

GO Guide



Preparing you for your mission service project





FLOOD^{THE}NATIONS

Welcome!

Every great and successful adventure begins with good planning, great execution, and our amazing God! Your Go Guide is your mission trip map to guide you and get you ready to GO to the nations. Here you will find everything you need to know. There are three main sections: Logistics, Spiritual Preparation, and Fundraising. Read through each section carefully and early!

Flood The Nations (FTN) views every mission team member as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If God has called you to GO, then you are called to represent the greatest Kingdom of all! You represent God, His kingdom, and His message of love and grace to the nations. FTN is committed to helping you be ready to minister and serve.

We are excited that you are joining us and we believe that God will forever change your life and the people you are going to encounter on this mission. Trust God that He will take care of you on this journey and provide everything you need.

If you have any questions, give us a call at **970-673-7386**, or email us at **go@floodthenations.org**.

In His Flood of Grace,

Matt & Kim Tarka
Directors & Founders



Logistics

First Step

1) **Register** online at www.FloodtheNations.org.

2) **Hold Deposit:** Submit the \$100 nonrefundable deposit with your online registration to hold your spot. Your deposit goes towards the cost of your trip and lets us know you are committed to GO. Your spot on the mission team is guaranteed after we receive 50% of the total trip cost.

3) **Forms:** Download and complete the **Mission Trip Agreement**. Go to > “My Trip” tab, then > Forms and Docs. Select either Adult or Minor version.

4) **Turn it In:** After you, print, sign, date and get notarized (if a minor), then mail or email the Mission Trip Agreement form to go@floodthenations.org. Mailing address is Flood the Nations, 3820 Eclipse Ln, Fort Collins, CO 80528.

5) **Background Check:** Flood the Nations does regular background checks on all staff and team leaders. FTN also requires every missionary on our team to get a background check. Your registration will not be approved until this is completed. Follow the link under the Forms and Docs section.



6) **Guarantee Your Spot:** After we receive your registration, forms and deposit, FTN will let you know exactly what the due dates are for trip requirements. This included any final documents, payments, training meetings, etc.

7) **First Payment Due:** For FTN to reserve your spot and make travel arrangements, 50% of your trip cost must be received by the First Payment due date. Missionary team reservations are filled on a “first-come-first-served” basis.

Second Step

Passport: FTN requests a copy of your Passport to be submitted with your registration and forms, however we must have a copy by the time airline tickets are reserved. The expiration date on your passport must be no less than 6 months after the dates of travel to the destination country.

Passport application details and where to apply can be found here:

http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html

Getting a passport can take several weeks. Start your application early!

In case of a stolen or lost passport, it is recommended that two color copies of your current passport be made. One copy should be left with a family member or friend within the United States. The other copy should be carried with you on the trip.

The website link above contains more information on US law regarding lost or stolen passports.

Visa/Exit Taxes: Depending on the country, a visa (entry) or exit taxes may be required. The fees are included in your total FTN mission trip cost.



Third Step

Where are you coming from?

FTN mission trips usually begin in Colorado, specifically Denver (DIA). Sometimes the team meets in another city, such as Houston or Miami, depending on our country destination. FTN will let you know as we approach the trip dates.

If we start in Denver, you will need to get to Denver from your hometown. You must arrive 24 hours before the FTN team flight departure time. If you are flying to Denver, FTN will arrange your flight for you. It is much easier and more cost effective for us to book your airline roundtrip from your hometown. You are responsible for all costs of travel to and from the departure city. This includes flight, food, gas, lodging, etc. If you need lodging before the team departure, it may be possible for FTN to provide a host home in Colorado. Please email us your request.

Fourth Step

Vaccinations

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that all travelers are fully vaccinated with appropriate **routine** vaccines. You can also go to the Center of Disease Control for **country specific** recommendations at www.cdc.gov.

Minimum recommendation:

- Tetanus/Diphtheria – within 5 years
- Hepatitis B
- Measles (MMR)
- Polio

In addition to the routine vaccinations above, the following are recommended for the countries FTN visits:

- Hepatitis A – transmission of Hepatitis A virus can occur through water and ice, or from fruits, vegetables, or other foods that are eaten uncooked and that were contaminated during harvesting or subsequent handling. The WHO recommends vaccination against Hepatitis A for all travelers to developing countries.
- Typhoid – Typhoid fever can be contracted through contaminated drinking water or food, or by eating food or drinking beverages that have been handled by a person who is infected. Large outbreaks are most often related to fecal contamination of water supplies or foods sold by street vendors.
- Malaria – All persons traveling internationally, even for a brief visit, are at risk of contracting malaria. Malaria requires a prescription which should be obtained during your pre-trip physician visit. There are two types of Malaria medicines available. The medicine Chloroquine protects against malaria in Honduras.

