your concerns and hope this information will help to ease them.

We invest deeply in our leaders to ensure the best possible experience for your child in ministry, discipling, accountability, and safety. All leadership candidates attend a training camp where we conduct both selection and training. Leadership candidates are trained in the areas of ministry, leadership, and discipling.

Our leadership breakdown begins with a male and/or female Project Director. The Project Directors are responsible for all the teams in a country. Each team consists of up to 25 to 30 young people and is headed up by a male and female Team Leader who is 21 years or older. The Team Leaders handle the daily schedule, discipline, and spiritual environment for the team. Within each team, there are Mission Advisors who are accountable for 3 to 6 team members. A Mission Advisor is 18 years or older and is responsible for establishing relationships and watching out for your teen. Your young person will never be alone. He or she will always be with a leader (Project Director, Team Leader or Mission Advisor) when outside of the team’s lodging complex.

Your signatures, when you applied, indicated that you had read and understood RIM's policies. They also indicated that you had read and understood RIM's rules, consequences and disciplinary measures and that you agreed to support RIM's decision to enforce them. Please take a minute to read the Team Covenant on pages 20-23.

If you have questions or concerns at any point, please give us a call at **1-800-774-6746** or email us at **goinfo@realimpact.com**. In addition, we invite you to LIKE our Facebook page so that you receive updates in your newsfeed during your child’s trip: **facebook.com/realimpactmissions**.

Thank you for joining your child on this journey!

THE REAL IMPACT MISSIONS STAFF

Please note: Our office hours are 9am-5pm Eastern Time, Monday through Thursday.

Important Info



Passports

If you already have one:

- Verify that the expiration date is at least SIX MONTHS after the trip (1/15/2024)**
- If it expires before 1/15/2024, you will need to send it in to be renewed**
 - Follow the same instructions for a new passport
 - You will need to mail your old passport in with your new application
- Upload a copy of your Passport to RIM via realimpact.com/forms

If you don't have a passport:

- Apply for your passport immediately!!**
 - Get an official 2" x 2" Passport Photo taken (\$10 at Walgreens, CVS, or UPS)
 - Visit <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/passports/apply.html>
 - Fill out the online form (choose "Passport Book") and then print out a copy
 - Bring the form and picture to your county courthouse or your local post office
 - You also need your birth certificate, social security number, parent(s) and \$165
 - Allow 6-8 weeks processing time
- Upload a copy of your Passport to RIM via realimpact.com/forms
- If a visa is required for your location, RIM will send out an email with the information on how to apply for one. It is the participant's responsibility to complete the Visa process and bring the Visa with them as they travel. Fees that accompany visa applications are the responsibility of the participant.

If you have a foreign passport:

- Make sure you have all needed travel documents to enter the country(s) of international travel**
 - Be aware many countries require a visa/additional documentation for entry (i.e., proof of vaccination, etc.)
- Have all travel documents to reenter the U.S.

There are also **RUSH SERVICE AGENCIES** to get you your passport in a hurry, but they are expensive and add an additional fee (\$100+ above cost of the passport). If you have questions, call RIM at 1.800.774.6746.

International Insurance Instructions

RIM requires all travelers to have full coverage for foreign travel that includes \$1,000,000 or more medical/emergency evacuation, repatriation of remains, accidental death and dismemberment, and a \$0 deductible. Most domestic health insurance you already have will not fully meet these requirements, so RIM is partnering with MissionSafe Insurance to provide you with sufficient coverage via the RIM International Insurance Purchase Form online (approximately \$3.45 a day). RIM leaders will have all of the insurance card information in country. If you would like a copy of the card, just call RIM and we will send it to you.

**RIM does not receive any money from choosing MissionSafe. We use MissionSafe insurance because of their extensive international coverage for a low cost.*

Immunizations

RIM places a high value on keeping participants safe and healthy! For this reason, we require the vaccinations listed below. Our requirements are based on September 2022 Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations as well as information from our partners who live in each country. All information is subject to change, so we do recommend that you contact the CDC, your local health department, or your physician closer to the trip.

