



MISSION TRIP MANUAL



DEAR TEAM MEMBER

We are excited that you've committed to being a part of a team to serve the children and staff at Robin's Nest Children's Home! We cannot give life saving services to the hurting in Jamaica without supporters like you! You can and will make a difference!

We believe you have been given gifts and talents to bless others around you. That you are the hands and feet of Jesus. Love in physical form. Called to put another's needs ahead of your own. Sacrificing your time, finances and resources to help those who have little.

Most people who serve at the Nest find their perspective on life changes - they come to serve but find their own lives touched in a way that changes them forever.



“This is the greatest short term mission trip our team has ever experienced! We received so much more than we gave! What a blessing to spend the week at Robin's Nest. We will be back.”

This manual was designed specifically for you! To help you prepare for your trip and all the details that are involved. This also enables everyone to be “on the same page” in regards to expectations and guidelines to ensure a smooth and fun experience.

With Much Appreciation,

The Board of Directors

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

The story begins with an obedient servant's heart. Some of us are called to serve locally while others feel led to serve internationally. And that is exactly what founder, Michelle Robinette, did in 1997 when she went on a missions trip to Montego Bay, Jamaica. Little did she know the trip would change her life forever. She spent time visiting children at local orphanages and soon felt led the following year not only to care for hurting children on the island, but desired to start a new place where more kids could call "home." To provide a safe, loving and Christ-centered environment where each child could grow physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. To care for orphans, the hurting, the helpless. Give them hope and show them unconditional love . . . because He first loved us.



“I did not have one doubt at that moment that this was God’s will for my life, to start Robin’s Nest Children’s Home for those children who were without a home. Matthew 19:26 says, ‘Jesus looked at them and said, with man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible’.”

MICHELLE **ROBINETTE**

WHAT'S IMPORTANT

It's not uncommon for an organization to have a mission statement. But, why is it so important? Webster's Dictionary defines **MISSION** as a "specific task with which a person or group is charged." Pair that with the word **STATEMENT** which means "a report of facts or opinions" and you get the purpose of the combination. Robin's Nest Children's Home holds true for ourselves and all those who partner with us . . .

TO PROVIDE A

**NURTURING
LOVING
SAFE
CHRIST-CENTERED**

**ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH ALL CHILDREN WILL GROW
AT THEIR OWN SPEED - PHYSICALLY, MENTALLY
AND SPIRITUALLY - SO THEY MAY DEVELOP THEIR OWN
INDIVIDUAL GIFTS, TALENTS AND ABILITIES**

AND BECOME THE PERSON WHO GOD INTENDED



Now you may ask what's the difference between a mission statement and a vision. Good question! While a mission statement provides the path on which we function whereas the vision is the goal which comes from pursuing it. A **VISION** is "the act of anticipating that which will or may come to be" (dictionary.com). Robin's Nest's vision is broken into three parts . . .

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Many of the children that come to the Nest are not accustomed to 3 meals a day, clean clothes, daily baths, a safe place to sleep, and unconditional love . . . but these "basic needs" are consistent essentials given to the children every day.

EDUCATION

Robin's Nest knows that education is key in preparing the next generation. A preschool was built on-site to serve the Nest kids as well as the surrounding community. In addition, year-round interns and volunteers teach the three-year olds through first graders in dedicated schoolrooms.

CHRISTIAN UPBRINGING

Jesus said "let the little children come to me" (Matthew 19:14), and Robin's Nest is dedicated to doing just that . . . leading kids to Him and growing them into boys and girls that love God and each other. Our desire is for the children to know their heavenly Father's unfailing and unconditional love, forgiveness and healing.

..... GETTING TO KNOW JAMAICA

GEOGRAPHY

Jamaica is the third largest Caribbean island, measuring 146 miles at its widest point. Primarily of volcanic origin, the lush island features white-sandy beaches and a mountain ridge that peaks at Blue Mountain which is 7,402 feet high. Kingston is the capital with close to 1 million inhabitants.

DEMOCRACY

The government system is complete, with an elected Parliament, a Prime Minister, an elected House of Representatives and a Senate. It works on similar lines to the British parliament.

FLAG

The Jamaican flag was adopted on August 6, 1962 which was the original Jamaican Independence Day. The flag consists of the colors green, gold, and black. Black symbolizes the strength and creativity of the Jamaican people. Gold represents sunlight and the country's natural wealth. Green represents hope for the future and agricultural richness.

LANGUAGE

Jamaica is the largest English-speaking island in the Caribbean. Another common dialect spoken in rural areas is Patois (Creole), a combination of English and some African languages. Here are some cultural language differences to keep in mind:



- The common word for “buddy” is used in reference to a friend in the United States. But, its meaning in Jamaica is nothing of that sort. Please refrain from using this word as it refers to part of a man’s body.
- You’ll hear many of the Nest staff shorten phrases we typically use. For example, instead of saying “I’ll see you later”, Jamaicans will simply say “**later.**” When we say “I will come soon . . .”, they will say “**soon come.**”
- Americans ask kids if they want a “piggy-back” ride, but in Jamaica, it is called a “**donkey ride.**”
- Shoes are referred to as “sandals” and treats or snacks as “**sweeties.**”
- In writing, you will see the letter “U’ commonly inserted in words like color and neighbor . . . thus colour and neighbour.

