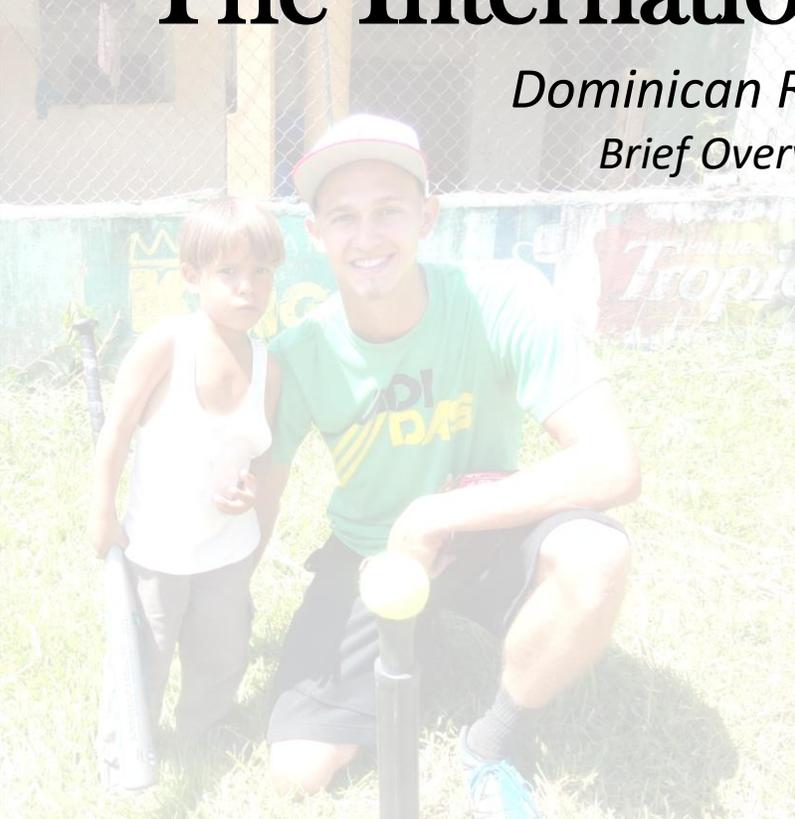




The International Experience

Dominican Republic 2018
Brief Overview Packet



CROSSWINDS

**CHANGE
YOUR WORLD**

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TRIP - 2018



Let's start with "Why?"

Purpose (Why?):

An International Mission Trip experience has the unique ability **to accelerate** the personal growth process of an individual (Adult or Youth) who participate. Our WBA Vision is to develop leaders who positively impact our world. That vision is often fulfilled in two distinct ways when we host an international mission trip experience. The individuals who participate grow personally through the shared experience process while positively impacting others whom they are serving.

The question is often asked ***"why do international mission trips accelerate the personal growth of an individual?"***

1. STEPPING OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE

- Seeking comfort, however natural it is, will never enable growth. Stepping out of your comfort zone means expecting and welcoming change. The international experience allows individuals (Adult or Youth) to enter into a new culture and gives first-hand account of seeing a different way of life.
 - **Testimony:** *"These trips have allowed me to connect with different people and different cultures in a way that I would have never experienced back home". - Andrew Armstrong, U of Indy Student*

2. PERSPECTIVE CHANGE

- In our fast-paced American culture, we rarely have time to slow down, separate, and reflect on what truly matters in our life. Short-term missions can often function like a reset button that clarifies our perspective. There is something special about interacting with international children who may have less than us yet seeing them display a joy and contentment that is often unseen in America. Individuals return home less materialistic, appreciative of other cultures, and having built a cross-cultural relationship with the native people that can often last a lifetime.
 - **Testimony:** *"Before this trip, I would often complain about the types of sports fields that I competed on. Now, after seeing what little some of these kids have and their joy to simply play the game has completely altered my perspective." - Chad Brooks, former Indiana Tech Student*

3. PERSONAL GIFTS/SKILL SETS IN ACTION

- Relationships change everything. When individuals begin to use their personal skill sets to serve others as a relationship building tool it simply changes people. The international missions experience allows individual to use what they are already gifted at as a tool to serve others. A new reality sets in when we discover that our talents are not just for own benefit but that they can make the world a better place.
 - **Testimony:** *"I did not know my involvement in sports would have prepared me to use those skills to build relationships with kids from another country. This experience really motivated me to look for ways to use what I'm already good at to have a positive impact on others." - Allison Frazier, High School Student*

4. TEAM BUILDING

- Shared experiential activities are proven to be the single most effective way to increasing success and group effort. The missions experience allows the group of participants to unite in a common goal and break down barriers. Overall, team building enables better communication, better relationships and ultimately increases individuals ability to be successful in whatever they choose to pursue.