All International trips require:

- **Up-to-date childhood immunizations** (required)
- **Up-to-date Tetanus** (required, no exceptions)
- **Hepatitis A** (required)
- **Typhoid** (required for Thailand & Botswana; strongly recommended for Central America and Caribbean)

COVID-19 Information

For all Up-to-Date information regarding COVID-19 and how it may affect your outreach, you can look at realimpact.com/covid. Please note, information and protocols are subject to change.

Special Dietary Needs or Restrictions

Real Impact Missions does not accommodate specialized dietary needs (whether medically necessary or personal preference). If a participant is vegan, vegetarian, gluten-free, lactose intolerant, has a food allergy, or has any other dietary need/restriction, that individual must pack all necessary supplemental food items for their trip in their luggage. EpiPen required if allergic to a specific food or medicine.

Domestic Travel & Miami Training

All summer ministry training for 2 and 4-week trips will take place in Miami, Florida, at the start of the trip. Individuals are responsible to provide their own transportation to and from the Miami International Airport. Participants will be shuttled to and from the airport to training. If you are traveling by car, call the RIM office for directions. International airfare is covered by the cost of your trip and RIM will purchase that for you. Note: please do not purchase your domestic ticket until you receive an email that your trip has been greenlighted by RIM.

Meals and lodging will be provided beginning with dinner the first night. You will spend two days training in drama (if applicable), evangelism, ministry process, as well as meeting and building your team through group activities, praise and worship, and teaching on personal growth and development, missions and spiritual survival on the mission field. Some training will take place outside, so bring a couple pairs of shorts and t-shirts for the hot weather. Be sure to stay within the luggage and weight requirements for your country (see the Things to Bring List).

Medical Trip

Team members will all fly to the domestic launch city (Houston or Dallas) and meet up to fly internationally together on the same day. RIM will inform team members which airport to fly into once the trip is greenlighted. We will purchase the international flights for this trip and participants will be responsible for booking their domestic flights to the launch city.

Required Forms

In an effort to keep things as simple and easy as possible, most of the required paperwork and donations for your mission trip can be submitted online. There is only one RIM notarized form to be physically turned in. To upload files, fill out forms or download physical copies to send to RIM, visit:

[Realimpact.com/forms](https://realimpact.com/forms)

CHECKLIST:

- By May 15th – Complete PASSPORT UPLOAD**
 - Scan the page of your passport that has your picture on it
 - Full color, not blurry or cut-off
 - All numbers at the top right and along the bottom can be clearly read

- Expiration date must be 2/01/23 or later
- If applied for but not yet received, please call RIM
- By May 15th – Fill out the INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE PURCHASE FORM**
 - Buy required coverage (\$3.45/day) through the form.
- By June 15th – Complete DOMESTIC TRAVEL INFO FORM**
 - Do not buy airline tickets until your trip is greenlighted
- By June 15th – Print, Sign, Notarize and turn in RIM NOTARIZED CONSENT FORM**
 - Send to RIM, PO Box 1532, Gainesville, GA 30503

Financial Information

Fundraising Details

Participants are encouraged to fundraise as much as possible and to begin the process early. If a fundraising deadline arrives and a participant's goal is not met, they will need to add enough funds to reach the goal for that deadline. If the same student later raises excess funds, no refunds are available per IRS regulations.

- **\$95 non-refundable deposit** is due within 2 weeks of your acceptance to hold your spot
- **Fundraising Chart** in folder pocket shows trip costs and amounts due on each deadline
- **Leadership Candidate Camp** (for those invited) adds \$100 to your cost, due by June 1st
- **Fundraising Tools & Ideas** are available towards the back of this packet

COVID Donation Protection

At RIM we commit to stewarding each donation with kingdom responsibility. We understand the challenges and questions that come from fundraising in the Covid era, so we have worked to implement this Covid Donation Protection plan that will allow for as much flexibility as possible.