POPULATION

Jamaica consists of more than 2.8 million people. Made up of the following approximate ethnic groups: African 76.3%, Afro-European 15.1%, European 0.8%, Chinese and Afro-Chinese 1.2%, East Indian and Afro-East Indian 3.4% and others 3.4%.



..... GETTING TO KNOW JAMAICA

MORE OF

CLIMATE

Summer is year-round with no definite rainy season, although it usually rains most in May and October. Jamaica has faced many long dry periods in the last couple years.

INDUSTRIES

In order of importance are tourism, bauxite, agriculture (sugar, bananas, coffee, pimento, cocoa and tobacco). No other country in the world produces pimento, also known as Allspice.

EMPLOYMENT

The government encourage employers to pay no less than \$50 per week to an employee which does not cover basic needs for living.

RELIGION

Christianity is the largest religion practiced in Jamaica and according to the 2001 Census, the country's largest denominations are the Church of God of Prophecy (24%), Seventh-day Adventists Church (11%), Pentecostal (10%), Baptist (7%), Anglican (4%), Roman Catholic (2%), United Church (2%), Methodist (2%), Moravian (1%) and Plymouth Brethren (1%). The Christian faith gained acceptance as British Christian abolitionists and Baptist missionaries joined and educated former slaves in the struggle again slavery.

PLANTS /ANIMALS

Snakes are extremely rare. They were killed off by the mongoose, imported to exterminate canefield rats. Jamaica has over 200 species of orchids with 73 found nowhere else. There are also 500 species of fern and 1,000 species of trees.

CURRENCY

Jamaica's currency is the Jamaican dollar, not to be confused with the U.S. dollar. The value of the Jamaican dollar fluctuates, but is currently 120 JMD to 1 US.



REFERENCES:

<http://www.mobayfacts.htm>



<http://www.usflags.com>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamaica>
tionreview.com/jamaica-population/

BEFORE YOU GO

FLIGHT INFORMATION

If you are needing assistance in coordinating and booking your travel, the Nest suggests contacting Kim Olsen with Carrousel Travel. She has assisted teams and families for many years who serve at the Nest and gives 10% back to the ministry from all of her bookings.

KIM@CARROUSELTRAVEL.COM

C: 651.329.1254 / O: 651.351.2787 X2

“Kim has been planning travel for our church’s mission trips to Jamaica for the past 7 years. Kim is always extremely professional and helps us to find the best deal to meet our budget. We are extremely blessed to partner with Kim for our travel needs.”

“I could not have been any more pleased with the service I received with Kim at Carrousel Travel! As we made arrangements to serve at Robin’s Nest Children’s Home, Kim met all our travel needs and answered all of our questions. She was exceptional!”

“Kim is very familiar with the trip and the people and the places involved. Her guidance and speedy responses were very comforting as we planned our group’s trip.”

IN-COUNTRY INFORMATION

The Nest is located approximately 45 minutes from the Montego Bay airport. All teams are asked to arrange their own transportation to and from the Nest PRIOR to their trip. You can find various taxi service companies online at www.tripadvisor.com but keep in mind that some may not be willing to drive up the mountain to take you to the Nest. Most of the teams however have chosen Audley Morle whom we have a transportation agreement with and have used for 12 years. His independent travel company is very reputable and provides safe and comfortable air-conditioned transportation option. He is very supportive of the Nest ministry and can also assist if you decide to do a free day on the island.

AUDLEYMORLE@HOTMAIL.COM

C: 876.371.2952

“Audley and his drivers were all great. They shared openly with us, helping us understand the culture and customs of Jamaica.”

“Audley was wonderful. I was so appreciative that they were always with us. We felt safe at all times. The buses were all very nice and comfortable.”

