

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, as well as several wonderful churches who want to come as a major subgroup within a J-Team.

Would you like to register your interest in joining a future J-Team? You can do this by submitting a [registration form](#). However, you will probably want to talk to us at some point early in your consideration process. Note that when you submit a registration form on our site, it lets us know of your interest so we can follow up, but it does not necessarily guarantee a place on a J-Team. For the inevitable questions that will come up, please contact us either through an email: teams@t4mm.org, or by calling our office at: (610) 398-0070.

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 eight 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 - one year if possible. 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 several 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 (3). Non-medical members include the team leader, a clinic clerk, Bible teachers/children's 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 are 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 served 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.