

**Dominican Republic Trip 2023**  
**June 24th- July 2nd**  
**Basic Information for Camp Counselors**

**What is the diocesan mission to the DR?** For over the past twenty years, the Episcopal Church in Connecticut has organized and led a mission trip with teenagers to work in the vacation Bible school programs of parishes in the Santo Domingo area of the Dominican Republic. In some years, an optional construction project has been a part of the trip. This annual mission is a part of the Companions in Mission ministry network and is organized with the help of the Dominican Development Group.

**What can I expect?** Typically, there are two age-groups, ages 5–8, and 9-12, with half attending in the morning and half in the afternoon. There are 60-90 children in each session. Together with local teen volunteers, we plan and lead arts and crafts related to the Bible story of the day, games, and sports. The VBS theme and corresponding handouts are available before departure in late spring.

Late afternoons and evenings are spent as a group planning lessons, exploring important cultural and historic sites, discovering the local cuisine, weekend worship at the VBS parishes, learning to bargain at the local market, visiting the Cathedral and a final day enjoying the stunning beaches and sea for which the DR is known.

**Lodging:** Accommodations will be in the Diocesan House, in Santo Domingo. Sheets and towels are provided. There will be two to four to a room, usually on bunk beds.

**How do I prepare for this adventure?** Together with the help of your parish, collect supplies needed to run VBS: markers, coloring books, paper, stickers, clothing, sandals, etc. Ask your parish directly to sponsor your trip with funds toward the trip fee. The theme of VBS will be determined in the spring. Consider joining with other teens to hold a fundraiser.

**Important details:** All participants must have a passport. While no shots are required, you should consult with your physician about his/her recommendations for any vaccinations. **Proof of COVID vaccinations are mandatory.** Passports must be valid for 6 months beyond our return date, July 2, 2023.

**Cost:** The cost is approximately \$1800-\$2000 plus any spending money you wish to bring. A parish wide appeal or a fundraiser such as a bake sale, spaghetti dinner, rummage sale, etc. are good ideas. for raising funds. However, if parish financial support is not forthcoming, participants and their parents should be prepared to pay the entire cost of the trip.

**Community involvement:** Participants are expected to share their mission experience with their parish before and after the trip. Host a slideshow at coffee hour, tell your mission story, host a Dominican meal at your church, preach on a Sunday, or find some way to spread the great news about this wonderful experience in the Dominican Republic.

**Code of conduct:** We represent our parish and our diocese. No possession or use of alcohol, drugs or tobacco; no fighting, weapons, fireworks, lighters or explosives; and no immodest or offensive clothing permitted. Active participation with the group and respect for self and others is expected. Anyone violating our code of conduct will be sent home at their expense.