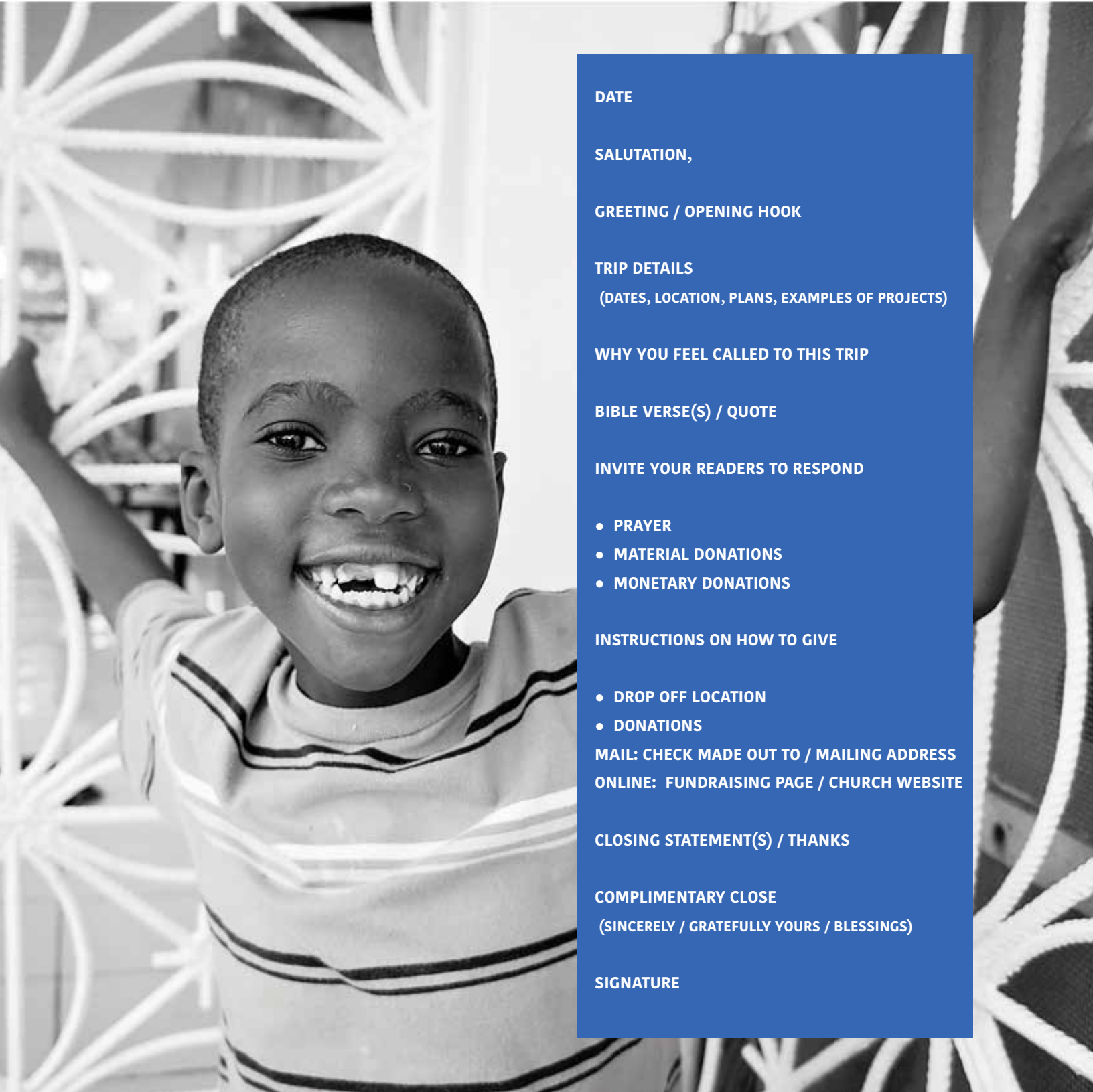
“Audley is amazing and I always feel safe and well taken care of when he was driving.”

“Wonderful drivers all, most congenial and sincere, lots of laughs.”

VACCINE RECOMMENDATIONS

It is strongly recommended you receive the **flu vaccine** if you are planning to arrive during the winter or early spring months. And, be sure your **tetanus vaccine** is current, especially if you will be assisting with work projects. No other vaccines are required or recommended.

SUPPORT LETTER OUTLINE



DATE

SALUTATION,

GREETING / OPENING HOOK

TRIP DETAILS

(DATES, LOCATION, PLANS, EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS)

WHY YOU FEEL CALLED TO THIS TRIP

BIBLE VERSE(S) / QUOTE

INVITE YOUR READERS TO RESPOND

- PRAYER
- MATERIAL DONATIONS
- MONETARY DONATIONS

INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO GIVE

- DROP OFF LOCATION
- DONATIONS

MAIL: CHECK MADE OUT TO / MAILING ADDRESS

ONLINE: FUNDRAISING PAGE / CHURCH WEBSITE

CLOSING STATEMENT(S) / THANKS

COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE

(SINCERELY / GRATEFULLY YOURS / BLESSINGS)

SIGNATURE

SUPPORT LETTER EXAMPLE

January 1, 2018

Dear Friends and Family,

Imagine an island where thousands flock for beautiful excursions to create lasting memories, all the while, thousands of children are reported abused not far from travelers' luxury experience. The travel industry sustains Jamaica's economy but hidden in the hills and homes of the beauty lies an ugly truth - thousands of neglected children longing to be loved.

This _____ (TRAVEL DATES), I'll be traveling with _____ (ORGANIZATION/CHURCH/COLLEGE NAME) to serve some of these children at Robin's Nest Children's Home. This ministry's mission is "to provide a nurturing, loving, safe, Christ-centered atmosphere in which all children will grow at their own speed - physically, mentally, and spiritually - so they may develop their own individual gifts, talents, and abilities and become the person who God intended." Located in the mountains of Montego Bay, the Nest serves 35 children, providing them not only with the basic necessities of three meals a day, a bath and clean clothes, but also a family-style environment with loving POD moms, education, exercise and spiritual development.

