



JOSHUA EXPEDITIONS

FUNDRAISING SUGGESTIONS

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING DONATIONS

- Ask donors to *make checks payable to Joshua Expeditions* and mail them to you. Let them know that their cleared checks could be used as a receipt for tax deduction purposes. If a donor prefers a receipt from JE, please request it when you send in the donation check. (Donors should know that final determination regarding tax deductions ultimately rests with the IRS.)
- Please give your donors a deadline to have their contributions to you. This deadline needs to be at least two weeks before your payment is due to Joshua Expeditions. This will allow you to send your payment to JE by the due date in order to avoid incurring a late fee.
- Collect all your donations and send them together in one envelope to Joshua Expeditions. Only send donations that cover the price of your trip.
- Always send your payment coupon with your donations. If you do not have a payment coupon, please include a note with your name, school name, and trip destination so that we can apply your donations to the correct account.

FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Joshua Expeditions is not specifically promoting any of these ideas. These suggestions have simply been passed along from other groups that have traveled with JE.

1. Mail letters to your friends and family letting them know what you are doing. Also send letters to businesses in your community (such as banks, utilities, etc.), as they often give funds at the end of the year toward service projects. Be creative in how you present your trip, and enclose a stamped, addressed return envelope for more responses. A sample letter has been provided to give you ideas about what to write.
2. Ask your pastor if you can speak to the congregation about your trip and its purpose. You could also ask specific Sunday school classes and groups to sponsor you.
3. Ask to speak at community groups like Kiwanis, Rotary, and Civitans.
4. Organize a group garage sale. People will often donate their own unwanted items to help groups raise funds. Gather donated items and hold a sale at a prime location like your school or church. Divide the proceeds among all the group members who work the sale. Be sure to ask for items from people on your letter-writing list.
5. Hold a weekly bake sale or monthly car wash. You could also sell bottles of water, candy bars, or slices of pizza. A small startup investment often yields great rewards! Be sure to announce the event at churches and schools.
6. Organize an auction of services and handmade items. Advertise within your community for greater awareness.
7. Ask your school administration if you can have a “uniform free” day and sell passes to fellow students.
8. Hold a drive for loose change donations. You’ll be surprised how quickly pennies and nickels can add up!
9. Offer yourself as a “servant for the day” to families and the elderly. Let them know for what you are raising funds and offer to provide yard work, babysitting, or cleaning services in exchange for a donation to your trip.

DON'T FORGET TO THANK YOUR CONTRIBUTORS!

Always write thank you notes to sponsors for their prayer and financial support, and remember to send a summary of your experience to them after the trip is over letting them know what happened and what you learned. Include a small souvenir with your note. Candy, post cards, and traditional items from the destination city or country are great ideas. Arrange to speak with groups who sponsored you and present a report with photos and stories from the trip. People will want to know what God did in your heart and in the lives of those you met while traveling.

Sample Donation Request Letter

(modify to fit your specific trip)

Dear Aunt Susan,

I am writing you to tell you of an exciting opportunity that has come my way. Students at my school have been given the chance to travel to Washington, D.C. during Spring Break. The trip has been planned and designed by Trinity Christian School in partnership with a Christian non-profit organization called Joshua Expeditions. Since 1997, Joshua Expeditions has been providing Christian schools with quality educational travel from a Christian perspective. They have designed this trip to provide us with the most educational experience possible in the 5 days that we will be traveling, allowing us to discover the Christian foundations of our country in Washington D.C. Some of the sites we will be seeing are:

- The Capitol
- The White House
- Arlington National Cemetery
- Smithsonian Museum
- Holocaust Memorial Museum
- Mt. Vernon (home of George Washington)
- Presidential Memorials for Lincoln, FDR, Washington, Jefferson, and the War Memorials for Vietnam, World War II and Korea

If you would like to know more about the company that is organizing the trip, you can visit their website at www.joshuaexpeditions.org. The cost of this trip is \$1,565.00 per student. This cost includes airfare, ground transportation, hotel accommodations, and meals on each day of the trip. Each of the students going on the trip is responsible for their own fundraising.

I am writing to ask if you would be one of my sponsors for the trip. Any amount would be greatly appreciated and would help me reach my goal.

If you would like to sponsor me, please make a check payable to Joshua Expeditions and reference the "Trinity Christian School Washington, D.C. trip". Please also include my name on the memo line of your check. You can give the check to me, and I will mail it to Joshua Expeditions. If you prefer to mail the check, you can send it to me at:

John Doe 1 Homestreet Hometown, State 55555

I appreciate your support in this exciting opportunity. If you are not able to sponsor me at this time, I certainly understand and ask for your prayers as I prepare for the trip. If you have any questions, you can call me at 123-123-1234. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

John

Sample Donation Request Letter for a Mission Trip

(modify to fit your specific trip)

Dear Aunt Susan,

I have an exciting opportunity coming up this spring that I'd like to share with you. As part of my growing desire to join God in serving people in need all over the world, I will be traveling to Costa Rica with other students from Trinity Christian School for a 1-week service project. Our team of students and staff will be departing on March 10th and returning March 17th. I am writing this letter to invite your financial partnership with me in this endeavor.

The trip has been planned and designed by Trinity Christian School in partnership with Joshua Expeditions, a Christian non-profit organization. Since 1997, Joshua Expeditions has been providing Christian schools with quality educational travel designed to inspire purpose in the lives of others. They have designed this trip to provide us with the best experience possible in the 8 days that we will be traveling, allowing us to serve the people of Costa Rica and share with them the love of Jesus Christ. You can learn more about them by visiting their website at www.joshuaexpeditions.org.

(In this next paragraph, give specific information about your trip and write something personal about what you are looking forward to, how you are expecting God to work in you, etc.)

La Carpio is a squatters' village outside of San Jose, Costa Rica, comprised of approximately 100,000 Nicaraguans living in makeshift homes and lean-to's. During our time there, we will help to continue ministry projects on homes, playing fields, and a youth recreation center. As we work to meet the physical needs of the local residents, opportunities will open to meet their spiritual needs as we explain that Jesus is the reason we choose to serve them. It is my hope that God will be expanding our hearts and giving us a broader perspective of His involvement in the whole world.

I am writing to ask for your help in getting to Costa Rica. To participate in this trip I would love your prayers for my preparation and travels. I also need to raise money for plane fare, room and board, and other travel expenses. I will need \$1,500.00 by March 15th to join the trip. If 30 people give \$50 in the next couple of weeks, my goal would quickly be reached.

If you would like to sponsor me, please make a check out to Joshua Expeditions and reference the "Trinity Christian School Costa Rica Trip". Be sure to write my name on the memo line. Please give the check to me, and I will mail it to Joshua Expeditions. If you would prefer to mail the check, please send it to me at:

Jane Doe 1 Homestreet Hometown, State 55555

Thank you so much for prayerfully considering if this is something you would like to participate in. May God bless you for your time and support.

Sincerely,

Jane