- Trip cancellations or postponements qualify for transfer of all funds that have not been expended, toward another location that year or for a future RIM trip.
- If an individual is unable to participate due to COVID-19 related issues, they also qualify for this donation protection. The funds he or she has raised that have not been expended, can go towards a future project, if done 30 days prior to the trip.

Missed Deadlines & Airline Surcharges

Missed deadlines can result in a \$35 late fee for each deadline. If you are concerned about a particular deadline, you must contact RIM before the deadline to request an extension. In addition, an airline surcharge may be added to your trip cost if your ticket is purchased later than everyone else's airfare. This could occur if you joined the team late or failed to meet a fundraising deadline. Airfare costs (taxes and government fees) often increase closer to the travel dates.

Refund Policy

All donations received by Real Impact Missions go toward project expenses and are non-refundable. To receive a tax deduction, donations cannot be designated to a specific individual. Each individual is a fundraiser for the RIM project and the funds raised go toward project costs and participation. Funds are non-transferable.

Trip Withdrawal

If an individual is unable to participate in the Real Impact experience, the funds he or she has raised, less deposit, incurred expenses and administrative fees, will remain credited to the project for one year. You can request to use those funds on a future RIM trip that you sign up for within one year of your current trip. Around 30 days before the trip, 100% of funds have been used toward project expenses and therefore cannot be credited toward future projects or trips.

Extra Funds

If you make a donation and/or raise funds in excess of the amount needed for this trip, RIM cannot return that money to you or to your donors. However, you can request to use that money on a future RIM trip that you sign up for within one year of your current trip. (1 - 4 weeks long, go to realimpact.com for outreach opportunities!)

Tax-Deductible Donations

Donations to Real Impact Missions are tax-deductible because Real Impact Missions is a registered 501(c)3 organization. All financial activity is filed annually on a Form 990 Corporate Federal Return. **Checks should be made payable to *Real Impact Missions*. In order to receive proper tax credit, the name of the RIM missionary may NOT appear anywhere on the check.** When sending in checks to RIM, please use the donation coupon (p. 12) or a note with the participant's full name and trip. RIM sends out donor receipts in January according to IRS requirements.

Receiving Donations & Adding Funds to Your Account

Your donors may give toward your trip cost using any of the following methods:

- **Mail a check** to Real Impact Missions, PO Box 1532, Gainesville, GA 30503
**Include a card with the participant's name and trip, but do NOT write their name on the check itself*
**Make checks payable to Real Impact Missions*
- **Give online at realimpact.com/donate** – Enter the participant's name and trip
- **Click GREEN DONATE BUTTON on an individual's public profile link** – See page 15

If you prefer to collect the checks yourself and then send them to RIM in a group:

- Mail the checks in at least once a month so donors don't wait long for them to deposit
- Include a RIM donation coupon (next page) or note w/your name and trip on it
- Donations must arrive before fundraising deadlines to be counted toward that deadline!

Processing Time

Below are the normal processing times for various types of donations. Near to a fundraising deadline or year-end giving, please allow additional time for donations to post to your account.

- **Checks** – Mailing time + 2 business days
- **Online Giving via realimpact.com** – 2 business days
- **Online Giving via Public Profile** – Added immediately in real time, no processing needed

Note: Business days for Real Impact Missions are Monday to Thursday, 9am-5pm EST

Donation Coupons ALL CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS MUST BE SENT IN TO THE REAL IMPACT MISSIONS OFFICE WITH A DONATION COUPON. Photocopy this sheet if you think you will need more. Your funds can be viewed on realimpact.managedmissions.com.

Donation Coupon

_____		_____
Missionary Name	Country	
Donor Name	Amount Given	Check #
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____
10. _____	_____	_____
Total (\$) Sent to Real Impact Missions		_____
Date _____		

NOTE: Missionary name should not appear anywhere on the check for proper tax-deductible credit.