Our team will be serving the Nest in a variety of ways: from washing dishes (imagine over 35 plates, cups and silverware at every meal to wash by hand . . . and that doesn't include the pots and pans used to prepare the meals!) to doing laundry; from playing and swimming with the kids to painting and cleaning the facilities . . . And whatever task they need accomplished, flexible serving will be our motto. LIST HERE THINGS THAT YOU HAVE SPECIALLY PLANNED SUCH AS VBS, COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECTS, ETC.

I'm excited to share this experience with you and to see how God uses me to share His love with the children and staff at the Nest. Will you partner with me on this incredible journey? There are a few specific ways you can participate:

PRAYER: I would covet your prayers before, during and even after my trip. Prayer is the fuel that keeps the fire burning and we will need an endless supply. God promises to hear our prayers and that there is power in numbers so I'm gathering a team of prayer partners who will stand with me here in the States while I serve abroad. "This is the confidence we have in approaching God; that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us." 1 John 5:14

DONATIONS: It's hard to feed, clothe and bathe 35 children 365 days a year!!! So, each team member is taking an extra suitcase full of 50 pounds of supplies to donate. See the enclosed list of donations we are collecting. INCLUDE INSTRUCTIONS WHERE THEY CAN DROP OFF THE DONATIONS. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO INCLUDE A LIST, JUST MENTION THE TOP FIVE NEEDS.

FUNDRAISING: The total cost of the trip is \$_____ which includes airfare, lodging, meals and transportation. Feel free to use the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope to make a tax-deductible donation. Checks can be made out to _____ (CHURCH/ORGANIZATION NAME) or you can easily donate online at _____ (WEBSITE ADDRESS).

Thank you for taking the time to read my story and consider partnering with me on this life-changing experience!

With Much Gratitude,

SIGN EVERY LETTER TO ADD A PERSONAL TOUCH

www.robinsnestchildrenshome.org



FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Not everyone is “called” to travel great distances to serve. In fact, the people who need you most might be in your own house or neighborhood or office or school. There is great need everywhere and although we are incredibly grateful you are considering volunteering at Robin’s Nest, we also recognize there are those who are not “called” to come. But, all of us are charged to give. It is a blessing to serve but in the same way and equally as important, it’s a blessing for those who can’t go to be a part of the experience by donating items or money. It is considered an honor to donate and should be viewed as equivalent to your trip because without their kindness and generosity, you may not be able to come.

Although necessary, money is not always a desirable aspect of a trip. Some people find it difficult to ask others for assistance. Whether you feel comfortable raising support or simply plan to fund the trip yourself, we want to provide you with a few resources to help the decision making easier.

ONLINE FUNDRAISING

CHECK OUT THESE GREAT WEBSITES TO HELP YOU CREATE A SPECIAL PAGE TO COLLECT DONATIONS.

FIRSTGIVING
GIVEFORWARD
CROWDRISE
GOFUNDME

.COM

CREATIVE ENDEAVORS

RAISE FUNDS IN AN OUTSIDE-THE-BOX KIND OF WAY!

CAR DETAILING

DON'T JUST WASH CARS; CLEAN THE INSIDE TOO!

BALLOON BREAK

SELL BALLOON TICKETS PRIOR TO YOUR EVENT AND ON THE DAY OF THE POPPING, EACH TICKET CAN BE REDEEMED TO POP ONE BALLOON. ALL BALLOONS SHOULD HAVE SLIPS OF PAPER BUT NOT ALL OF THEM WILL HAVE PRIZES LISTED. WHOEVER POPS A BALLOON WITH A PRIZE LISTED ON THE PAPER, WINS THE PRIZE! QUICK EVENT BUT QUITE ENJOYABLE TO WATCH THE ACTION UNFOLD! PURCHASE BALLOONS IN BULK AND ASK BUSINESSES TO DONATE PRIZES. WHY NOT USE THE EVENT TO ALSO TELL PEOPLE ABOUT ROBIN'S NEST!

GALLON CHALLENGE

COLLECT EMPTY MILK JUGS. PUT A CUSTOM LABEL ON THE OUTSIDE ASKING PEOPLE TO FILL THEIR JUG WITH COINS, CHECKS, AND CASH. GIVE THE HEAVIEST MILK JUG OWNER A PRIZE.

FUNDRAISING IDEAS

MORE

CREATIVE ENDEAVORS CONT.

RAISE FUNDS IN AN OUTSIDE-THE-BOX KIND OF WAY!

ROCK-A-THON

IT'S A WALK-A-THON WITH A TWIST . . . ACTUALLY WITH A RHYTHM. BORROW ROCKING CHAIRS FOR AN AFTERNOON, PLACE THEM OUTSIDE IN A PARKING LOT FOR EXPOSURE. TEAM MEMBERS GET SPONSORS AHEAD OF TIME FOR THE 1+HOUR THEY ROCK IN A CHAIR FOR A CAUSE (ROBIN'S NEST). PLAY JAMAICAN MUSIC AND DRAW A CROWD FOR A GREAT MINISTRY!

MOVE IT!

SHOVELING SNOW, RAKING LEAVES AND TAKING DOWN CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ARE JUST A FEW EXAMPLES OF MANUAL LABOR YOU CAN DO TO RAISE MONEY FOR YOUR TRIP. PEOPLE ARE MORE MOTIVATED TO LET YOU HELP IF THEY KNOW IT'S FOR A GOOD CAUSE.

