



Communication & Travel Itineraries

Dear Parent(s),

My name is Tom Ives, and I am the President of Reign Ministries. I realize you want to know what your child is doing while on their mission trip. Questions such as 'What kind of ministry are they doing?', 'What fun things are they experiencing?', and 'What challenges are they facing?' are on the mind of all parents who send their kids overseas. I'm a dad whose 14-year-old daughter went on a Royal Servants mission trip and I get that!

Therefore, communication is a priority at Royal Servants. Our staff is excited to share what each team is doing throughout the mission trip. We want you to know what the team is experiencing in each new country; the ministry, foreign food, worship, and all the other activities we pack into our mission trips.

Our trip leader has the task of balancing three priorities this summer. The first is to care for your son or daughter's emotional, spiritual, and physical health. Our next two priorities are ministry and communication (keeping you in the loop).

The primary way we will communicate is by posting on social media. Each team's goal is to post 2 updates a week on social media, as well as photos, blogs, and/or videos. Updates will also be posted on travel days. This should give each parent a great window into what's happening on the team.

We will try to post pictures of every person on the team weekly so you can see your son or daughter. But that's not as easy as it seems due to daily schedules and ministry needs. Sometimes students even avoid being in pictures! So if you don't specifically see your son or daughter as often as you want, it's not for lack of trying. Thank you for your understanding.

Please take some time to read through the following pages for information on what to expect from each team while they are overseas. Your son or daughter's trip itinerary is included in this letter, and you can also view this information on our website at: <https://reignministries.org/royal-servants/mission-trip-itineraries/>.

Please know that should there be a safety or health emergency the Trip Leader will contact you at the soonest possible moment. Therefore, if your email address or cell phone number has recently changed please make sure to contact our office with your updated information.

Partnering Together,

Tom Ives
Director of Royal Servants
President of Reign Ministries

COSTA RICA 2023 TRAVEL ITINERARY

DEPARTS: Chicago, July 2 @ 7:00 am
AIRLINE: American Airlines #2754
ARRIVES: Dallas, July 2 @ 9:30 am
DEPARTS: Dallas, July 2 @ 10:35 am
AIRLINE: American Airlines #1053
ARRIVES: San Jose, July 2 @ 1:53 pm

July 2-23
Cachi, Costa Rica

DEPARTS: San Jose, July 29 @ 6:00 am
AIRLINE: American Airlines #1204
ARRIVES: Miami, July 29 @ 11:00 am
DEPARTS: Miami, July 29 @ 1:47 pm
AIRLINE: American Airlines #608
ARRIVES: Chicago, July 29 @ 4:10 pm

July 24 - 29
Jaco, Costa Rica

The Costa Rica team will not be able to receive any mail while overseas.

COMMUNICATION DURING THE SUMMER

1. CONTACT INFORMATION

Training Camp (June 11 - July 3): 608-400-1806 or email royalservants@reignministries.org
Overseas (July 2 - August 3): 763-535-9555 or email royalservants@reignministries.org
Emergency while overseas (i.e. death in the family): 608-400-1806

2. SIGN UP FOR SOCIAL MEDIA (BEFORE THE SUMMER)

Social media on the web has revolutionized our lives! We use a variety of mediums – Facebook, Instagram, and most importantly, our website – to share updates from Royal Servants trips with you! Here are some ways you can do that:

Subscribe for Email Updates

Subscribing to our trip updates ensures that you will get all the latest updates throughout the summer. All of our social media posts will be gathered and posted onto the blog found on our website. By subscribing, you will receive the updates in your email. You can subscribe here: <http://reignministries.org/subscribe/>

Pick your Channel

The best place to find all updates, pictures, and videos is our website at <https://reignministries.org/royal-servants/news/>. You can also follow our social media outlets to receive updates:

Facebook page: facebook.com/ReignMinistries

Instagram account: instagram.com/royalservants

Use Facebook to Share

Facebook tip: go to Reign Ministries Facebook page and “tag” a picture of your student and any other students you know. We will not be tagging students, so by tagging your student, you will then be able to share that bit of news with friends and family members.

3. COMMUNICATION AT TRAINING CAMP

Training Camp is packed full and teams are busy preparing for their time overseas. If you use the information above to sign up for our social media options, you will be able to see a little bit of your student’s experience! While you might not be able to see your student’s face in the updates, we have the following options available for you to communicate to them at Training Camp.