Please give yourself ample time for this portion of your trip planning.



Food and water

All food provided will be prepared with North American stomach sensitivity in mind and you should only eat food that is approved. Eating from street vendors or unapproved restaurants is strictly prohibited.

All water will be provided in bottles or jugs and is safe to drink. We will tell team members on the first day in the country what they can eat and drink. Simply do not drink anything out of the faucet, shower, glass, etc.

If you venture outside of the provided diet, it is recommended that you ask your Team Lead to find out where the food came from and how it was prepared.



Safety

Your safety is FTN's most important priority. FTN and our in-country partners are committed to your safety and security throughout the whole trip. This allows you to serve and minister with confidence and well-being. We require every team member to travel within approved groups with an approved group leader. We will cover this more on the first day in the country and team training.

The local people we are working with are incredible hosts and will always be looking out for the team's safety and general well-being. The best security policy is the presence of common sense in all situations. There will always be someone available to give you information on whether something is safe or not.

Parents of Minors

If you are sending your minor on a Flood the Nations mission trip, we are honored, and excited for them! We understand concerns of safety for your children. FTN does everything it possibly can to provide a safe, healthy environment for all of our missionaries. Click "For Parents" underneath the "My Trip" tab on our website.



Fifth Step

Money

Your personal mission trip cost includes:

- Airfare to and from departing city (and back to hometown is applicable)
- In-country lodging accommodations (dorms or hotel style)
- In-country transportation & travel to US airport if with team
- 3 daily meals and bottled water in destination country
- Travel insurance, team shirt, manuals, training, and debriefings

Your mission trip cost does not include:

- Background check
- Meals while traveling to and from final destination
- Snacks, souvenirs, and free day activities
- Internet café/Wi-Fi access, etc
- Anything on the packing list that is forgotten

How much extra money should I bring?

We recommend at least \$100, but up to \$150 should cover travel days, souvenirs, and free-day activities. Traveler's checks cannot be used. Money can be exchanged at the destination airport.



Packing

You might be surprised regarding some of the required dress codes. In some countries and cultures, wearing pants for men and dresses for women is required. Shorts are not commonly accepted while in the field, ministering, or serving. The packing list specifies what you need as far as clothing and when it can be worn. Download the list sooner rather than later as you will need extra time to plan and shop for your supplies. Find the list under "Forms and Docs".

FAQ

Will I need my own bedding?

Depends on the location. FTN will let you know what is needed for your mission country.

What is the temperature?

This depends on the country you are going to and the time of year we are traveling. FTN provide details via email.

What are the bugs like?

HUGE and UGLY. Just kidding. Bugs are similar to what we have in the United States. Some areas we go to do not have many mosquitoes while other areas do. It also depends on the time of year with rainy season or hot summer.

What if I need to cancel my trip?

Please refer to the cancellation policy in the Mission Trip Agreement form.

More answers can be found at www.floodthenations.org/mytrip/faq

Spiritual Preparation:

Remember this is not a vacation, but a ministry trip. Flood the Nations views every team member as a Minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. You may never have thought of yourself as a minister but the Bible says that the job of pastors, teachers, apostles, prophets and evangelists is to equip (prepare) the believers to do the work of the ministry. What is the work of the ministry? To be a witness and share with others about the love, grace, and power of God for them in their lives.



How do you start?

Prayer! Praying is a powerful way to begin your mission trip journey. You can begin praying for the team, leaders, the country, and the people you will serve and minister to. Pray that they will believe in Christ, experience His love, and even receive healing for their hearts and their bodies.

Read! You will be mailed your own copy of the FTN Ministry Training Handbook several weeks before departure. In it are specific lessons, devotions, and activities to prepare you and the team. Along with this, read the Bible and find scriptures you can use to encourage yourself.

Research! Learn about the country. Go online and search about the history, culture, people, religions, and customs of the area.

Speak! Learn some of the language, like Spanish or Swahili. If you are headed to Honduras, Spanish is the ticket. If you are going to Uganda, learn some Swahili! The Ministry Training Handbook will have phrases to learn.

Meet! There will be team ministry training meetings. Before and upon arrival in country, your team will worship, pray and be equipped with the essentials of your missions' project.

Fundraising and Building your Support Team!

You can either freak out right now or be excited about what God is going to do through you! Raising support can be very simple if you follow some key steps and start early.



