

Short-Term Mission Policies, Guidelines and Procedures

Overview

We are thankful for your interest in serving the Lord at Sonshine Ministries Children's Village. We have several short term trips to Tanzania each year. When visiting Sonshine Ministries we consider a 2-4 week visit a short-term missions visit.

There are many opportunities for ministry with us. We ask that you come with a willingness to serve. Ministry here can look like holding a baby or playing soccer, digging trenches or washing dishes, putting a new roof on a house, working in the garden or helping with the animals. We have street festivals and hospital ministry, building programs and health clinics. There is always something to be done and if you're looking for a way to serve, you will surely find it.

One of our largest priorities is to cover the children with love. Mothers and fathers are a real blessing to the children who have lost their own. Our staff gives them lots of love but they still need lots of hugs from visitors. We are always amazed and greatly honored at all of the love-in-action that our short-term visitors bring to us each year. We see again and again that God does an amazing work in each visitor. Be open to what God may do with you here! He truly is a great God!

Thank you again for your interest in what the Lord is doing at Sonshine Children's Village near Mt Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions. We will do our best to provide reliable answers and help you in any way possible. May the Lord direct you, as you continue to open your heart and seek him!

Important Note: Sonshine Ministries International cannot and does not guarantee your safety, health, or comfort. We are serving in underdeveloped area, in unpredictable conditions. You will be joining us in trusting God as provider and protector.

If you are thinking about a permanent position with Sonshine, you will first need to come on a short-term mission trip. Long-term missionaries are asked to make a commitment of two (2) years or more. For more information regarding long-term service please review our Mission Policies located on our "Team Trip" page of our website or contact us at ray@sonshineministry.com

Basic Requirements

- Those volunteering with us need to have a personal commitment to Christ Jesus and a hunger for service to the Lord.
- Unless traveling with a parent or family member over 18; visitors must be at least 18 years old.
- A short-term mission trip is generally 2-4 weeks.
- A submitted Mission Application form initiates our invitation process. As part of that process, you will be asked to supply a pastoral reference, your personal Christian testimony, and a clear statement of your vision for ministry and your hopes and goals for working at Sonshine Children's Village.
- Our application requires a \$100.00 non-refundable fee.
- We appreciate your patience in waiting to make final plans to come until you have received an invitation from us.

Preventative Health Care

Currently, Yellow Fever immunization is recommended. No other immunizations are required however your doctor could recommend several.

You should be up-to-date on standard vaccines such as tetanus, typhoid, Hepatitis A, etc. Please check with a travel nurse or your doctor for current recommendations from a medical professional. Malaria continues to be the greatest serious health danger you may encounter while visiting. While in Tanzania we recommend taking a Malaria prophylaxis. Some are daily pills; others are taken once a week. You must bring these medications with you. We recommend consulting with a medical professional to find out which medication will suit you health needs the best.

We do not recommend the use of Lariam (Mefloquine) by adults. Some of the side effects can include bizarre emotional responses such as severe depression, anxiety, paranoia, aggression, nightmares, insomnia, and suicidal thoughts. Please discuss the possible side effects of any malarial prophylaxis with a medical professional.

Please bring a strong mosquito bug repellent which contains 100% DEET, available in the camping department of most department stores in the US.

By taking a malarial prophylaxis and sleeping under a mosquito net you greatly reduce your risk of contracting malaria.

Emergency Medical Insurance for Foreign Travel:

We are now requiring that you come with emergency medical insurance in place (no exceptions). This is essential for all who visit or work at Sonshine Children's Village, whether for a few days or several years. You will need to pay the premiums and be sure you have enough money available to cover the deductible amount. Most domestic insurance plans do not cover foreign travel, so check with your plan administrator to verify your coverage.

International travelers are now able to obtain free, no obligation, online quotations, and you can purchase coverage immediately through the attached secure server and receive a Virtual ID Card immediately: <https://www.sevencorners.com/insurance/HW7C6EP>

Clothing

We dress in a way that is acceptable and modest in Tanzanian culture. Men may wear pants/trousers or shorts (not too short please) and T-shirts or button-up shirts. Women may wear pants/trousers, 'Capri' pants/trousers, and skirts or dresses below the knee. Women are requested to limit their wearing of knee length shorts to the compound. Tops of any sort are acceptable, except thin-strapped tank tops and those baring the midriff.

For church services and other times of ministry, the Tanzanian's wear their best. It is disrespectful for visitors to show-up in "grubbies." Over-the-knee length dresses or skirts are most acceptable for ministry outreaches or church services. Women will have opportunity to buy capulanas - traditional skirt wraps - while in Tanzania.