SCAVENGER HUNT

DIVIDE YOUR GROUP INTO TEAMS AND HAVE THEM GO DOOR-TO-DOOR ASKING FOR DONATIONS OF NONPERISHABLE ITEMS YOU CAN BRING WITH YOU AND DONATE TO THE NEST. INVITE FRIENDS, SET A TIME LIMIT AND SEE THEM SCATTER.

SMILING SERVICE

ASK A GAS STATION IF YOU CAN FILL GAS TANKS FOR CUSTOMERS AND ASK FOR TIPS / DONATIONS. YOU CAN ALSO BE SERVERS AT RESTAURANTS LIKE CULVERS AND RECEIVE A PERCENTAGE OF THE SALES.

POTATO BAR

INSTEAD OF A PASTA DINNER, HOW ABOUT A POTATO BAR WITH A BUFFET OF TOPPINGS!

INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

ENTICE YOUR AUDIENCE TO GIVE WITH SOME UNIQUE INCENTIVES!

SHAVING TIME

FUN IDEA FOR AN ADULT LEADER. ONCE THEIR TEAM RAISES A CERTAIN AMOUNT, THEY WILL SHAVE THEIR BEARD OR HEAD.

FACE PIE

EVERY TEAM MEMBER WHO RAISES A CERTAIN AMOUNT BY A CERTAIN DEADLINE GETS TO THROW A PIE IN THE LEADER'S FACE.

DYE IT

ONCE A CERTAIN AMOUNT IS RAISED, THE ADULT LEADER WILL COLOR THEIR HAIR THE CHOSEN COLOR BY THE WINNERS.

ETC.



PACKING LIST

Although this is not a comprehensive list of items you may wish to bring, these are highly suggested. Please note that the bolded orange items are requirements, not simply suggestions.

- **TWIN SHEET SET & PILLOWCASE**

- BLANKET (IF DESIRED FOR SLEEPING)

- **BATH TOWEL & WASHCLOTH**

- **BEACH / POOL TOWEL**

- **MODEST CLOTHING**

(SEE GUIDELINES PAGES FOR SPECIFICS)

- COMFORTABLE SHOES
- PAIR OF SANDALS / FLIP FLOPS FOR POOL / BEACH

- **TOILETRIES**

(TOOTHBRUSH, TOOTHPASTE, DEODORANT, SHAMPOO, SOAP, SHAVING ITEMS, HAIRBRUSH, ETC.)

- **PERSONAL WATER BOTTLE** (LABELED)

- FLASHLIGHT & BATTERIES
- BUG SPRAY & ITCH CREAM
- SUNSCREEN
- SUN ACCESSORIES (SUNGLASSES & HAT)
- WRIST WATCH
- PERSONAL MEDICATION

(DO NOT DECLARE ON CUSTOMS FORM BUT KEEP IN ORIGINAL LABELED CONTAINERS FOR CUSTOMS PURPOSES)

- PERSONAL SNACKS IN RE-SEALABLE BAGS
- BACKPACK / BAG WHEN TRAVELING OFF-SITE
- BIBLE
- NOTEBOOK & PEN FOR DEVOTIONS / JOURNALING
- ANTI-BACTERIAL WIPES / HAND SANITIZER
- PLASTIC BAGS

(1 FOR DIRTY CLOTHING & 1 FOR WET CLOTHING)

- SOUVENIR / FUN DAY / BEACH DAY MONEY
- COPIES OF TRAVELING DOCUMENTS

(INSURANCE CARD, PASSPORT, VACCINATION CARD, ETC)

- **PASSPORT & INSURANCE CARDS**

- ITEM TO HOLD MONEY & DOCUMENTS



GUIDELINES

Robin's Nest is a Christian-based Children's Home and all behavior and words should honor the Lord. Help us continue to provide a loving and joyful home for our kids! (If this is not followed, you will be asked to leave with no refund.) Remember that you are setting an example to the children you are serving. We believe you are God's tangible hands and feet here on earth.

GENERAL

- There is no alcohol, drugs or tobacco substances used on or off grounds during your Nest stay.
- Although the dorms lock, it is important to leave valuables (jewelry, electronics, etc.) home to prevent them from being lost, broken or stolen. The less jewelry, the better.
- Although Robin's Nest is nestled atop of a mountain, it is important to not walk around alone, especially off-site.

ELECTRONICS / WIFI

- All team leaders are to provide ONE DEVICE TO BE CONNECTED TO THE INTERNET TO BE USED by all team members in the Adventure Room from 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. and after 7:30 p.m. This ensures the limited internet service to work properly and at a faster rate for our staff and directors to accomplish their work during the day and early evening hours. If there is an emergency or urgent situation, please don't hesitate to contact a director to access the service accordingly.
- We understand cell phones are commonly used as cameras but we ask that they are rarely used while serving. They are distractions not only for the kids but yourself as well. They take time away from interacting with each other, are easily lost or broken and are tempting for the kids to play with.