Donation Coupon

_____		_____
Missionary Name	Country	
Donor Name	Amount Given	Check #
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____
10. _____	_____	_____
Total (\$) Sent to Real Impact Missions		_____
Date _____		

NOTE: Missionary name should not appear anywhere on the check for proper tax-deductible credit.

Pre-Trip Preparation



The following is a list of things you can do to better prepare you for your mission trip.

- **Pray** – This is by far the most important part. Begin to pray for the country, the people, for divine appointments, for your team, and for the funds to come in for your trip.
- **Research** – Research your country as much as possible; the people, history, major religion(s), culture. Travel books and library books can give you a good feel for the country.
- **Read Your Bible** – Especially read books like Romans and John, that can help you while witnessing. Memorize relevant scriptures that you can use in personal evangelism (see below).
- **Read** – Read Christian books that encourage you in your walk with God.
- **Prepare Your Testimony** – Practice sharing your testimony, approximately 1 to 2 minutes long. It can either be about your salvation experience, a miracle God has done in your life, a healing, or God’s provision that you’ve experienced. Make sure it’s personal. Your Project Directors and Team Leaders will continue to help and coach you.
- **Learn the Four Spiritual Laws** – The following principles are a great tool as you share the gospel message:
 1. **God loves you and created you to have a personal relationship with Him.**
John 3:16, John 17:3
 2. **Man is sinful and guilty before God, who is perfect and just. Sin has separated man from God and the relationship between them is broken. We must repent.**
Romans 3:23, 2 Thess. 1:8-9
 3. **Jesus Christ is God’s solution for man’s sin. Through Him alone you can have a personal relationship (He died in our place, rose from the dead and is the only way to God).**
1 Peter 3:18, Romans 5:8, John 14:6
 4. **We must each respond and ask Jesus Christ into our lives as Savior and Lord.**
John 1:12, Romans 12

Participant Accounts



Upon acceptance, every participant will receive access to their own personal Managed Missions account. These accounts are a helpful tool for students and parents to track fundraising, forms, goals and tasks. Please take advantage of this tool. It makes life easier!

Getting Started

Each participant will receive an invitation to Managed Missions by email once he or she has been fully accepted by RIM. This email will come from **GoInfo@realimpact.com**. Please add this email address to your “safe list” so that you don’t lose it in junk mail or spam.

- **Step One:** Receive email invite from RIM
- **Step Two:** Click link in the email and choose a password for your account
- **Need Help?** Call RIM at 1.800.774.6746 from 9am-5pm EST, Monday-Thursday

NOTE: This email goes to the participant’s email address (from their application) and cannot go to multiple addresses. If you would like to use a parent’s email address instead, please call RIM.

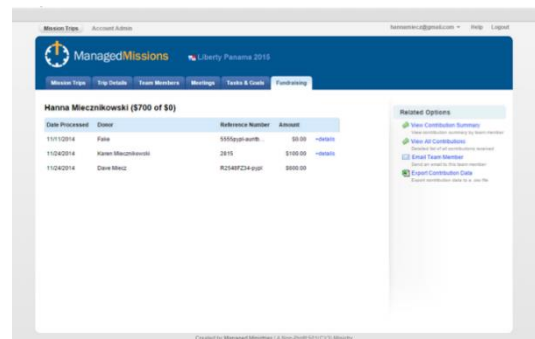
To Login

Visit <http://realimpact.managedmissions.com> and enter your email address plus the password you selected during “Getting Started” above. Then select your trip (ex. “Thailand”).

To Check Your Balance

Login to your account and then follow these steps:

- Click the **Fundraising** tab
- View your donations
- Click **+details** for additional donor info



To Check Deadlines

Login to your account and then follow these steps:

- Click the **Tasks & Goals** tab
- View upcoming deadlines and check if you’ve met fundraising goals/submitted forms

To Create a Public Profile

****EXTREMELY IMPORTANT:** THIS IS AN AWESOME TOOL!! DON’T MISS OUT!!**
Keep reading on the next page to find out how this works...

