

# Jamaica Mission Trip Expectations & Guidelines

The adult leaders are excited that you have chosen to join us for our Jamaica Mission Trip! We believe this trip will be an incredible opportunity to serve others, grow in your faith, build lasting friendships, and see God work in powerful ways.

In order to provide a safe, productive, and enjoyable experience for everyone, we have established the following expectations and guidelines. Please review them carefully with a parent or guardian. These guidelines are not intended to limit your experience, but rather to help create an environment where everyone can thrive and focus on the mission God has given us.

## **Blessings,**

Rick Ross and Adult Leaders

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## **General Expectations**

### **We Are Representatives of Christ**

Throughout this trip, you represent Jesus Christ, your family, HighPoint Community Church, and our mission team. Whether serving at a ministry site, traveling through airports, interacting with local residents, or spending time with teammates, your words and actions should reflect Christ's love and character.

### **Respect Others**

- Show respect for other people, their property, and all facilities.
- Listen when others are speaking.
- Clean up after yourself.
- Encourage others and help create a positive team environment.
- Use appropriate language. Profanity, insults, gossip, and put-downs are not acceptable.

### **Be Flexible**

Mission trips rarely go exactly as planned. Schedules may change, transportation may be delayed, weather may affect activities, and ministry opportunities may shift. Students are expected to maintain a positive attitude and remain flexible.

### **Serve First**

This trip is not about our comfort, entertainment, or personal preferences. Look for opportunities to serve, help teammates, volunteer for tasks, and put the needs of others ahead of your own.

### **Safety Expectations**

- Do not harm yourself or others.
- Keep your hands to yourself. No roughhousing, horseplay, or physical intimidation.
- Stay with the group unless given permission by an adult leader.
- Follow all instructions from adult leaders promptly and respectfully.

## **Relationships & Conduct**

All students are expected to act "in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ" (Philippians 1:27).

Physical contact should be appropriate and respectful. Public displays of affection are limited to holding hands. Behaviors including—but not limited to—kissing, sitting on another person's lap, prolonged embracing, or other inappropriate physical contact are not acceptable.

## **Prohibited Items**

The following are strictly prohibited:

- Drugs
- Alcohol
- Tobacco or nicotine products
- Vapes or e-cigarettes
- Weapons of any kind

Prescription medications, along with written instructions, must be given to an adult leader before departure. Students may never share prescription or over-the-counter medications with another student.

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# **Travel Expectations**

## **While Traveling**

- All passengers must remain seated while vehicles are in motion.
- Follow instructions from drivers and leaders at all times.
- Help keep vehicles clean.
- Blankets and pillows are allowed but should not be shared.

## **Food & Drinks**

The following items are not permitted in vehicles:

- Drinks without secure screw-top lids
- Ice cream
- Foods that create excessive messes
- Gum
- Sunflower seeds, pistachios, boiled peanuts, or similar shelled snacks

## Electronics

Cell phones and portable electronic devices may be used during designated travel times and at the discretion of trip leaders. All content, including music, videos, games, and social media activity, must be appropriate and honor Christ.

Adult leaders are not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices.

## International Phone Use

International roaming charges can be expensive.

Students should place their phones in **Airplane Mode before departing Miami and keep them in Airplane Mode unless instructed otherwise by a trip leader.**

Wi-Fi may be used when available and approved by leaders. Any international calling, texting, or data charges incurred during the trip are the responsibility of the student and family.

## Social Media

Pictures and memories are encouraged, but ministry comes first.

Students should:

- Be fully present in ministry opportunities.
- Respect the dignity and privacy of others.
- Never post content that could embarrass, exploit, or misrepresent another person.
- Follow any photo guidelines established by ministry partners or leaders.

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# During the Mission Trip

## Stay With the Group

Students must remain with the group unless specifically instructed otherwise by an adult leader.

Never leave:

- Ministry sites
- Lodging facilities
- Airports
- Restaurants
- Activity locations

without permission and adult supervision.

## **Respect the Local Culture**

We are guests in Jamaica. Students are expected to show respect toward local churches, ministry partners, residents, customs, and culture.

Avoid negative comments, comparisons to home, or behavior that may be viewed as disrespectful.

