

HOM FAQs

for mission teams



- 1) **Is Haiti safe?** Yes! In over twenty years, we have never had a problem. However, we ask that you follow basic safety precautions. Never leave the campus without permission and even then, only with a Haitian escort. Always travel with a partner and guard your possessions closely in public spaces. Please do not bring jewelry or other expensive items to Haiti.
- 2) **Who can partner with HOM?** We welcome teams of all sizes, members must be 15 years or older (15 year olds must be accompanied by a parent) and in good health. There are less opportunities for individuals, but efforts will be made to pair individuals, age 21 or older, with a team. Although skilled workers are always needed, there is something for everyone to do!
- 3) **Is there information to help us prepare for our trip?** Of course! HOM has provided detailed Mission Guidelines that answers commonly asked questions and provides information on our policies to help as you prepare for your trip and while you are in Haiti. Go to www.haitiom.org and look under "Volunteer" for links to the "Guidelines".
- 4) **Who helps us once we get to Haiti?** Our staff will meet you at the airport, take you to your lodging, and be with you at the work sites. If staying at Terre Noire (Blanchard), they will provide orientation to the facilities, the "rules" and daily schedule. Please don't hesitate to ask for help, we want your trip to be safe, successful and rewarding!
- 5) **Where will we stay?** HOM/MICECC operates a guesthouse on the Terre Noire (Blanchard) campus. There are bathrooms with showers (cold water only) and several air conditioned dorm style rooms containing bunk beds with air mattresses and small storage cubes for personal belongings. Several local hotels and commercial guesthouses also welcome teams. See "Information for Teams" page 2 in General Guidelines for more information on lodging options.
- 6) **Is safe food and water available?** If staying at Terre Noire (Blanchard) or a commercial guesthouse/hotel, safe food and water is provided. Breakfast and dinner is served daily at Terre Noire, lunch is not; a trip to a grocery store can be arranged. Safe water is available at the job site. See "Information for Teams" page 2 in General Guidelines for more information on water and meals.
- 7) **What do I wear in Haiti?** Although it is hot in Haiti, women and men are to dress modestly, see "Suggested Packing list" page 8 in the General Guidelines for detailed information regarding appropriate attire. Failure to honor our guidelines regarding dress is a serious breach of contract and may result in termination of your trip.
- 8) **Who decides what projects we do?** HOM/MICECC has many ongoing projects; team leaders may request to work in a specific area but MICECC leaders make the final decision on where we need the most help. Please remember that team members are not to perform jobs outside of his/her scope of practice, training or field of expertise. Works days are usually Monday – Friday. Please be considerate of our staff and do not ask or plan to work on the week-ends.
- 9) **What activities are available in addition to working on projects?** Teams are encouraged to attend church services, visit our facilities and tour Port Au Prince. A visit to our gift shop to buy local art/crafts is a must! A trip to the Baptist Mission on the mountaintop, the metal village, a beach or the overlook can be arranged. MICECC staff and/or one of the Haitian pastors usually visit and tell their story in the evening after work.
- 10) **What else do I need to know?** Team members are expected to honor our guidelines and the leadership of MICECC/HOM (see "Things to Remember" page 9 in the General Guidelines). We are a Christian organization and ask that all team members refrain from conduct, language and dress that may be viewed as offensive. Remember your ultimate purpose for being in Haiti is to share the love of God. Get to know our Haitian hosts, meet people with a smile and "bon jou" (good morning). Most volunteers will find serving with us very rewarding!