Step 1: Your Attitude

If you are afraid of asking people for money, you have to change how you are thinking about it, and that will change how you feel about it. There are two ways you can go, either feel awkward that you are having to “ask people for money” or passionate about inviting people to be a part of your support team because of what God will do on this trip!

If your mission outreach is a mission water project, many people get really excited about supporting these projects as well as teams that **GO** to provide safe, clean water for families while sharing the living water of Christ! You must be passionate about why you are doing this so others around you will also become passionate and support you!

You have to raise money for two parts of your trip:

- 1) Your funds to **GO** (total mission trip cost).
- 2) Outreach expenses. For example, if doing an MWP, five water filters at \$120.⁰⁰ each..

Your new support team will want to help with one or both and you can provide the opportunity for them. However, to do that you are going to have to get the **WORD OUT!**

Step 2: Start with Your Home Church

Talk to your pastor, missions pastor, college or youth pastor, missions committee and/or youth group. Let them know what you are doing, why you are doing it and ask for their support both in prayer and financially.

Ask if you can get your church involved by:

- Make a short presentation in front of your church to raise awareness for your trip. You can use the FTN PowerPoint presentation on the resource page.
- Take up an offering after your presentation.
- Add a flyer or information to the church bulletin where you could announce your trip and spread the word about your fundraisers. Sample flyers are on the “My Trip” tab under “Support Raising”.
- Talk to groups at your church (youth, college, adult) and find out if they would be willing to help with some of your larger fundraisers.
- Do a fundraiser before or after church one day such as a breakfast, BBQ, car wash, or lunch.

Step 3: Send Support Letters

This is one of the easiest ways to get the word out about your trip. You'll want to get this done as early as possible because it will take time before money comes in. Send it to as many people as possible: friends, family, teachers, people from church, school, clubs, work, neighbors. Even if you do not know them personally, include them on your list. Remember if they can't support you financially, they may want to provide prayer support!

Download a sample support letter from the “My Trip” tab under “Support Raising”.

- Be sure the greeting is personal, such as “Dear Matt & Kim”.
- Introduce who you are, share the mission purpose and express your story of why you are going. Be passionate!
- Creativity is key. Use pictures from our site, use color, and different font types and sizes.
- Invite them! Tell them how they can help with your fundraising. Maybe you are doing a big event, car wash or BBQ – Invite them!
 - Just the Facts. Explain how they can donate by mailing a check with the enclosed response card/return envelope. See sample on the FTN resource page.
 - Tell them how much you need to raise for the trip, how many filters you need, and what the deadlines are.
 - Have the checks sent to you but made out to **Flood the Nations**.
 - Keep a list of your supporters and send a thank you card right away.
- Ask for prayer support: for you, the team and the people you will be ministering to. They can use the response card to say they will be your prayer support. Be sure to thank them for this.
- Get stamps and mail them out!
- Social Media is huge and free to let people know about your trip! Post on Facebook or Twitter. Create a blog so they can follow you.

Step 4: Single Event Fundraising

There are hundreds of ideas for single event fundraisers. These ideas are better than the standard “go-to” car wash. Check them out on the “My Trip” tab.



Step 5: Sharing What Happened

You should have already sent your supporters a thank you card, but when you get back home from the trip send them an Update Letter. This should include what you did, a personal story while on the trip, how their support helped (donation or prayer) and tell them what God did through the team. Include some pictures or link to the Flood the Nations website where we post the photo gallery.

HOW DONATIONS WORK:

When you or your supporters write a check to Flood the Nations, this is what they need to know:

- To receive a tax deduction, sponsors must make their checks payable to **Flood the Nations**. FTN is a tax-exempt, 501 (C) (3) not for profit organization as recognized by the I.R.S.
- All contributions to Flood the Nations are solicited with the understanding that FTN has complete discretion and control over the use of donated funds.
- Under I.R.S. requirements, contributions are not refundable, and funds cannot be requested to be designated for a missionary by the donor.
- All funds donated are the exclusive and permanent property of Flood the Nations once received and are under the complete discretion and control of FTN. Funds will be used in the furtherance of FTN tax-exempt purposes of missions work and evangelism.
- Donors are NOT to make checks out to you personally. If the check happens to be made out to you, please ask for a replacement check so they can get tax credit.
- Provide the donor’s email and postal address for a tax receipt from FTN.



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Contact Information:

go@floodthenations.org
Phone: 970-673-7FTN

Checks payable to: **Flood the Nations**

Please send checks to:
Flood the Nations
3820 Eclipse Ln
Fort Collins, CO 80528

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www.floodthenations.org