## **Participate Fully**

All students are expected to participate in:

- Team devotions
- Worship services
- Prayer times
- Ministry opportunities
- Group discussions
- Team activities

Come prepared to learn, grow, serve, and allow God to work in your life.

## **Lodging Expectations**

- Students are expected to be quiet and in their assigned rooms at designated lights-out times.
- Students may not enter lodging areas assigned to the opposite sex.
- Students should respect roommates and maintain clean living spaces.

## **A Helpful Rule**

If you are somewhere and an adult leader does not know where you are, there is a good chance you are not where you are supposed to be.

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# **Consequences for Rule Violations**

Any serious violation of these expectations and guidelines may result in one or more of the following:

1. Conversation with an adult leader
2. Phone call to a parent or guardian
3. Restriction from certain activities
4. Immediate dismissal from the trip
5. Suspension from future HighPoint Student Ministry trips or activities

Parents: If a student is dismissed from the trip due to a serious rule violation, a parent or guardian will be contacted and will be responsible for arranging and paying for the student's immediate return home.

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# Our Mission Trip Standard

Our goal is not simply rule compliance, but cultivating a team culture that honors Christ, serves others, and allows everyone to have a safe, meaningful, and life-changing mission experience.

Thank you for taking the time to review these expectations and guidelines. We are excited to serve alongside you and pray that God will use this trip to impact both our team and the people we meet in Jamaica.


# HP YTH Jamaica Mission Trip 2026

## Parent & Student Information Guide

### Trip Dates

 July 27 – August 3, 2026

### Location

 City of Refuge Children's Home  
(Jamaica – Mountains near Kingston)

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## Trip Overview

Our team will be serving at City of Refuge Children's Home, where we will help lead a Vacation Bible School and encourage the children and staff through ministry, service, fellowship, and the sharing of God's Word.

Our prayer is that this trip will help students grow in their faith, develop a heart for serving others, build lasting friendships, and experience the mission of the Gospel firsthand.

### Our Mission

To glorify God by serving the children and staff of City of Refuge Children's Home, sharing the love of Christ, growing as disciples, and encouraging one another as a team.

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## Mission Team Leaders

### Primary Contact

**Rick Ross**

(904) 610-6061

*Will have international phone access during the trip.*

### Additional Leaders

- Sabrina Calahan
- Mike Calahan
- Johnnie Goddard
- Arlie Brashear
- Sandy Brashear

## Emergency Communication

In the event of an emergency, parents should contact Rick Ross first. Communication with the mission team will then be coordinated as needed.

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## Flight Information

### Departure

July 27, 2026

Flight departs Jacksonville (JAX): **6:00 AM**

Arrive Kingston, Jamaica: **11:35 AM**

### Return

August 3, 2026

Flight departs Kingston: **5:03 PM**

Arrive Jacksonville (JAX): **10:53 PM**

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## Travel Documents

Every student must have:

- A valid passport
- A photocopy of their passport packed separately from the original
- Any required travel documentation

Students are responsible for keeping track of their passport during travel unless otherwise instructed by a trip leader.

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## Suggested Spending Money

Students may wish to bring spending money for:

- Airport meals and snacks
- Souvenirs

- One in-town snack trip
- Snacks or drinks during our Ocho Rios excursion

We recommend approximately **\$50–\$100**. Spending money is optional and should be carried responsibly.

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## Tentative Weekly Schedule

**Monday** - Travel Day

**Tuesday–Friday** - Vacation Bible School at City of Refuge Children's Home

**Saturday** - Ocho Rios Excursion / Fun Day

**Sunday** - Church Service and Dinner with Bishop Michael Grant

**Monday** - Travel Home

*Schedules may change due to ministry needs, transportation, weather, or local circumstances.*

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## Phones on the Jamaica Mission Trip:

### Why We Disconnect to Connect

This trip is about more than traveling to another country. It is an opportunity for students to step away from the distractions of everyday life and focus on serving others, building relationships, and growing in their walk with Christ.

When phones are constantly available, it is easy to retreat into social media, games, texting, and the comforts of home. By setting those distractions aside, students are better able to engage with the people they are serving, connect with their teammates, and fully experience what God is doing around them.