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The Top Frequently Asked Questions

- Why do we go?** We strive to answer that first! See the previous page.
- What is it?** This is a week-long, international baseball mission trip where we use the platform of teaching baseball as a tool to serve others while changing our own perspective on the world in which we live.
- Where do we go?** Jarabacoa, Dominican Republic
- Who can go?** The WBA has enjoyed taking adults, college students, teenagers, families, father-son, father-daughter, young and old along with us on the international missions' experience. Individuals do not have to have an extensive baseball background to be a member of the group that goes to serve. What we do require is a servant's heart where every individual is willing to help give back to others in way that fits their own personal skill set.
- Who do we serve?** The WBA proudly partners with **Crosswinds** (*Fort Wayne based nonprofit*) who serve U.S. troubled teens on their own Dominican Campus as well as Dominican families and children within the Jarabacoa community. During the trip the WBA group will serve and interact with US troubled teens on Crosswinds campus while also traveling offsite each day to serve multiple communities in the Jarabacoa area.
- When do we go?** World Baseball Academy has tentatively scheduled the dates of **July 28 – August 4, 2018**.
- How do we sign up?** The first step is simply letting us know you are interested. We try to promote the opportunity in advance to see who is interested in joining us. As we get closer to April, we will begin to build our group budget and goals based on the interest level of individuals. After we build the budget, we will work with each individual on how to help them raise their funds to attend if that is needed.
- Is it safe?** **Absolutely.** The WBA is proud to partner with Crosswinds who provides all of the safety, lodging, insurance, and logistical support for our trip to Jarabacoa. Numerous organizations are working with Crosswinds each year to host highly impactful short-term mission trips to their campus in Jarabacoa, Dominican Republic!

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Participant Requirements

Participation:

World Baseball Academy believes that the international experience has a chance to deeply impact the life of every participant who chooses to go. It is our responsibility as the hosts of the trip to maximize the impact on the life of every participant by hosting an excellent trip from start to finish. A significant part of our role is to challenge each individual to stretch themselves while maintaining an encouraging environment focused on personal growth.

Outside of the participant's commitment of attendance and financial payment, the main requirement of our team members is that they choose to embark on this experience with a servant minded approach. This means the participant must be humble, flexible, and willing to do what is asked of them by the leader. A positive attitude makes for an amazing experience.

While we require a positive attitude, there are other areas that we will not require. Participants **do not** have to:

- Believe in the Christian faith; however, they must respect that our strategic partners maintain that worldview.
- Have previous international experience; however, they must be open to stretching themselves outside of their comfort zone.
- Have experience in teaching the game of baseball; however, they must be open to playing a support role to the overall programming goal.

Funding:

At this time, each participant choosing to become part of an international baseball mission trip will need to raise their own support. World Baseball Academy and our strategic partners can assist in fundraising opportunities to help secure the support needed to participate.

An international trip budget can range from \$1,200 - \$2,000 per participant depending on which country we are serving within and the airfare. The length of the trips can also affect the overall budget and can vary from 6 – 13 days.

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OUR GOALS FOR A TRIP

Goals:

World Baseball Academy mission is to use the platform of baseball to exemplify excellence and leadership beyond the game. The international experience allows us to fulfill our mission and accomplish our vision of developing leaders who positively impact our world. Due to this area of our operations having the potential for such depth of impact we want to outline our goals for this program.

- **GOALS OF AN INDIVIDUAL TRIP**

- **Pre-Trip Planning**

- Utilize our curriculum for pre-trip planning purposes that both educate and train the participants for the requirements of the trip.
 - Leadership Opportunities & Roles for each member
 - Group & Individual Goal Setting
 - Cross Cultural Education on Cultural Differences
 - Programming requirements and training
 - Basic Planning & Packing requirements of the trip

- **During Trip**

- Leader(s) of trip invested in maximizing the personal growth of each participant.
 - Daily Morning Group Time / Evening Debrief Time of reflection
 - Creating opportunities for leadership development & interacting with culture
 - Hosting Baseball Camps
 - Hosting numerous children's activities (kick ball, painting, coloring, skits, etc)
 - Team Work Projects / Service Projects for team building
 - Fun Day experience

- **Post Trip**

- Create an opportunity for the group to re-connect, share stories, and be challenged to take what they have learned and apply it back home.
 - Individual Encouragement Review & Follow-up
 - Post Trip Celebration Evening