The weather is warm-hot year round, but evenings will get cool so bring a light sweater or jacket. If you will be visiting one of the National Parks, the temperature at night can drop to 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

We ask that piercings be removed or covered with band-aids, (except for normal ear-piercings for women) while ministering away from our village.

Visas

A Tanzanian visa can be obtained upon arrival at Kilimanjaro International Airport and the current cost is \$100 U.S. Short term visitors should apply for a tourist visa when traveling to Tanzania. A tourist visa for Tanzania is valid for a maximum 90-day stay in the country and is issued as multi-entry for 1 year. You may also apply for your visa prior to your trip through the Tanzanian embassy directly or use a visa service.

Travel

The most direct flight from the U.S. flies through Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport (AMS). We recommend Delta Airlines to AMS, KLM Airlines to Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO). Delta and KLM are partner airlines so you can book the entire flight through Delta's website at www.delta.com.

The flights are long and weary; some travelers choose to "lay-over" in Amsterdam for a day coming or going. KLM has 1 daily flight to and from AMS and JRO. Our children's village is located about 20 minutes from the Kilimanjaro Airport and we can make arrangements to meet you upon arrival. The above paragraphs offer some suggestions and options. However, airlines change their schedules often. Be sure you have the most up to date information before you begin your booking. Delta Airlines currently allows 2 checked bags (50 lbs each) and 1 carry-on.

Expenses

Our village collects \$15 U.S. per day for your time with us; this includes your food, water, laundry and other services. We will also provide transportation for ministry events and limited transportation for non-ministry related events when possible. Our village is fairly isolated but there is bus and taxi service available when our transportation is not.

Other than that your expenses really depend on you. Some opt to eat the food provided at the village, some buy their own groceries and some eat at restaurants. This all depends on what you decide to spend. Since our village is a fairly long distance from local restaurants you will have to plan ahead for trips out. You may eat meals each day with the children (bread or corn meal for breakfast, rice with a sauce or topping for lunch and dinner). You may bring food with you as well. Our kitchen is at your disposal. We have a supply of plates, dinnerware, etc. Some people will want to buy souvenirs and some won't. Many want to take time for a Safari or even climb Mt. Kilimanjaro. With all of these variables in lifestyle and availability of goods it is hard to predict what you might spend. We can help with your budget when you give us a better understanding of the trip you envision.

Other Necessities and Recommendations

- Towel & Toiletries
- Small Pillow
- Shower Shoes
- Boots or Lace-up Shoes (you don't want to wear sandals in the bush)
- Bible, Pen & Stationary, Good Book
- Flashlight/torch
- Umbrella or light rain jacket
- iPod or Personal Music Device

Information worth Noting

- *Electrical outlets are European two-prong round 220 volts / 50 Hz.*
- *U.S. electrical curling or clothes irons will not work in Tanzania*
- *Never bring expensive jewelry or watches to Africa.*
- *We do not recommend traveling with computers; internet service is available on a limited basis.*
- *For cell phone, make sure it is "unlocked"; "Roaming" from the U.S. can excess \$5.00 per minute!*

Currency

We recommend that you bring U.S. dollars and a credit/debit card. Dollars are easy to exchange for Tanzanian Schillings. Please make certain to bring \$100 bills dated 2006 or newer, older bills have a lower exchange rate. Travelers' checks and cashiers checks are not accepted in Tanzania. Visa and occasionally MasterCard are accepted at a few restaurants and hotels. You must have a PIN number to get cash advances from ATM machines (local currency). There are many currency exchange places that offer a fair exchange rate for currency conversions.

Gifts to the Village

Many of our visitors are very generous, both financially and through gifts and supplies they donate to Sonshine. We require that all donations be given directly to our administrator Moses Ngang'orwa or our house parents Pacifique & Kendi to ensure that they are used in keeping with the ministry's current priorities and needs. If you wish to designate a particular area to benefit from your contribution, we will certainly honor your intention as much as possible.

Mission Contact

Our Mission Application is available as a PDF document through our website; this is the best way to begin the process of applying for a mission adventure. Please view our "Team Trip" page for access to our printable forms.

Sonshine Ministries requires a \$100.00 fee (Short-Term Trip only) to process your application. Please complete the Mission Application and Release Form and return along with your application fee to our address below.

Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns you have and we'll do our best to help.

May God richly bless you!

Ray and Melody Schumacher
Sonshine Ministries International

Contact Information

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