We want students to be present—to notice needs, have meaningful conversations, participate wholeheartedly in ministry opportunities, and reflect on how God is working in their lives.

Some of the most impactful moments on mission trips happen when students are fully engaged in the experience rather than looking at a screen.

There will be opportunities for students to contact home during the trip. However, many students become so invested in the mission experience that they choose not to use that time. This is completely normal and often reflects how engaged they are in ministry and team relationships.

### Important International Phone Information

International roaming charges can be expensive depending on your cellular carrier and plan.

All students should place their phones in **Airplane Mode before departing Miami** and keep them in Airplane Mode unless instructed otherwise by a trip leader.

Students may connect to approved Wi-Fi networks when available and authorized by leaders.

Any international calling, texting, or data charges incurred during the trip are the responsibility of the student and family.

## **Parent Communication**

Leaders will provide updates throughout the week as internet access and schedules permit. Limited communication from students is normal and often reflects their active participation in ministry opportunities.

Phones may be used during designated travel periods and approved communication times. During ministry activities, devotions, worship services, meals, and team gatherings, phones should remain put away unless otherwise directed by a leader.

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# **Jamaica Mission Trip Expectations & Guidelines**

## **We Are Representatives of Christ**

Throughout this trip, you represent Jesus Christ, your family, HighPoint Community Church, and our mission team.

Whether serving at a ministry site, traveling through airports, interacting with local residents, or spending time with teammates, your words and actions should reflect Christ's love and character.

"Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ." — Philippians 1:27

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## **Respect Others**

Students are expected to:

- Show respect for other people, their property, and all facilities.
- Listen when others are speaking.
- Clean up after themselves.
- Encourage others and contribute to a positive team environment.
- Use appropriate language at all times.

Profanity, insults, gossip, bullying, and put-downs are not acceptable.

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## Choose Unity

Mission trips are team experiences.

Students should actively encourage one another and avoid cliques, gossip, complaining, negativity, or divisive behavior.

If conflict arises, students should seek to resolve it respectfully and involve a leader when needed.

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## Be Flexible

Mission trips rarely go exactly as planned.

Schedules may change. Transportation may be delayed. Weather may affect activities. Ministry opportunities may shift unexpectedly.

Students are expected to maintain a positive attitude and remain flexible.

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## Serve First

This trip is not about comfort, entertainment, or personal preferences.

Look for opportunities to:

- Serve others
  - Help teammates
  - Volunteer for tasks
  - Encourage others
  - Put the needs of others ahead of your own
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## Safety Expectations

Students must:

- Not harm themselves or others.
  - Keep their hands to themselves.
  - Avoid roughhousing, horseplay, or physical intimidation.
  - Stay with the group unless permission is given by a leader.
  - Follow instructions from leaders promptly and respectfully.
  - Immediately report injuries, illness, unsafe situations, or concerns to a leader.
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## Health & Hydration

Jamaica can be hot and humid.

Students are expected to:

- Drink water regularly.
  - Wear sunscreen when outdoors.
  - Notify a leader immediately if they feel sick, injured, overheated, dehydrated, or unsafe.
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## Relationships & Conduct

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## Dress Guidelines

Students should wear clothing that is modest, ministry-appropriate, and respectful of local culture.

Adult leaders reserve the right to ask students to change clothing that is deemed inappropriate for ministry settings.

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## Prohibited Items

The following are strictly prohibited:

- Drugs
- Alcohol
- Tobacco products
- Nicotine products
- Vapes or e-cigarettes
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# Travel Expectations

## While Traveling

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## Not Permitted in Vehicles

- Drinks without secure screw-top lids
- Ice cream
- Foods that create excessive messes
- Gum
- Sunflower seeds, pistachios, boiled peanuts, or similar shelled snacks

## Energy Drinks

Energy drinks such as Red Bull, Monster, Celsius, and similar products are not permitted during the trip.

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# Electronics & Social Media

All electronic content—including music, videos, games, and social media—must honor Christ and reflect the values of HighPoint Student Ministry.

Adult leaders are not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices.

## Photography & Child Protection

Students should not take or post photos of children or ministry participants without permission from ministry leadership and trip leaders.

Protecting the dignity, privacy, and safety of those we serve is a priority.

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# During the Mission Trip

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