How to Create a RIM Funding Page (Public Profile)



It's called SOCIAL GIVING... Real Impact Mission's public profiles are one of the most effective tools we provide to help you raise money for your trip, and **you receive 100% of the funds donated through this page** (unlike other

fundraising sites that charge a fee). The power of peer-to-peer fundraising when combined with modern technology is incredible! For example, we saw one participant raise \$2000 in just three days and another raise \$3,400 in one month!

How to Create a Public Profile

- Login: <http://realimpact.managedmissions.com>
- Click {Your Trip Name}
- Click **Edit my public** profile (top right)
- Write a note to supporters
- Add a picture (clear, just you, not goofy)
- Click **Submit for Approval**
- Notice your personal **Public Profile URL** link
- Run several campaigns (ex. once a month)



How to Run a Campaign

- Choose a specific financial goal (ex. \$500, or your first fundraising goal)
- Choose a specific set of dates (ex. 3-day campaign the weekend after you're accepted)
- Post updates several times a day each day about your trip that includes your link
- The first few updates should tell people that you're going on a trip and need their help
- Subsequent posts should give updates about how much \$ is raised between posts
- At the end of the time, post thank you messages and final results
- Encourage your close friends and family to SHARE your posts throughout the days
- Repeat this once a month between now and your trip
- Consider using TikTok, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Pinterest, etc.

Getting the Funds...

Often, this feels like the biggest obstacle to people as they prepare for their mission trip, but it is also the greatest opportunity to experience God's provision and miraculous intervention! Here are some practical tools and biblical encouragement as you work to raise your funds:

- **God will supply all of your needs.** Read Philippians 4:19. It's a promise! Cling to this... If God has truly called you to go on this trip, He will provide all of your needs.
- **Missions is God's heart.** He is the One who told us to "Go into all the world." God would not instruct us to do this if He didn't intend to help us complete the task.
- **Pray.** At RIM, prayer is the foundation that we build our mission experiences on. Pray for God to multiply your efforts, increase your funds and bring you prayer partners.
- **Make a list of prospective partners.** Fundraising is less about money and more about relationships. God has given us relationships for a variety of purposes. He uses relationships to reach the world! Good stewardship of your relationships means including people in what you are doing overseas. Think of all the people you know that can join with your trip either financially or in prayer. Write down names of friends, relatives, church members, local businesses, business owners, etc. that you can send a support letter to. In addition, begin to think of ways to use social media to tell even more people.
- **Prayer Partners.** Choose 5 people and ask them to commit to pray for your trip. Provide them with the dates, country information, your personal needs (like funds) and have them pray especially for ministry effectiveness.
- **Write a letter for support.** This is a great way to let people know what you are doing and what God is doing in your life. Send letters to at least 30 people.
- **Follow your letter with a phone call.** We know this sounds scary, but it is actually really fun! 2 weeks after you send your letters, make a personal phone call to each person. Ask if they received this letter. Take this opportunity to explain more about your desire to go. Ask them for prayer/financial commitment.
- **Create a Public Profile and plan social media campaigns.** See page 14. Social media allows us to connect with people who want to join what God is doing around the world!!
- **Be creative.** Think of some different ways to get money... Check out page 16 for ideas!
- **Trust God.** Once you have done all that you know to do, look to God to do the rest. He'll do "exceedingly, abundantly above all that we can ask or imagine." (Ephesians 3:20)

Creative Fundraising Ideas

If you find yourself at a loss for ideas, try these:

