

 **Hosea’s Heart Winter Ambassador Information**

**Description**

A group of Hosea’s Heart Ambassadors will be traveling to Swaziland, Africa to work with, serve with, and pray with members of the Hope for Life Home. The trip will be approximately two weeks (January 5-19th).

Participants will prepare for the cultural and social justice issues which will be encountered in Swazi and fundraise for the trip throughout the preceding months in the Fall and Winter. This is an immersion trip. To immerse is to “plunge into, or to absorb deeply.” Those participating on this trip cannot but help to immerse themselves into the culture, language, lifestyle, social justice and spirituality of the people of Swazi and the Hope for Life Home.

This unique cultural exchange is likely to affect those who participate, leaving them undoubtedly changed and more aware of themselves and their greater connection to the people of this

**Fund-Raising**

Each individual is responsible for raising $2,000 for the cost of the trip. A $500 down payment will be submitted with paperwork upon acceptance for the trip. Two additional payments of $750 will be made monthly prior to the trip dates (see below for details). There are no organized group fundraising opportunities, unless initiated and facilitated by individual Ambassadors.

**Commitment Guidelines**

By signing the Statement of Intent during the first meeting, all participants are expected to follow through with the financial commitment as well as the mandatory meeting preparations for the trip, with no exceptions.

**FAQs**

Safety:

There are basic safety guidelines that all participants are expected to follow, as would be expected for any foreigner traveling in a new country. Rules such as not walking alone at night, women traveling in groups or accompanied by male companions, and leaving all valuables at home in the states are examples. The political situation is stable and no civil safety concerns are present.

Language:

Although English is an official language of the country and taught in the schools, SiSwati, the native language, is dominant in the villages.

Location and Swazi Facts:

Swaziland, located in the southern tip of Africa, is one of the last remaining kingdoms in the world and is currently ruled by King Mswati III. Not much larger than the size of New Jersey, the total population is 1.1 million, with over 60% of people living on less than $1.25 USD per day.

Food/Water Safety:

The water must not be assumed safe to drink in all areas, and care must be taken to avoid unsanitary water sources. Following the general rules of thumb to "peel it" (in terms of eating produce) or "boil it" (with appropriate foods and all ingested water) will eliminate the vast majority of potential problems. Ambassadors will prepare most of their own meals as a team. Do avoid any roadside vendors, as they do not take precautions. Restaurants, however, are not a concern, and familiar foods such as seafood, chicken and pork are common entrees.

Medical needs:

Immunizations will need to be checked with your doctor. Suggested vaccinations may include Hepatitis A (and B if you were not inoculated before), Typhoid, updated Tetanus, and optional Malaria pills and Diarrhea pills.

Passport:

You must have a passport to travel to Swaziland. Applications for passports can be found on-line at //travel.state.gov/passport/. It takes roughly 6 weeks to get your passport returned.

Work Day:

A typical day will begin at 6:30 AM and ends around 4:00 PM. The evenings will include cleanup, dinner, prayer, group processing, devotions, and sometimes leisure time. Every Saturday will be designated as a team building/travel day.

Money:

Your $2,000 will cover meals, group transportation, housing, and airfare. Any additional money needed would be used for personal spending and souvenirs. Ambassadors have brought with them an extra $250 and had no problem in budgeting. On days of rest and leisure (Saturdays), you are responsible for any additional costs for activities and some of your meals. Money in Swazi is the Rand. It is generally R11 for every $1. Credit cards and ATM's are found in our region but most often involve a significant processing fee. Bringing an appropriate amount of cash is recommended.

Time:

Swaziland is on the South African Standard Time Zone, approximately 7 hours ahead of Central Standard Time Zone.

**FAQs (continued)**

Communication:

Allotted time will be scheduled for phone calls and internet access on Saturdays. Except in an emergency, communication back home is expected to be limited to scheduled times.

**General Timeline**

***Please note:*** *Dates and Locations are subject to change.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Event** | **Location** |
| Oct. 15 | Application submission deadline | Online |
| Oct. 20 | Ambassador team(s) announced | Online |
| Nov. 1 | Paperwork and $500 deposit due | Mail/Online |
| Dec. 1 | $750 payment due | Mail/Online |
| Dec. (TBA) | Information Meeting | Online |
| Jan. 1 | $750 payment due | Mail/Online |



**Hosea’s Heart 2018 Winter Ambassador Team Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please respond to the following questions:**

*1) Why do you wish to take part in this particular mission trip?*

*2) List all previous experience with service and/or immersion trips, including dates/years.*

*3) Please list any skills (i.e. foreign language proficiency, relevant traveling experience, medical training or certification, teaching experience, etc.) which you think would be of use for this immersion experience.*

*4) What do you hope to learn from this particular immersion experience?*

*5) Because the housing in Swaziland for teams is small, team members will be in close quarters with one another, rarely getting time alone. 1) Describe any experiences (both positive* ***and*** *negative) you’ve had in group settings and explain what you learned from them. 2) What will be your biggest struggle with living in close community? What will be your greatest contribution to the team?*

*6) In order to become fully immersed in a culture lacking much of what our American culture often takes for granted, this program asks its participants to commit to an abstinence from alcohol and excessive foods, a "no head phones" request, and a willingness to experience community in a deeply meaningful way. Would you have a problem with any of the requests made of you to live without some of the necessities you have come to depend on? Explain.*

*7) What motivates you?*

*8) This program is structured in a way that promotes spiritual reflection, prayer, and group processing. Are you comfortable with this? Have you participated and/or led others in group prayer and/or group processing? If so, describe.*

*9) How do you feel you have grown in your faith through voluntary service?*

*10) Explain how you want to grow in your spiritual walk of faith.*

**Applications must be submitted by mail or email by October 15, 2017**

**Mail:** Attn: Ambassador Team **Email:**

Hosea’s Heart rachael@hoseasheart.org

P.O. Box 695 (subject: 2018 Ambassador Application)

Marshall, WI 53559