Hilltop Express (Only at Training Camp)

Send your son or daughter an encouraging email/note via Hilltop Express. We will print and deliver it during the next mail delivery. Your student will not be able to respond but will still enjoy getting a printed message from you! We are able to deliver Hilltop Expresses to students most days during their time at Training Camp. The last day you will be able to send an email and have it printed is July 1st by 3PM CST. You can send a Hilltop Express here: <http://reignministries.org/royal-servants/hilltop-express/>

Send Mail & Packages (Only at Training Camp)

Mail is much more important than many parents or relatives realize. Care packages are a great way to show your son or daughter you are thinking of them while they are at Training Camp. Contents of care packages can include favorite candy, chips, snacks, etc.

Try not to send large items. Students have limited room in their packs, in addition to a weight allowance. Care packages are a great low-cost way for relatives or friends from the youth group to bless and encourage your son or daughter. Make sure you send any letters or packages to arrive by July 1st! Anything that arrives on July 2nd or afterward will be returned by the post office.

When mailing items to Training Camp, please mail to:

“Student Name—Team Name”
c/o Royal Servants
W4797 State Rd 33
Pardeeville, WI 53954

4. COMMUNICATION OVERSEAS

Mail

Due to the challenges that come with international mail, we ask that you not send any packages to students, as they often never arrive. If your student’s trip itinerary listed on the previous page includes a mailing address, it means that you can send letters or cards to that location. We cannot guarantee that letters will get to their intended destination.

Trip Updates & Student Communication

Trip Leaders will be making an effort to keep you and your student in communication this summer. Our goal will be for each participant to email home once a week. As for trip updates, Trip Leaders will aim to post 2 updates per week through our social media platforms. If you are not following all the mediums we provide, you may not see all the updates that are posted. Depending on the country, some updates will include photos and videos, while others will only include text.

Please know that each Trip Leader will be making an effort to reach their goals for trip updates and emailing home, but accessing the Internet can be challenging for a number of countries, so updates and email cannot be guaranteed.

Additionally, your student’s Trip Leader will send you a link to a Google Drive in June. This will contain information for parents and guardians of participants only; in other words, you will not be able to share this link with anyone else (note that you do **not** need a Gmail email account in order to access the Google Drive folders). The purpose of this is twofold. First, it will be a place where Trip Leaders will be able to put additional photos of the team that don’t necessarily make it onto our social media or website updates. Second, it will be a place for Trip Leaders to share “mini updates” and prayer requests with you. Longer, more detailed updates will be posted to our website. Remember to subscribe (<http://reignministries.org/subscribe/>) to receive updates in your email.

Phone

Most teams do not have access to public phones. Even if available, phone cards rarely work well internationally. However, if your student brings a phone card to attempt calls internationally, be sure to google “international phone cards” for available options before purchasing a phone card (and research international access codes as well).

Emergency

In the event of an emergency, please call 608-400-1806. For non-emergency related questions, please call the office at 763-535-9555 or email royalservants@reignministries.org.

5. POST SUMMER

After the summer, students will receive letters from us to continue debriefing their experience and encourage them after their trip. Students also often continue communication with some members of their team through social media, emails, letters, and phone calls for months and even years after their trip!

6. OTHER POLICIES

Note to all participants and parents: Please read the two policies below, as they apply to all participants (students and Summer Staff).

Cell Phone Policy

It may seem a bit scary at first, but this summer you have the opportunity to be unplugged because Royal Servants has a no-use cell phone policy on all mission trips, both in the U.S. and overseas. The word “opportunity” may seem counterintuitive, but past Royal Servants students have been vocal about how thankful they were to have had a break from the demands of their phones. It allowed them to be undistracted by home life (and issues), focus on the mission trip, and develop deep relationships with other team members ... who were also not distracted by their phones.

Here’s the deal: You can bring your phone with you to make calls while traveling to and from the mission trip, but we will ask that you turn in the phone’s battery upon check-in at the beginning of the summer. The battery will be returned to you at the end of the mission trip, on the day of departure to the States.

If the phone does not have a removable battery (i.e., iPhone), you cannot bring it on the mission trip and you will have to send it home from Training Camp at your own expense. In this case, we suggest that you purchase an inexpensive “pay-as-you-go” type phone that can easily be found at Target, Walmart, or other local stores.

Electronics Policy:

There are many reasons why going on a mission trip experience is such significant time of spiritual growth and transformation. As mentioned above, one reason is that each person is “unplugged” from the demands, distractions, and temptations of devices like smart phones or wireless tablets. Therefore, wireless tablets, Kindles, or other electronics are not allowed. We want each person’s heart to be undistracted, solely focused on and devoted to the Lord!