- **Sponsor a Day** – Divide your trip cost by the number of days you'll be gone. (ex. \$2,095 trip divided by 15 days = \$140 per day) Ask people to choose a date (ex. August 2nd) and sponsor the entire day. Keep track of who sponsors which day. After the trip, show them your pictures and journal entries of what happened that day.
- **Per Mile Traveled** – Have people pledge to sponsor you for a certain number of miles (that you will travel from your home city to your ministry). Example, if your trip is \$2,095 and your journey is 4802 miles, people can sponsor you for \$0.44/mile.
- **Youth Sunday/Special Offering** – Ask your pastor if your team can share during one of the services and then take up a special missions offering.
- **Sell Stuff** – Bake sale, garage sale, jewelry sale, t-shirt sale, candy sale, flower sale...
- **Serve People** – Car wash, babysit, yardwork, walking pets, cleaning houses, painting...
- **____-a-thon** – Host a walk-a-thon, bowl-a-thon, rock-a-thon. Get sponsors for a 5K, etc.
- **Media Fast/Sugar Fast/Caffeine Fast** – Choose one of these to give up between now and your next deadline. Have people sponsor the number of days you go without TV or chocolate or soda or coffee. Show them you're committed to this trip!
- **Local TV/Radio/Newspaper** – See if they'll support you, interview you or write an article about what you're doing and how others can get involved.
- **Tournament** – Host a golf tournament and invite local businessmen to participate for a \$100 donation as their entrance fee. Consider other spots and hosting a 5K as well!
- **Concessions** – Sell candy and soda pop at special events.
- **Stadiums & Theme Parks** – Find out about opportunities for your whole group to clean up after a game and/or run a concession stand for a whole day in exchange for a donation.
- **Design** – Create custom hats, t-shirts or wrist bands and sell them.
- **Sponsors** – Ask a local business to match other donations you receive dollar-for-dollar.
- **Auction** – Live or silent. This could be a good one to do as a group!
- **Music** – Ask a local band or drama team to do a benefit performance.
- **Coffee** – Host a coffeehouse or sell lattes after church. Why not dessert too?
- **Collect Change** – Label mason jars for your trip and have people collect spare change.
- **Recycle** – If you live in a state that encourages it, there may be money to earn from this.
- **Arts & Crafts** – Have people donate handmade items and sell the donated items.
- **Get a Job!**

The opportunities are endless... Be creative. You can do this! Trust God and work hard!!

How to Write a Support Letter

The most important thing to remember in writing your support letter is that you are not just asking a bunch of people for money. Rather, you are giving people an opportunity to go on your trip with you... to share in the experience of proclaiming God's love to people who may never have heard the Gospel before. You are giving people who can't go on a mission trip themselves a chance to be an active participant in the Great Commission!

Basic guidelines for writing your letter:

- **Share your heart.** Explain what God has done in your life to bring you to the point of going on a mission trip. In a few sentences, describe why you picked this particular trip.
- **Tell about the place.** Write several facts about the country you will serve, the ministry you will do, and how long you will be gone.
- **Relate the need.** Explain the cost of the trip and your financial need. Communicate what you will be doing on your own to help with the cost (odd jobs, babysitting, carwash, etc.).
- **Invite people to participate.** Ask potential supporters to join your team by giving or praying or both. Be sure to let them know that all donations should be made out to Real Impact Missions and are tax deductible, but they should not put your name on the check.
- **Explain how to give money.** Provide them with details about giving online through your personal Public Profile URL or realimpact.com/donate or by sending a check to RIM.
- **Close with thanks.** Let them know how much you appreciate them and thank them for their involvement. Encourage them to pray about how God would have them give.
- **Include a self-addressed envelope (stamped if possible) and a commitment card for your supporters to send back.** Make it easy for people. Do most of the work for them!

If you need any additional help, feel free to call Real Impact Missions at 1-800-774-6746 or to email us at goinfo@realimpact.com. We're here to help!!

VERY IMPORTANT:

Be sure to tell your supporters that your name cannot appear anywhere on the check they send or else their gift will not be tax-deductible. They should fill out the commitment card you provide or just put a note with their check explaining who it's for and what trip.

