

## TO CONFIRM A SPOT ON A TEAM

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### Step 1

- Returning volunteers:** If you have traveled with CHI in the last year and your contact information has not changed you may not need to fill out the volunteer application again. Sign up online or contact the Clinic Volunteer Coordinator directly.
- New volunteers:** Complete the online [Volunteer Application](#). The Clinic Volunteer Coordinator will follow up via email to confirm your spot on a team.

### Step 2

- After your spot is confirmed pay the non-refundable deposit, \$100 for medical teams and \$200 for surgical teams, on our [website](#) or by check to CHI, PO Box 5908, Coralville, IA 52241. Please include a note with your name and month of trip.

## AFTER YOU'RE CONFIRMED ON A TEAM

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- Review the [volunteer documents](#) on our website.
- Make sure your passport is current. If it isn't, apply immediately. Per Haitian rules, your passport must be valid for six months past date of travel.
- Make an appointment to visit your healthcare provider or a travel health clinic to discuss which shots and/or medicines you need. See below for more details.
- Start fundraising. The sooner you start, the easier it is.
- Send a **signed copy of the waiver** and **your medical license** (providers only) to the Clinic Volunteer Coordinator. Make a second copy of your medical license and passport to bring with you.
- Optional: Learn some Creole by downloading an app or finding resources online. Though you are not expected to be fluent, knowing some common Creole words and phrases enriches your experience.

## SIX MONTHS BEFORE TRIP

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- Half of funds are due\*.

## THREE OR MORE MONTHS BEFORE TRIP

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- Book flights to Port-au-Prince via Miami. You need to arrive in Miami the night before you leave for Haiti. **Your team will fly to Haiti on the same flight – please ensure you book the flight designated by the Clinic Volunteer Coordinator!**

Generally, the sooner you book flights the cheaper they are. Also, it's usually cheaper to purchase your flights as one itinerary. Sometimes it's less expensive to fly into Fort Lauderdale and take the shuttle to the Miami Airport. For the return flight, volunteers generally catch a morning flight back to the US. Team members have the option to fly back on whichever airline they choose.

- Book Miami hotel for Friday night. We recommend the [Miami International Airport Hotel](#) located within the Miami airport but you are welcome to stay anywhere. Sometimes volunteers even sleep at the airport if they land late at night. You can also ask other team members to share a room.

## TWO MONTHS BEFORE TRIP

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- Funds are due in full\*.

## ONE MONTH BEFORE TRIP

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- Sign up with the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) with the US Department of State. This program is free and highly encouraged. You will be staying at Kaliko Beach Club, address and phone number are as follows.

Kaliko Beach Club  
Km 61, Route Nationale #1  
Arcahaie Haiti  
Phone (509) 2940 4609

## ONE WEEK BEFORE TRIP

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- Double check you have your passport, copy of medical license, and two water bottles on your pile of things to pack.
- Make a copy of the team roster so you have it in Miami if needed.

## IMMUNIZATIONS

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Talk to your healthcare provider or travel clinic about immunizations. You likely already have most of what you need. The following immunizations are recommended:

- Tetanus – Within the last 10 years.
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)
- Diphtheria – Often part of the tetanus shot.
- Pertussis – May be part of the tetanus shot if you've had it in the last 2-3 years.
- Varicella – If you haven't had the chickenpox.
- Typhoid – Requires a booster every two years.
- Meningitis vaccine – Recommended. You may have already received this depending on your age.
- Rabies vaccine – The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends you complete the rabies vaccine series before leaving for Haiti but our teams do not routinely – if ever – get it.
- Malaria prophylaxis – You don't want to experience malaria. Malaria in Haiti is still sensitive to chloroquine.
- DEET – Bring mosquito repellent with as much DEET as you can stand to help prevent malaria and dengue fever.

You should see your doctor or visit a travel clinic at least two months prior to your departure to make sure you have everything you need. You can look at the [CDC's](#) website for more information.

## FEE AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE

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### Refund schedule:

- All deposits (\$100 medical and \$200 surgical) are non-refundable.
- If cancellation received 6 months or more prior to trip date, monies received will be refunded in full.
- If cancellation received 3-6 months prior to trip date, 90% of monies received will be refunded.
- If cancellation received 2-3 months prior to trip date, 85% of monies received will be refunded.
- If cancellation received 1-2 months prior to trip date, 75% of monies received will be refunded.
- If cancellation received within 30 days of trip date no refund will be issued.

### Overpayments:

- In the event that a volunteer raises and/or pays in excess there will be three options:
  - The overage will be considered a donation to CHI.
  - The overage will be applied to a future trip with CHI provided the volunteer travels in the next 12 months.



## Volunteer Things To Do Checklist

- The overage will be refunded.

### RECOMMENDED READING

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The following suggestions are great for becoming familiar with Haitian history and culture.

- [The Big Truck That Went By: How the World Came to Save Haiti and Left Behind a Disaster](#) by Jonathan M. Katz. On January 12, 2010, the deadliest earthquake in the history of the Western Hemisphere struck the nation least prepared to handle one. Jonathan M. Katz, the only full-time American news correspondent in Haiti, was inside his house when it buckled along with hundreds of thousands of others. In this visceral first-hand account, Katz takes readers inside the terror of that day, the devastation visited on ordinary Haitians, and through the monumental--yet misbegotten--rescue effort that followed.
- [Mountains Beyond Mountains](#) by Tracey Kidder. An easy to read and entertaining book, providing a quick background to those new to Haiti.
- [Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed](#) by Jared Diamond. An interesting comparison between Haiti and the Dominican Republic (the Eastern 2/3 of the island of Hispaniola.)
- [Haiti: The Tumultuous History, From the Pearl of the Caribbean to Broken Nation](#) by Phillipe Girard. Excellent overview of Haitian history.
- [Why the Cocks Fight: Dominicans, Haitians, and the Struggle for Hispaniola](#) by Michele Wucker. Offers insight into the complex and controversial relationship between Haiti and the Dominican Republic.
- [Commentary on the problem with short-term aid work](#). Every team member should read this and then ask how we can defend Community Health Initiative, Haiti.
- [An excellent commentary on aid work and our perceptions of it](#). An important read for you to reflect on your own perspectives and motivations.
- [When Helping Hurts](#) by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert.
- [Haitian Revolutions - Crash Course World History](#) created by John Green and Crash Course. A 15 minute video with a quirky yet valuable look into Haiti's rebellions and political history.

### CONTACT IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

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- Sarah Gale at [sgale@chihaiti.org](mailto:sgale@chihaiti.org)