

J-Team Trip Registration Guidelines

TEAMS for Medical Missions

TEAMS for Medical Missions has experienced great growth over the last few years. One evidence is the extensive list of J-Team personnel who desire repeated involvement in J-Teams. Word of mouth from "satisfied customers" contributes to widening awareness and interest. This includes individuals and couples new to TEAMS. It also includes several wonderful churches and other groups who want to come as a complete J-Team, or as a major subgroup within a J-Team.

It is now extremely hard to accommodate such a large number of people. And, in fact, it is impossible to fit a subgroup of any significant number of people into a J-Team. We appreciate the helpful input and understanding - especially the understanding and affirmation - of those who are directly affected by these new guidelines:

- We welcome *individuals* but we can no longer honor requests from a group to make up an entire J-Team, or the majority of a J-Team. This also applies to couples with married children, or adults with siblings and their wives, who might want to do a short-term trip together.
- We welcome J-Team returnees and will try to accommodate them but we can no longer automatically plug a person into a J-Team slot from year to year.
- We welcome indications of interest in a specific scheduled J-Team but we cannot take reservations.

These guidelines are followed out of fairness to all who would like to have a first-time TEAMS J-Team experience. It also takes into consideration all that TEAMS for Medical Missions is trying to accomplish through the J-Teams and in connection with our career missionaries and the national Jamaican churches.

To register your interest in joining a future J-Team, either as a new person or as a returnee, please contact us individually, not as a part of a group or with the thought that you will withdraw if friends or family are not accepted for the same team. To do this . . .

- Submit the form from the TEAMS website - www.T4mm.org
- Send an e-mail to Ruth@T4mm.org
- Phone TEAMS at 610-398-0070

However, you will probably want to actually talk to us at some early point. J-Team rosters change too quickly to be reflected on the web site. Don't let that discourage you. Please contact us! Note that when you submit a registration form from the web, it lets us know of your interest so we can follow up, but it does not necessarily guarantee a place on a J-Team.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the J-Team experience? I want to go for the right reasons.

There might be many valid purposes, but for TEAMS for Medical Missions, a primary purpose of short-term missions is to serve the cause of reaching Jamaican people with the gospel. We want to meet all areas and levels of need. We especially want to equip the church to minister effectively to their own people. More personally, it should be your desire to know God better through your J-Team ministry and to be more deeply involved in Christ's global purposes.

At TEAMS for Medical Missions we do not have a program that intentionally provides a fun or even educational exposure to another land or culture. It is not a vacation - even if it is with a purpose, nor is to be used as a team building exercise for a group of church friends. Finally, it should not serve to check off a duty from one's Christian service *To Do List*. TEAMS is looking for J-Teamers who are open to long-term involvement in missions and evangelism and will allow the J-Team ministry to open their eyes to opportunities for interceding, contributing, and volunteering at home and/or abroad.

How far in advance should I register my interest in a J-Team?

Remember that all regularly scheduled J-Teams are nine day trips and depart the USA on the 1st Saturday of February, May, August, and November. Generally, it is best to give yourself - and us - at least one year. This is not as long a wait as it sounds. It gives time to get or renew a passport, advertise your trip and gather prayer and financial support, make work and personal arrangements, and generally prepare yourself. It gives us time to make J-Team flight reservations at the lowest prices - we usually do this six months ahead of the team.

What roles need to be filled by J-Team personnel?

Every J-Team is generally comprised of physicians (3), nurses (3), and pharmacists (2). Non-medical members include the team leader, a clinic clerk, Bible teachers/childrens workers and handyman builders. Note that one of the pharmacists is from the home office and serves as Medical Coordinator for the trip. Additionally the team leader and one of the teachers is from the home office.

What kind of practical considerations go into the staffing of J-Teams?

Here are a few of the factors that we take into account.

- That we have a complete team of medical professionals (as above)
- That the physicians represent more than one specialty
- That we have good balance between new and returning J-Teamers
- That we extend the J-Team experience to as many people as possible
- That team size cannot exceed 18 people. This is for reasons of transportation and accommodations. At that maximum number there can be no more than ten women and eight men. This is because of the number of bedrooms and the bedroom capacities at TEAMS House.

Why don't you just schedule more J-Teams each year?

TEAMS began as a strictly medical mission organization. If this were still the case, we could do just that - add more J-Teams as more and more people became interested, as we added more clinic sites, and widened the geographic area serves in Jamaica. However, despite the word, "medical" in its name, TEAMS for Medical Missions is in fact a general mission agency working in partnership with churches and church leaders to strengthen the churches to fulfill their Great Commission purposes in their own land. Our field missionaries facilitate and host J-Teams as a relatively small part of their greater work. J-Teams supplement and enhance their ongoing wider ministry.

How do I find a short term mission sending agency that will suit my needs?

If you would like to participate in short term missions as a group we encourage you to contact a mission organization that specializes in mobilizing short term mission teams. In deploying teams of all sizes and composition, they can accommodate larger groups that want to serve together in missions. Such teams go for various lengths of time and literally all over the world. These are quite different than our J-Teams because their ministries are age-appropriate and very specific to the kinds of groups recruited. Besides larger groups, young people and families can have a much more satisfying and fruitful ministry. The most effective way to find such an agency is to talk to your pastor or church missions committee. They should be able to furnish you with names of good short-term mission agencies.