Caring for the Caribbean

**Bahamas Mission Team Trip Information**

1. **PASSPORT.**

To go on a Bahamas Mission Trip, everyone MUST have a PASSPORT. Travel to Grand Bahama Island will require either a Book Passport or a Passport Card. Please secure your Passport EARLY! (Typically 4-8 Weeks for delivery) Passports need to be checked before leaving home!

1. **COSTS OF TRIP.**

$650 per person

$375 per Team for 1 Bin

The cost of the trip is FROM THE PORT of WEST PALM, FL

The cost of the trip includes:

1) Ticket on Grand Celebration (Boat ride to Freeport and back). 2) Food and Drink

* 1. Transportation on the Island.
	2. Stay at the Church
	3. S.E.A. Mission Staff Assistance
	4. Tips for Baggage Handlers at Ports.

What the cost of the trip does NOT include:

1) Transportation to and from West Palm Beach, FL 2) Souvenirs

* 1. VBS Supplies and Crafts
	2. Cookies and Juice for Refreshments at VBS
	3. A Dinner on the town ( if possible)
	4. Local food vendors

 \*Each team usually gives a “love offering” for the host church. This helps to defray the cost of very expensive utilities (cost of running the AC unit at night).

1. **REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT DUE.**

1. Summer Trips

Payment should be made to: S.E.A. Mission Payment Schedule:

 March 15th: $150.00 (refundable up to May 1)

 May 1: $200.00 (non-refundable)

 June 1: $300.00 (all funds non-refundable)

1. Construction Trips

 Price will be the same unless otherwise determined.

1. **TRAVEL SCHEDULE.**

 Day 1: Arrive Port of West Palm Cargo Area by 11am (be on time)

 Loading of Cargo and Bins should completed by 12:30pm

 Drivers to Park vehicles in Assigned Lot

 Board The Ship

 Day 2: Arrive in Freeport

 Breakfast, dressed (Sunday Arrivals dressed for church)

 Off the ship by 9 am

 Transport to host church

 Last Day: Pack up

 Harbor by 1 pm

 Free Lunch on Ship

1. **Vacation Bible School**

Our primary purpose for this trip is Vacation Bible School. VBS is in the morning and generally begins at 9:00-9:30 a.m. The school usually ends from 11:30 – 12:00 noon. (Discretion of your VBS Team Leader).

In the Bahamas it is usually best to plan for four age groups.

 **Preschool**

 **Children**

 **Youth**

 **Adults**

You will also need a Leader for Recreation and Opening Worship. Many teams use a leader for Crafts, but how a Team does crafts is up to the VBS Team and leader. Bahamians LOVE crafts, including Adults!

While the VBS Team furnishes the cookies and juice, the SEA Mission staff will be available to serve the refreshments. This is often found helpful by Teams, but of course is at the discretion of the VBS Team leader.

S.E.A. Mission tries to have a couple of College or Sr. High School Interns on each trip. These interns are available to serve the VBS Team if needed. They will probably serve best has “helpers” but can serve in any age group or area. The interns are carefully chosen by SEA Mission and will be capable, respectful, and helpful.

1. **Free Time**

Free time is available each day after lunch. Use of this time is totally at the discretion of the Team Leader. Some ideas for using Free Time are:

* 1. Rest and Relaxation. (naps are good and welcomed by most team members)

* 1. Spend time with the Bahamian Children. They will definitely “hang out” with the team. We serve in small communities where walking is common, so many children will stay around the church with the team. They love to be included in Team rec times.

* 1. The Beach. If your host churches are near the beach, it might bit of a walk to get to the beach. The Bahamian Children will usually go with the team to the beach.

* 1. Snorkeling. The waters in the Bahamas are very clear and many reefs provide a great place for snorkeling. However, some places are better than others for snorkeling and arrangements can be made to travel to a good snorkeling area, but there will be an additional cost.

* 1. Construction. The Bahamian Churches are always in need of repair and small construction projects are often needed. Some projects that teams have done in the past: remodel a Pastor’s house, patch roofs, clean windows and lights, repair water pump, repair A/C, paint, and repair sound equipment. If you see something while there that you might wish to help with, please ask a staff member.

* 1. Keep in mind that there is LIMITED TRANSPORTATION at the host church. Most free time activity will have to take place at the church. Transportation costs are quite expensive. The SEA Mission Team will have a car or van, but it will be used for picking up food and supplies, getting ice, and emergencies. We can probably arrange transportation for an event (snorkeling, sight- seeing, etc. but this is NOT included in the price of the trip).

1. **Packing**

* 1. Personal Items

One Suitcase and Carry on per person

Please be VERY conservative with your packing. One suitcase (**max 50 lbs**) and one carry-on per person. The host churches that are very small and there is very little space for storing. **NO ROLLING DUFFLE BAGS**. **Overweight, Rolling Duffle Bags and Guitar’s WILL cost extra at owners expense.**

Sleeping Bags/mattresses must be packed in your Personal Luggage or your carry-on. This CAN be done! Each team may use 1 small box for some air pumps so that each person is not packing one.

* 1. Supplies

VBS and work supplies need to be kept to a minimal amount. Each team will have one Bin on the Boat. These will fill up fast. Supplies that will have to go in the bin are:

* Large coolers with food.
* Food Boxes. (provided by SEA Mission but carried by Team)
* VBS Supplies. Take only what you will use, extras will be left with the host church, no bins on the trip home.
* We ask that you use small shipping boxes. Lowes or Home Depot.
1. Keep track of each box by marking each one. SEA Mission will give you directions how to mark each box. It is important to know how many boxes we have so that we get them all loaded at the Port in Freeport.

1. **Evening Worship Time.**

Evening worship time is the responsibility of your team. SEA Mission team will be glad to assist with this if requested, but SEA Mission wants this to be YOUR mission trip. The SEA Mission Team leader would love an opportunity each evening to speak with your team and lead them in a time of discussion about the day. This is at the discretion of the Church Team Leader.

Keep in mind that EARLY lights out is highly recommended.

1. **T-Shirts.**

Some churches have T-Shirts made to wear on the boat trip over to Freeport and/or the boat trip back to West Palm Beach. This is completely optional, but we have found it helpful for "keeping up" with everyone if the group is large.

1. **What to Bring**
	1. Must Bring...
		* + Bible
			+ Journal
			+ small bills for offerings
			+ 1 Roll of Toilet Paper
			+ 1 Package of non-melting cookies (e.g. Winn Dixie “Big 60’s” for VBS)
			+ 1 Package of presweetened Kool-Aid (for VBS)
			+ Use 3 Small boxes to pack EVERYONES in.
			+ Resealable water bottle (Water is safe on the island and hydration is important)
			+ Prescription medicine
			+ Sunscreen

* 1. Suggestions…

* + - Cheap washcloth and towel
		- Snorkeling equipment
		- Hat, visor, sunglasses
		- Something appropriate to sleep in (we ALL sleep in a common area)
		- Small battery powered portable fan
		- Earplugs –some people SNORE!
		- CPAP machines are encouraged
		- Dramamine or equivalent
		- Wet wipes
		- Baby powder
		- Air mattress or sleeping bag
		- Bug spray
		- Water shoes

* 1. Group needs to bring…

* + - VBS supplies
		- Worship supplies (Guitar, projector, etc., if needed)
		- FLEXIBILITY!

1. **Forms**

1. SEA Mission Consent/Release Form

2) Team Information Form

 3) Permission Form for anyone under 18 travelling without a parent.