Sample Support Letter

Dear Uncle Bob & Aunt Janet,

In the past few weeks, our school has been studying missions, and God has showed me His heart to reach the lost. My youth group is going on a mission trip to Panama with Real Impact Missions (RIM) this summer, and I have decided to join the team.

Because of the US legacy in Panama, citizens who live in big cities or near the Canal have access to many things that Americans have...safe running water, cars, TVs and good jobs. Many of them also speak English, even though the official language is Spanish. But at the same time, Panama is also home to several tribes of Indians who live in abject poverty and don't have access to adequate medical care and educational opportunities. The distance between these two groups is mere miles. They're next door neighbors.

The one thing they have in common is their need for Jesus. Throughout Panama, most people are religious and place cultural importance on rituals and traditions, but very few know a personal God who wants to have an intimate relationship with them as Savior and Lord. My team and I will be learning an evangelistic drama that opens doors for us to perform in public schools. Following our presentation, we will use one-on-one conversations with students to share our faith. A recent team saw 1100 students give their lives to Jesus in just 3 days! RIM's main ministry partner, CRU, has asked for more teams to come immediately.

*My youth group will be responding to this need. Our trip is July 1-15, 2021, and costs \$1,895. I am babysitting and doing odd jobs to earn part of this money, but I need help reaching my goal. Please consider sponsoring me with your tax-deductible financial gift and, most importantly, prayer. My initial fundraising goal is March 15th; so, if you can help me, please consider dropping a check in the mail today or giving online at {insert personal profile URL here or realimpact.com/donate/}. Your gift would be an investment into someone's eternal life. Please pray and do whatever God leads you to do. To receive a tax deduction, it is very important that you **do not put my name on the check**. Instead, include a note or commitment card with my name and ministry location. Make your check payable to Real Impact Missions and mail it to: {insert your address or RIM's address}.*

More than anything, I ask for your prayers concerning this trip. You can see updates while we are gone on RIM's Facebook page facebook.com/realimpactmissions. I sincerely appreciate your concern for the cause of Christ. May God bless you as you pursue Him and the establishment of His Kingdom. Together we can make a difference around the world!

Pursing Christ,

{Your Name}

Team Covenant



RIM staff cannot wait to see how God will use you to share the Gospel around the world this summer! Before you go, we want to make sure that we're all on the same page about what we believe and how we'll best represent Jesus Christ while traveling together. When you applied, you signed that you agreed to the rules and basic beliefs of RIM. Please read over these details to familiarize yourself with them before you go.

Conduct Agreement

The rules and regulations of Real Impact Missions are expressly designed to ensure the safety and well-being of each team member and to help teams maintain the highest degree of Christian integrity so that they can minister effectively in a cross-cultural setting. The enforcement of all aspects of these rules and regulations are the responsibility of the RIM staff which includes Project Directors, Team Leaders, Mission Advisors and those working at RIM HQ.

Enforcement shall occur in a manner which RIM staff feel is in accordance with Christian principles and the stated purpose of the project. We expect full cooperation from team members (and parents, if applicable) in disciplinary decisions made. RIM reserves the right to send any team member home that shows disregard for the stated rules and regulations.

THE TEAM MEMBER'S FAMILY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY COSTS INVOLVED IN SENDING THE TEAM MEMBER HOME. This may include, but is not limited to, meals, hotel rooms and international airfare.

Rules

Breaking the following rules will result in participants being sent home, **no exceptions**:

- No possession or use of illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco products
- No smoking, including e-cigarettes or vape
- No use of someone else's prescription drugs
- No fireworks, firearms or other weapons
- Never be outside of the lodging complex alone or without a leader in your group
- No romantic involvement of any kind during training or on the mission field
(No new relationships with teammates, translators or people you meet in country, and any pre-existing relationships on the team must be placed on hold with no alone time or PDA.)
- No entrance into opposite gender living quarters
- No stealing

- No pornography

Breaking the following rules while on a RIM trip will result in disciplinary action, which may eventually result in a participant being sent home if these behaviors continue:

