

Partners for Rural Health in the Dominican Republic

Winter Trip 2020

Dear Interested Volunteer:

Partners for Rural Health in the Dominican Republic (PRHDR) is delighted that you are interested in participating in our Winter Mission 2020! We look forward to working with you. Our 23-year-old organization is unique from other missions of which you may have heard. We are a service-learning program. Participating medical professionals' primary role is to provide teaching and mentoring to students. You will be contributing to the foundation of future medical professionals in the setting of primary care. PRHDR recruits support staff and interpreters as well.

Two books are highly recommended regarding the tumultuous history of the Dominican Republic:

“WHY THE COCKS FIGHT” by Michele Wucker

“THE EASTERN STAR” by Mark Kurlansky

Dates: The trip will take place from January 3rd to January 15th 2020. Students and faculty will be flying to and from Santiago, DR on these dates.

Trip Fee: The fee for this trip will be \$820. This cost includes: room and board, all ground transportation and evacuation insurance.

Application Process: Letter of Intent: The Letter of Intent (LOI) is the first step in the application process. It is required for new volunteers only. The LOI will help us understand your specific skill set and qualifications. Please go to the Volunteer page of the website www.prhdr.org and click on Volunteer, “Letter of Intent”

Volunteer Application: Once your LOI has been accepted and we have received 2 letters of recommendation, you will be notified to proceed with the remainder of the forms, found on the Volunteer page.

November 15, 2019: \$100.00 deposit must be received and will be applied towards the overall trip cost of \$820. **ALL PAPER WORK** must be received by this date

December 1st, 2019: Total amount of \$820 must be paid in full.

Payment Options:

Online Payment: Fees can be paid with your credit card, via Paypal on the PRHDR web site, first page, on the right.

By Check: Please make checks payable to: Partners for Rural Health in the Dominican Republic. Mail your check to:

PRHDR, PO Box 1742,
Portland, ME 04104

Volunteer Fundraising Requirements: All volunteers are expected to participate in fundraising for the trip, with a goal of \$300 per participant. This funding is essential to helping PRHDR purchase medications and equipment for the trip. If you would like more information on ways to fundraise you can contact Board Members:

Corinna Campbell ...Corinna.campbell@maine.edu
Jamie Freeman ...Jamie.freeman@maine.edu
Keiko Kurita... keikomkurita@gmail.com

Group Flights: The flights are yet to be determined for the students, staff and faculty. You will be notified as soon as they are available. As a volunteer you are responsible for your own travel arrangements. Many volunteers like to book their reservations on the same flights. This is very convenient for all. We highly recommend that you do this.

**Trip Orientation:
Saturday, December 7, 2019
10:00 am to 3:00 pm at USM**

Required if you live close to Portland or Boston.

Please email Volunteer_coordinator@prhdr.org if you cannot make the orientation.

This is an important meeting where you will meet members of the team and gain information regarding your role and responsibilities. You will also participate in packing medical equipment bags. Feel free to bring family and friends. A pizza lunch is provided. You will receive more information regarding orientation as time draws near. So, mark your calendar!!

***PRHDR uses Gateway International Plan for trip insurance (www.GatewayPlans.com./ahins/) which is included in trip fees. This covers Emergency evacuation. You will be receiving more information on this. Please read the policy carefully for all information when the policy is sent to you.

If you have not done so, please email us as soon as possible to let us know that you will be applying for the winter mission.

Other Info to Remember:

*Updated Passport is required.

*Vaccines including: hepatitis A, typhoid oral or injectable and TB skin test within a year prior to travel, *Tetanus booster every 10 years, and hepatitis B series of 3 vaccines are recommended since even non-medical persons can be exposed to body fluids.

*Occasionally we have a case of traveler's diarrhea.

*Some volunteers will want to take malaria prevention tablets. For more detailed health information for travel to the Dominican Republic please check the Center for Disease Control web site.

*Dengue, Zika, and Chikungunya have all been reported. We take precautions by liberally applying insect repellent and use netting on beds.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing you on the trip!

Sincerely,
Alex Beggs
Board President PRHDR

Mary Berg,
Volunteer Coordinator Volunteer_coordinator@prhdr.org
Marypt114@gmail.com