



## **KENYA TEAM INFO SHEET**

### **WHAT WILL THE TEAM DO IN KENYA?**

Our Kenya team will minister to children in the Mathare slums through engaging VBS Bible lessons, enthusiastic games, meaningful crafts, evangelism, and house visits. At the end of the week, the team will take a short flight from Nairobi to the Masai Mara, where they will host another VBS for children in a rural community. To conclude the trip, the team will embark on a breathtaking African safari. This team is for learners who are mature, flexible, ready to be used by God, and are prepared for long travel and adapting to a different culture. The commitment to this team includes a mandatory after-school training on Wednesday, February 11th from 1p-5p.

### **WHO ARE THE TEAM LEADERS?**

Our team leaders will be made up of staff and facilitators from CCS. Our staff will be going through their own prayer and discernment process to decide where they feel God is leading them. We will announce who will lead each team just before Christmas break.

### **CAN A PARENT CHAPERONE ON A MISSIONS TRIP?**

Our model for the mission program does not include parent chaperones for a few reasons:

1. Learners and team leaders spend all year training for their mission team and specific roles, responsibilities, and other sub-teams. Team meetings take place during school hours where our leaders and learners can build a strong and dynamic working relationship in preparation for their trip. In partnership with Crossroads Church Global Outreach department, we follow a 4-6 month training schedule to adequately prepare our learners with the necessary tools, skills, cultural awareness and spiritual development that they need to do the work God has called them.
2. Our school's desire is to holistically develop our learners as they follow Jesus. We want them to have full ownership of their trip and involvement. From fundraising, to training and travel, we want our learners to use this trip as an opportunity to mature and grow as an individual.

## **WHERE WILL THE TEAM BE STAYING IN KENYA?**

We will be staying in two different places during our time in Kenya.

- Nairobi (6 nights)
  - For the majority of the time, we will be staying at the wonderful [Grace House Resort](#). This is a comfortable, safe, and accommodating hotel in Nairobi. They specialize in hosting Mission Teams. They have been partnering with Crossroads Church and School since 2009!
- Maasai Mara (3 nights)
  - We will be spending three nights in Maasai Mara where we will host another VBS for children in a rural community Crossroads Church supports and go on an African Safari. The beautiful lodge that we will be staying at is in the middle of the African Savannah. We are still working out details with our partners on solidifying the lodge based on best pricing and availability.

## **HOW SAFE IS IT TO TRAVEL AND DO MINISTRY IN KENYA?**

Safety is our number one concern when it comes to our learners traveling and doing ministry. We would never take our learners to a location we felt was not safe.

Crossroads Christian Church has taken short-term Missions trips to Kenya for the past 15 years as well as been part of 7 CCHS mission trips to Kenya, all of which have been safe and successful. Our leadership works closely with our ministry partners who are constantly monitoring situations in and around the community. The trip leaders and in-country partners assess the schedule daily and make any necessary changes that would best keep us safe and keep us on schedule.

## **WHAT ARE THE TRANSPORTATION PLANS FOR THIS TEAM? WHAT AIRLINES WILL BE TRAVELING WITH?**

Our team will meet at CCHS and will take vans or a bus to LAX for our flights. From there, we will board our plane and travel to Kenya. As of June 2025, we are still working with our flight agency for best pricing. Updated information on flight details will be shared at an upcoming Kenya team meeting.

We will also schedule a parent team meeting to share all of the information on our schedules and flight itinerary.

## **WHAT DOES THE COST OF THE TRIP COVER?**

The cost for this trip will be approximately \$4000. We will have a finalized cost for the trip when our team begins to meet, and when we are planning to purchase airline tickets. The trip cost covers all transportation (including all flights and buses), lodging, meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner), travel insurance, Kenyan Visa, CCHS Missions

shirt, and all ministry materials. The only additional money that a learner would need is for souvenir shopping, airport food, and snacks.

### **HOW EARLY SHOULD I APPLY FOR A PASSPORT?**

ASAP! It can take up to 8 weeks to receive your passport or 4-6 weeks if you pay to expedite. International travel law requires you to travel with a valid passport that has an expiration date at least 6 months after your return date. We will need copies of all passports (including renewed passports) before the High School Christmas Break. We **strongly** recommend that you begin the process today to avoid running out of time.

### **DO I NEED TO GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE TO BE PART OF THIS TEAM?**

Covid-19 is not required to go on this Missions trip.

As of June 9, 2025 there are no updates on covid vaccination requirements. See: <https://kenyaembassydc.org/ufaq/covid-19-requirements-for-travel-to-kenya/>

### **WHAT VACCINATIONS/SHOTS ARE RECOMMENDED TO BE PART OF THIS TEAM?**

We will be following the [CDC guidelines](#). There are not many required vaccinations, however, there are several that are recommended. Each family will need to decide which recommended vaccinations they choose are appropriate.

What is required for Kenya and what the learner needs before departure is **malaria pills**. There are different types of malaria pills that require different ingestion schedules. Some start before the trip and require that you continue to take the pills several days after. In our experience, we prefer **Doxycycline**.

*\*Please consult with a travel nurse/clinic through your health provider to see which malaria medication they recommend.*

### **WHAT IS THE PROTOCOL IF THERE IS A NEED FOR MEDICAL CARE IN KENYA?**

Travel medical insurance will be purchased for everyone on the team. We will be traveling with a medical bag every day for simple medical care needs. The team leaders will administer medication to learners if needed. We ask for learners to bring any prescription, allergy, or any over-the-counter medication that they may need during our time in Kenya. In addition, our Kenyan partners are prepared to provide access to any modern medical needs that may come up. In the rare event that medical attention is needed for a learner, our team leaders will contact the school office who will contact the parents/guardians as well as emergency services if needed.