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Posting photos of the children on social media is strictly prohibited.
- We understand you may desire to share your experiences at the Nest with your friends, family and followers on social media but per government restrictions, you must refrain from tagging or mentioning Robin's Nest Children's Home and any staff member or local Jamaican you know to protect the privacy of the kids we serve. You may abbreviate the ministry name using, "The Nest."
- Likewise, for the safety and confidentiality of the kids and staff, we ask that you do NOT post names of the children or staff when posting pictures to any social or online network.

GUIDELINES

MORE

WATER USAGE

- We make every effort to conserve water, a precious resource.
- Never let water run. A quick on and off for brushing teeth, washing hands and showering.
- Please limit the number of showers you take. Quickly get yourself wet, turn off the water, soap up and then quickly rinse. We only have cold water in team rooms.
- When using the swimming pool, quickly rinse off under the outdoor shower near the pool before entering.
- Our water is filtered and safe to drink, however we do ask you to bring your own bottled drinking water to help us conserve as we run out of water when the supply is frequently used for teams.
- No flushing unless necessary. If it's yellow, let it mellow. If it's brown, flush it down. Also, please do not flush anything other than toilet paper.
- Guests staying longer than two weeks are the only visitors who may use the laundry facilities to wash clothes. If you have an emergency need, please contact a director.

FOOD

- Please do not give kids food you brought from home without permission from the directors.
- Please refrain from eating food not provided by the kitchen in front of the kids and staff.
- Typical meals at the Nest range from eggs and toast for breakfast to PB&J for lunch to spaghetti or chicken for dinner. If you have any special dietary needs please be aware that we may not have the resources to accommodate each dietary need.
- Chewing gum is not allowed (for kids or team members). This can become quite a mess around the Nest!
- Meals are served buffet style from the kitchen counter/bar. Upon arrival your team will be asked to assign 3 members per meal to help with dishes immediately following a meal. Please ensure you are on time and present at your pre-scheduled time to make sure we keep a clean kitchen and support our cooks!

DRESS CODE

- Teams are asked to wear clothing free of inappropriate graphics or language; that does not sag; and is not skimpy / revealing.
- Men: Please ensure your underwear is covered by your pants/shorts. We ask you to keep your tank tops/T-shirts on while working around the Nest. Please do not wear speedos, we prefer swim trunks at The Nest or at beach days with the kids.
- Women: Tank tops are fine for women, however we ask that you ensure you are properly covered (even when you are bending over to interact with the children). Make sure your shorts are long enough to cover your bottom if you bend over. Modest one-piece and two-piece swimsuits with midriff coverage are allowed. If your swimsuit does not meet this guideline, please wear a tank top or t-shirt over your swimsuit. Please wear a beach cover-up to and from the pool.

KIDS / STAFF ETIQUETTE

- Please do not promise the kids ANYTHING such as gift items or your desire to take them home, etc. The kids at Robin's Nest have the privilege to meet many visitors, and we want them to remember the fun they had with you, not the things you gave or promised them.
- Do not allow the children to have your cell phone, camera, tablet, laptop, etc. in their hands at any time. They are easily broken, create distractions and discourage personal interaction. It is best to keep electronic items in your team room for the majority of your trip to avoid any issues.
- Please do not let the kids hold any of your personal items (sunglasses, hats, etc.). They tend to get lost and our visitors leave with missing or broken items.
- Please do not give any money to the children OR staff. If you wish to leave a monetary or physical gift, please talk to the on-site directors on how you can help! Our goal is for all our staff to be treated equally. We have a staff bonus fund in place which is distributed to each of them three times a year. We encourage donations to this fund!
- Please keep in mind that our children all have unique stories, some more difficult than others. We ask that you do not ask the children why they are at Robin's Nest or about their families or past situations. If a child opens up to you, please feel free to listen. But remember that we have counselors in place to discuss each child's situation with them. We ask that you not put yourself in a position of counseling them. If you hear something from a child that concerns you, please bring it to the attention of our on-site directors.
- Robin's Nest Children's Home strives to have our children feel they are part of a loving family. In that effort, we have developed the "POD" system. A POD is a group of 5-7 kids that have 2-3 "POD MOMS" who oversee that POD at any given time. The age and gender of the children within each POD varies as in a family. We believe the younger children learn from the older ones and vice versa. We currently have 4 PODS and we differentiate those PODS by color: red, green, purple and yellow. Jake's House is its own POD and is made up of our 9 oldest boys.
- Please always keep in mind the POD mom who is currently on duty for a specific POD is in charge of taking care of all of the needs of those children. Teams will have opportunity to sign up to assist with the PODs at various times of the day, as requested by the POD moms. When you arrive at the POD to assist at the designated time, please seek out the POD mom and let her know you are there to help. It may be to help feed the children, to read or play with them or to assist with cleaning.
- Never take a child out of the view of his/her POD mom unless you have special permission from the POD mom.
- Robin's Nest plays NO PART in the adoption process of our children and sometimes are even unaware of which children are adoptable at specific times. Please keep in mind that if you have any questions about adoption you can visit the Child Protection and Family Services Agency website at www.childprotection.gov.jm for additional information. Also keep in mind that Jamaica does not allow potential adoptive families to choose the child they wish to adopt. The child is selected for you by CPFSA. We encourage families to apply for adoption and also realize there are many children's homes across the island filled with children who need a loving home!

