

St. Matthew's Parish School Ambassador's Trip to Haiti 2019

Current students in the seventh and eighth grades are invited to complete applications to join the 2019 St. Matthew's Ambassador's Trip to Haiti. The trip will run over Mid-Winter break, tentatively leaving on the red eye on Wednesday, February 13, 2019, and returning in the evening on Wednesday, February 20, 2019. Our group will visit St. Paul's, our partner school and parish in Caracol. We also plan to visit Mirebalais, (where the new Partners in Health teaching hospital is located), Cange, Port au Prince (to visit metal artisans, art galleries, Petionville artists' co-operative), and possibly the towns of Jacmel and Cap Haitien.

Applicants and their parents need to know the following:

- This trip is to an emerging country.
- Each student must be accompanied by a parent.
- Each student and parent must have the required immunizations (including a flu shot) and bring their own malaria medication.
- Each student's family must cover the cost of the trip for student and parent at approximately \$2,500 per person (this is an estimate only).
- A \$1,000 deposit will be requested once the student has been approved. (This is for information only; please DO NOT submit with application. We hope to make airline reservations before Thanksgiving.)
- Each traveler must have a valid passport that expires no earlier than Aug. 20, 2019 (6 months past the Haiti trip return date).
- Each traveler must sign the Pledge on the following page.

The cost per person includes round-trip airfare from Los Angeles, accommodations and transportation in Haiti, and most meals and gratuities. Accommodations are two to four per room, depending on the hotel, and usually include running water for showers (hot water is not guaranteed nor is internet service). We plan to stay over two nights at St. Paul's School where sleeping bags will be needed and the accommodations are rustic. We will be sleeping on concrete floors in the classrooms of the school. Cell service for phones is almost always available.

Travelers must be flexible, patient, in good health, willing to meet and become friends with new people, and able to tolerate experiences associated with an emerging country. Travelers must know that they may see and hear things that might be unsettling, but the faith, grace and sincerity of the Haitian people will capture one's heart.

Students interested in applying for Haiti 2019 must complete the attached application and return it to the School Office by **Monday, October 8, 2018, at 3:00 PM**. Questions should be emailed to haitipartnership@stmatthewsschool.net.

Please refer to our SMPS Haiti Partnership website for further information:
<http://haitipartnership.stmatthewsschool.com>

Pledge for Travelers to Haiti

Courtesy of Jackie Williams, Arts Center Director at the Partners in Health Complex, Cange, Haiti

1. Mindful that I am traveling to a developing country where life is harsh, I promise that no matter how tired, thirsty, sore, hot, or uncomfortable I may be, I will not complain.
2. Mindful that I am privileged to visit a new country, I will go with an adventurous attitude, full of curiosity and enthusiasm.
3. Mindful that finding food is a daily struggle for most Haitians, I will gratefully accept whatever nourishment is offered me with gratitude, and that I will at least taste every dish.
4. Mindful that I represent United States, the richest and most privileged nation on earth and in history, I will try my best to be consistently polite and humble.
5. Mindful that I am a guest in Haiti, I will do my best to learn and use at least a few words in my hosts' language, Creole.
6. Mindful that the Haitians played a huge part in the United States history, stopping Napoleon's army, which intended to reclaim the Louisiana Purchase by invading New Orleans, I will go with gratitude.
7. Mindful that Haitians, while being poor in material goods are infinitely rich in spiritual goods, I will attend church with joy, expecting to be blessed.
8. Mindful that Jesus came to Earth as a poor person saying, "The poor you have always with you," I will try my best to see poor people as a beacon and not as a burden.
9. Mindful that my time on Earth is short (even if I am very young) I will make a valiant effort to use my time in Haiti to contribute something – in honest work, in music, in art, in playing games with children – something – so that the Haitians I meet will be glad that I came.
10. Mindful that I will soon return to good roads, good plumbing, creature comforts, and all of the things that I think are my right, I will earnestly endeavor to live as a humble servant during my stay in Haiti.
11. Mindful that there are often delays en route, I will carry with me something low-tech with which to amuse myself: playing cards, a paperback book...
12. Mindful that the good Lord created all beings, when I encounter fellow creatures with 4, 6, 8, or more legs, I will not freak out.

THIS IS MY SOLEMN PLEDGE TO GOD AND MY FELLOW HUMANS

Student Signature _____ **Date** _____

Print Student Name _____

Parent Signature _____ **Date** _____

Print Parent Name _____

SMPS Haiti Student Ambassador Application for February 2018

Part I. Personal Information

Name _____ Grade/Advisor _____

Name of parent who will accompany you to Haiti _____

Have you ever travelled outside the United States? _____

Part II. Recommendations

As part of the application process you must have recommendations from your advisor, and two teachers of your choice. The Ambassador Selection Committee will send the recommendation forms to your advisor, teachers, and teacher of choice. Below, please name those people:

Advisor _____

Teacher #1 (subject) _____

Teacher #2 (subject) _____

Part III. Short answer questions - Please answer the questions below:

A. Why do you want to go to Haiti?

B. What do you hope to learn/experience in Haiti?

C. What three adjectives would you use to describe yourself and why?

D. How do you feel about being in uncomfortable situations? It is hot (Haiti is on a tropical island), hiking two hours (no road into St. Paul's), possibly uncomfortable (while sitting on a bench during a long church service and sleeping on the floor at the school) without consistent utilities, hot water, or internet?