- No profanity
- No fighting
- Group leaders must know where you are at all times
- A group leader must accompany you outside the housing complex at all times
- No secular music (please leave it home)
- No phone use (communicating with home, updating social media, internet use) outside of designated team communication times
- Be on time for all team meetings
- Be in the housing complex by curfew
- Refrain from behaviors that jeopardize the mission or your team's Christian witness
- No new ear or body piercings during the trip
- No new tattoos during the trip
- No new extreme hair styles or hair coloring during the trip
- You must adhere to the Dress Code
- No improper eating habits while on the trip

Communication with Home

At RIM, we value engagement in team activities and relationships with our teams as much as the quality of our ministry to those in the countries we serve. For this reason, we limit how and when you may communicate with people back home as well as when you may update social media. Periodically throughout the trip, leadership will designate communication times, and these are the ONLY times that participants may call, text or update.

- Participants may not initiate or respond to communication with home or update anything to social media outside of times specifically designated for this purpose.
- The entire team will communicate with home/update social media at the same time so that these communications do not interfere with team meetings or relationships.
- Parents may text participants any time they like but must understand that responses will not come until the next designated team communication time.
- Parents should expect that participants will NOT have daily access to wifi/calls.

Dress Code

Participants must adhere to RIM's dress code. Additional requirements may be added by RIM staff or local contacts as appropriate to your cultural situation.

General Dress Code:

- Shorts and tank tops may not be worn during ministry (for both guys and girls)
- Close-toed shoes (and sometimes pants) are required for work projects
- **SWIMWEAR:** Girls must wear one-piece suits or have a dark-colored t-shirt over a two-piece. Guys must wear t-shirts to/from the pool/beach
- **CHURCH CLOTHES:** Girls must have a skirt, knee length or below with a nice blouse or a long dress that is not sleeveless. Guys must have long pants (not joggers) and a collared shirt

Dress Code for Ladies:

- No short or tight skirts (knee length or below)
- One-piece bathing suits or a dark colored t-shirt over a two-piece
- No off-the-shoulder shirts
- Shorts outside the lodging complex at **approved times only**
- No short shorts
- No leggings or yoga pants
- No tank tops or sleeveless shirts
- No fitted or cropped T's - must be loose fitting and come past the waist with arms lifted
- No new body piercing done during Real Impact Missions involvement
- No new tattoos done during Real Impact Missions involvement
- No head shaving

Dress Code for Guys:

- No clothing that advertises alcohol, tobacco products, or heavy metal bands
- Must wear shirts at all times, including to and from the pool
- No shorts outside the lodging complex when involved in ministry
- No ear, nose, or lip rings worn during trip
- No saggy pants
- Avoid bizarre hair-shaving, braiding, coloring

Personal Commitment

Recognizing Jesus as the Author and Finisher of our faith and the Word of God as the supreme standard for all wisdom and knowledge, RIM participants pursue growth in Christlikeness. They understand that this requires them to seek first His Kingdom and righteousness so they:

- Endeavor to follow the will of God for their lives and to exemplify Christ-like character through daily personal prayer, consistent Bible study, and faithful group worship.
- Endeavor to faithfully give heed to the call God has on their lives and to develop the gifts and abilities that God has given them.
- Endeavor to bring glory and honor to the name of Jesus through our ministry and allow the love of the Spirit to flow through them.
- Realize that they have been crucified with Christ and that their lives belong to Him. It is their desire to develop themselves as servants and to seek opportunities to serve, realizing that love exalts and prefers others over self.
- Take the Great Commission as a personal call on our lives. They aim to spread the “good news” to every person and to make the most of every opportunity to minister.
- Submit themselves to the established leadership of Real Impact Missions and/or to any rules or regulations that may be adopted or changed from time to time.
- Realize that participation in missions is a privilege and a call from God, not a right, and that they purpose to give their best to positively support RIM’s ministry.

REAL IMPACT MISSIONS

1-800-774-6746