## HOW DOES FUNDRAISING WORK?

Learners will be given guidance and training to fundraise for their Missions trip. Every step of the way, our learners will be supported by our facilitators through class time prep, sharing ideas that have worked in the past, as well as encouragement on how other learners have raised their funds.

While we can share ideas on how to fundraise, most of the funds come from learners creatively seeking opportunities that allow them to use their gifts and talents, as well as reaching out to their immediate friends and family for support. **Note: If a learner does not fundraise the full amount, they are still responsible for the balance.** Every learner will receive a link to their mission fund sheet where they can see how much money they need to raise. Fund sheets will be updated a week after each deposit due date. The deposit due dates are as follows:

- September 25- \$400 due
- October 30- \$720 due
- November 20- \$720 due
- December 11 - \$720 due
- January 15 - \$720 due
- February 5 - \$720 due

## WHAT IF THE LEARNER FUNDRAISED OVER THE TOTAL AMOUNT FOR THEIR 25/26 MISSION TRIP?

Any donations that exceeded the total amount of their trip will be rolled over to their personal funding account for the 26/27 school year. Those learners will be notified at the beginning of the school year, letting them know their individual Missions rollover totals.

If you are a graduating senior, you will have the opportunity to nominate whatever you have over fundraised to their account. We will be handling these situations on a case-by-case basis.

## SCHOOL FUNDRAISING GUIDELINES

If a learner has a fundraiser that they would like to share with the school to “get support from their peers” they will need to:

- Schedule a meeting with Mr. West to present the fundraiser
- Get approval from Mr. West
- If approved, we will schedule a time and date for the learner to make an announcement during the opening block

This process is necessary as it allows our leadership to approve what is being advertised at CCHS, and to make sure no fundraisers are overlapping with one another. This is not meant to be a competition, but an opportunity for all learners to support each other.

### **WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF DONATIONS ACCEPTED?**

1. Cash
2. Checks
3. Zeffy

Zeffy is a new fundraising platform that is 100% free and allows all donations and contributions to go to our learners without fees. Zeffy accounts will be set up in class and every learner will be trained on how to use it to receive donations. Please view the document "How to turn in a donation". The information on that document is important to have in order to receive a tax deduction.

### **ARE DONATIONS TAX DEDUCTIBLE?**

All donations are fully tax deductible! In order for this to happen ALL checks need to be made payable to "Crossroads Christian Schools" and only "CCHS Local Missions" is seen in the memo. **DO NOT** make checks out to the learner or put their name on the check.

### **CAN YOU MAKE DONATIONS THROUGH THE SCHOOL'S FACTS FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM?**

No. Since these funds are considered donations it does NOT run through FACTS. Cash and checks need to be donated through the school office and electronic donations needs to be made through the learners Zeffy account.

### **WHAT HAPPENS IF MY LEARNER DECIDES TO CHANGE TEAMS OR DOES NOT GO ON THE TRIP?**

All money donated is **NON-REFUNDABLE** and will be used to support the team or project that Crossroads High School will be doing. In addition, if a learner transfers to another team, we will do our best to accommodate and transfer the funds to their new team account but these will be handled on a case-by-case basis and cannot be guaranteed.

### **IS IT POSSIBLE TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH MY LEARNER WHILE THEY ARE ON THE TRIP? HOW CAN I SEE WHAT THEY WILL BE DOING DAY-TO-DAY?**

Every day team leaders will choose 1-2 learners from every class to write a blog for that specific day. These blogs will be posted daily with pictures on our [Crossroads High School Missions Website](#). This is the primary way to stay up to date with what the Local team is doing, in addition to the other Mission trip teams. We will be in partnership with Crossroads Church communications department to post daily updates on the Crossroads Christian School social media accounts.

A non-negotiable and important aspect of our International Mission trips is “disconnecting” from normal routines, community, and distractions, which includes cell phone or mobile device usage. Here is our policy:

### **Cell Phone Policy**

Learners are allowed to bring phones; however, we will be restricting that usage (for phone calls, texts, all communications) to certain pre-decided times. Learners are restricted from using their phone for entertainment purposes until after the evening team debrief when you return to your room. Learners are allowed to use their phones to listen to music during the bus ride to the airport, on the flight, and in their rooms during morning and evening times.

Phones can be used during some portions of the day to take pictures and leaders will let you know when pictures can be taken and when to keep phones away.

### **Social Media Policy**

During their time in the country, we are asking that all International Team members to not interact, post, respond, OR SCROLL, etc... on any social media platforms for the entire duration of the Missions trip. Once the team gets to Kenya we are considered “on mission” and we will disconnect our phones.

This is to protect learners from being distracted and to keep their hearts and mind within the country and work that God has called them to. If a learner is unable to obey this cell phone policy, their phone will be confiscated for the remainder of the trip, and be returned to them when we are back in the states.

In case of an emergency, parents are able to contact our school office who will be able to quickly contact our team leaders.

### **HOW SHOULD I PREPARE FOR THE TRIP?**

1. Pray! The first thing you should do months away from this trip is to pray and ask God to be in the middle of all the details surrounding this trip.

2. Start sharing about your trip. Ask people to pray for you and your team, and don't be afraid to ask for people to prayerfully consider financially supporting your team.
3. Start saving and fundraising. Start putting some money aside from your part time job, and start coming up with ways that you can fundraise.

We are excited that you have taken this incredible step in your walk with God and we trust that God is going to do incredible things in and through you as you obey Him.