NEST / TEAM DAILY SCHEDULE

When your team arrives at the Nest, you will be able to assign and sign-up members for each item on the list.

MORNING

5:30	ASSIST WITH BABIES' EARLY BREAKFAST	3 VOLUNTEERS
7:30-8:30	ASSIST WITH COOKING BREAKFAST	2 VOLUNTEERS
ALL TEAM MEMBERS OUT OF MAIN HOUSE UNLESS ASSISTING PODS OR COOKING		
8:30	TEAM BREAKFAST	
9:00	DISHES / WIPE OFF TABLES / SWEEP FLOOR	3 VOLUNTEERS
	PROJECTS (PAINTING, CLEANING, BUILDING, ETC.)	TBD
9:00-11:00	ASSIST POD MOMS WITH BABIES / PLAYGROUND	4 VOLUNTEERS
11:00-12:00	ASSIST WITH LAUNDRY	1 @ MAIN HOUSE VOL / 1 @ JAKE HOUSE
11:00-12:30	ASSIST IN FEEDING LUNCH	4 VOLUNTEERS

AFTERNOON

12:30	TEAM LUNCH	
1:00	DISHES / WIPE OFF TABLES / SWEEP FLOOR	3 VOLUNTEERS
2:15	PRESCHOOLERS HOME FROM SCHOOL / ASSIST WITH HOMEWORK	2 VOLUNTEERS
2:30-4:00	CENTERS FOR PODS (MONDAY-SATURDAY, 30-MINUTE ROTATING SEGMENTS)	
	STORY / MOVIE	1-5 VOLUNTEERS
	GAMES / PLAYTIME / GO FOR A WALK	2-5 VOLUNTEERS
	CRAFTS / COLORING / MUSIC	1-5 VOLUNTEERS
	SWIMMING	1-5 VOLUNTEERS
3:15	BIG KIDS HOME FROM SCHOOL / ASSIST WITH HOMEWORK	TBD
4:30-5:30	ALL TEAM MEMBERS OUT OF MAIN HOUSE UNLESS ASSISTING WITH FEEDING	

EVENING

5:30	TEAM DINNER	
6:00	DISHES / WIPE OFF TABLES / SWEEP FLOOR	3 VOLUNTEERS
6:00-7:00	ASSIST PODS IN GREEN & YELLOW POD PORCH	4 VOLUNTEERS
	MAY TAKE SMALL GROUP OF OLDER MAIN HOUSE KIDS TO ADVENTURE ROOM FOR GAMES, READING AND CRAFTS	
6:00-8:00	FINISH HOMEWORK / ACTIVITY OR FREE TIME FOR JAKE'S HOUSE BOYS	TBD
7:00	ALL TEAM MEMBERS OUT OF MAIN HOUSE UNLESS WASHING DISHES (BEDTIME FOR KIDS)	
8:00	ALL TEAM MEMBERS OUT OF JAKE'S HOUSE (BEDTIME FOR JAKE'S BOYS DURING SCHOOL DAYS)	

..... BEACH DAY INFORMATION

Teams staying over a Sunday have the opportunity to provide a Beach Day for a large group of the Robin's Nest children! Please take note of the following details if you would like to bless the children with this special opportunity.

- Before you arrive at the Nest, you must schedule transportation to and from the Nest to Doctor's Cave Beach in Montego Bay. Audley Morle typically provides this service and has offered a fair price of \$150 USD round trip for as many people as we wish to transport. You may however use the same driver/company you hired to handle your airport transportation. The bus driver will need to arrive at the Nest on Sunday at 10:15 a.m. sharp and bring the group from the beach at 2:30 p.m. back to the Nest.
- Teams are responsible for arranging payment for the transportation company prior to arriving at the Nest. THE NEST IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PAYMENT.
- Team members need to bring \$6 USD (or \$600 JMD) per person for entrance into Doctor's Cave Beach. They waive the entrance fee for the children and staff of Robin's Nest.
- The managers and directors will make the decision regarding which PODs will go depending on the size of the team, age of the children, etc. and then inform the POD moms.
- On Sunday morning before church, we ask that 4 team members assemble in the kitchen at 8:15 a.m. to make PB&J sandwiches to pack for the beach lunch. The staff will help determine how many loaves to make, depending on the team size. Some teams graciously purchase the lunch items at Mega Mart upon arrival to Jamaica: 3-5 loaves of bread, 2 large jars of peanut butter, 4 jars of jelly, 36 snack size banana chips, 36 juice boxes and 36 granola bars/snack size peanuts.
- The staff/interns will prepare each child's beach bag with a towel and fresh clothing.
- Upon arrival to the beach, please assist in carrying the lunch and beach toys and accompany the children down to the beach.
- Around 1:45 p.m., we will start showering and dressing the children and packing up our area. Please assign a few team members to return the beach toys to the netted bag and pick up trash. We try to leave the beach cleaner than it was when we arrived. We also need each team member to choose a child, take his/her bag and assist them in rinsing at the outdoor shower to get the sand off and then take them into the changing room to shower and dress in clean, dry clothes. After you have completed assisting the child, please take them up the stairs to the benches to wait for everyone to gather before going out to the bus. Each team member will shower and change as well, taking turns supervising the children.
- Don't forget to pack your beach essentials: sunscreen, hat, towel, showering toiletries, etc.

ADOPTION QUESTIONS

Our prayer for each child at the Nest is for them to be matched with a loving forever family - whether locally or abroad, we know there are incredible homes with moms and dads longing to provide a safe place for hurting children around the world. Many visitors fall in love with one or many of the children at the Nest and sometimes they leave thinking more seriously about adoption.

Although our children need a permanent place to call home, the Nest does NOT coordinate adoptions and does NOT play a role in the decision-making process. Children are placed in our care by the Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA) and many times, we do not even know their personal story. CPFSA was established in 2004 and is under the direction of the Ministry of Youth and Culture in Jamaica. They oversee all foster care, abuse, abandoned, neglect and adoption cases on the island and therefore all inquiries must be directed to them.

In applying for adoption in Jamaica, CPFSA absolutely does not allow a prospective adoptive family to select a specific child. In doing so, it will disqualify your ability to be considered as a prospective family in adopting children from Jamaica.

For more information about Jamaica's adoption procedures, visit Child Protection and Family Services Agency's website:

childprotection.gov.jm



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JAMAICA TRIVIA

As you prepare your team for the trip, use ice breakers to create excitement and laughter and ultimately, a greater bond. Creating these memories prior to your departure will make the harder situations seem easier to handle because of the relationships you've already formed. Here's a little something to get you started on your way . . .

- 1) Although English is commonly spoken in Jamaica, what is the other popular language on the island?
A. Patois B. French C. Papiamentu
- 2) What is Jamaican currency called?
A. Krone B. Dollar C. Lira
- 3) What animal was brought to the island originally to rid of rats but ended up eating snakes instead?
A. Ferret B. Mongoose C. Vulture
- 4) What animal is the primary ingredient used in "power soup"?
A. Cow B. Goat C. Chicken
- 5) What parish is Robin's Nest located in?
A. St. John's B. St. James C. Montego Bay
- 6) What three colors are in the Jamaican flag?
A. Red, yellow and black B. Green, yellow and black C. Red, blue and yellow
- 7) Which group of food has an item NOT specific to Jamaica culture?
A. Bread fruit, plantains, curried goat B. Mango, rum cake, jerk chicken C. Oxtail stew, browned corn, pea soup
- 8) What is the name of the place where our older boys eat, sleep and play?
A. James' House B. Josh's House C. Jake's House
- 9) What fruit is deadly if eaten before it ripens and open up?
A. Planik B. Ackee C. Mantoe
- 10) How many native snake species live on the island (none are venomous and we've never seen one at all)?
A. 2 B. 8 C. 13
- 11) What is the national Jamaican drink?
A. Bourbon B. Rum C. Mai Ti
- 12) What year did Jamaica debut their Bobsled team at the Olympics?
A. 1982 B. 1986 C. 1988

JAMAICA TRIVIA

MORE

- 13) What year did Usain Bolt win an unprecedented third Olympic 100 meter gold medal?
A. 2008 B. 2012 C. 2016
- 14) What other country besides Jamaica does not share any of the colors of the U.S. flag?
A. Libya B. Benin C. Andorra
- 15) On the night of death, the deceased's _____ is put _____ against the _____ to "encourage the spirit to leave the house and move on to the next world."
A. clothing / flat / bedroom floor B. bed / upright / wall C. kitchen chair/ upside down/ ground
- 16) What color are taxi license plates in Jamaica?
A. Black B. White C. Red
- 17) Jamaica's telephone system was so well developed that it was copied by whom?
A. AT&T B. Sprint C. U-verse
- 18) Which name is NOT a popular Jamaican musician?
A. Ben Banton B. Bob Marley C. Beenie Man
- 19) What is the name of a popular island snack that is in the shape of a half-circle, flaky outside and stuffed with spices and either cheese, chicken or beef?
A. Patti B. Palmier C. Papana
- 20) What famous movie character was created by a man while at his home in St. Mary, Jamaica?
A. James Bond B. Billy the Kid C. Austin Powers
- 21) What is the Jamaican "Milk River Bath" known for?
A. Hottest water year-round B. Highly radio active C. Color of water
- 22) Jamaica was the first Caribbean country to do which of the following:
A. Launch a website B. Provided wifi to customers C. Offered island cell phone coverage
- 23) When comparing tropical countries, Jamaica is known to have the coldest what?
A. Rainfall in December B. Temps found inside a frig C. Natural springs
- 24) What is the Jamaican national bird?
A. Doctor Bird B. Jacamar C. Honeycreeper

ANSWER KEY: 1) A 2) B 3) B 4) B 5) B 6) B 7) C 8) C 9) B 10) B 11) B 12) C 13) C 14) A 15) B 16) C
17) A 18) A 19) A 20) A 21) B 22) A 23) B 24) A

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