



MAKARIOS

2026

TRIP MEMBER PACKET

What to Pack

Everything you need to know about what to bring, and what not to bring

How to Prepare

Make this trip a great one for you and your whole team

CONTENTS

3

A LETTER FROM OUR TEAM

4

MAKARIOS OVERVIEW

5

RESPONSIBILITIES &
DRESS CODE

6

WHAT TO PACK

7

POLICIES & GUIDELINES

8

PREPARATION
PODCASTS
DEVOTIONALS

9

LAST REMINDERS
CONTACT INFO





A LETTER FOR YOU

We are excited the Lord has called you to join us in our efforts to do His work in the Dominican Republic! We appreciate your willingness to partner with us in sharing our joy and praise of our Lord Jesus, through our work with the students and families at the Makarios School, our partner schools and churches, and the people in the communities we serve. The following is a list of information you will need to know as you prepare for your trip with Makarios. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

In Christ,
The Makarios Trips Team



A M A K A R I O S OVERVIEW

VISION: to see vulnerable communities spiritually restored through the love of Jesus Christ

We're on mission every day to see this vision become a reality by equipping families, churches, and schools as we work towards spiritual restoration for systemic change.

We operate Colegio Makarios in Montellano, Dominican Republic where we educate over 230 children. Our students receive a quality, Christian education, two meals a day, medical and dental care, and the love and support of our teachers and staff. While we place a high value on meeting their physical and educational needs, our foundational value is sharing the Gospel. We share the Gospel, disciple, and maintain a focus on Christ in all that we do. Within our Makarios School, we also have a Family Empowerment Program, an Intervention Program, and a University and Career Readiness Program.

We partner with like-minded churches and Christian schools in the Dominican Republic and Uganda. We have created a training program for schools and churches with the purpose of creating healthy, thriving families.

We believe that through healthy, spiritually restored families, entire communities will become stronger.





RESPONSIBILITIES

WHAT TO DO, WHAT TO KNOW, WHAT TO BRING, WHAT TO WEAR.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Complete Trip Waiver | This is one of the first things you should complete. It is **required** for every person coming to serve with Makarios. [Click this LINK](#), with a passport in hand, this form will take no more than 10 minutes to complete. If you do it now, your Trip Leader won't have to harass you later to have it completed. ;) (Don't have your passport yet?... You can still complete the form and circle back to email trips@makdr.org with your passport information when you receive it)

Keep Track of Deadlines | Keep all the deadlines in mind as you fundraise for your trip. Meeting deadlines set by your Trip Leader are VERY IMPORTANT.

Read this Entire Trip Member Packet and Listen to Podcasts | This will guide you as you prepare for your trip.

Be an ACTIVE Part of your Team | This may go without saying, but jump in and participate in all that your Trip Leader and Makarios have to offer you -- Complete the forms, attend the meetings, collect the requested resources, prepare the ministry items, consider sponsorship of someone you could visit on your trip. The more prayer, thought, and effort you put into this trip Stateside, the more blessing you will be able to give and receive while serving in the DR.

What to Bring | Please pack according to the provided list. This is more than a list of suggestions - from this, you will know exactly what you need for your trip to the DR!

DRESS CODE

Why is there a dress code?

We make every effort to protect the integrity and reputation of Makarios and the churches and schools we partner with in the Dominican Republic and Uganda. The communities we serve may have different standards of what is appropriate for a Christian to wear. Out of respect for those we partner with, the Christians in these communities, and for our Makarios staff, we ask that you adhere to the dress code at all times.

Specific clothing items are listed below in the packing list. A few points to consider: when at the MAK House, we ask that you keep in mind that our local staff is present during the day and evenings, and so the dress code remains enforced.

Please dress according to the dress codes when visiting schools, churches, and communities and when hanging at the Mak House.

WHAT TO BRING

The DR basically has two seasons: warm and hot. It's in the 70s and 80s from December to March and the 80s and 90s from April to November. It cools off at night, but most people never need anything heavier than a long-sleeved t-shirt.

Please Note: **These are not suggestions**; you will need these things.

- Passport and a paper copy of your passport
- US dollars in small denominations
 - \$1's and \$5's for snacks, drinks, and souvenirs (Mak Store also takes Venmo)
 - Credit Card can be used at beach restaurant (US cash also accepted)
- **Reusable water bottle**: you will drink purified water in the DR
- Backpack to carry stuff around during the day
- Bible and journal
- Toiletries: including deodorant, hand sanitizer, sunscreen, and bug spray
- Medication(s)
- Hydration packets (powders to add to water)
- Flashlight
- Beach towel for beach day (shower towel will be provided)
- Sunglasses or hat
- Favorite snacks, games, or books
- Notecards for encouraging those you meet and/or your team members

- **Mak House loungewear**: long knee-length shorts, t-shirts, pair of 'inside' shoes

- **Swimwear**: Women - **Modest** One-piece swimsuit or tankini (plan to wear shorts)
 - Men - Knee-length trunks, t-shirt for travel on beach day

- **Church & home visit**: Women - knee-length or longer skirt/dress; sleeved top
 - Men - khaki pants or jeans (no holes) and a collared shirt

- **Ministry with students**: Women- Skirts/dresses knee-length or longer, capris and/or pants. Sleeved shirt. No crop tops. No shorts or tights.
 - Men- Long shorts, pants or jeans (no holes). Sleeved shirt.

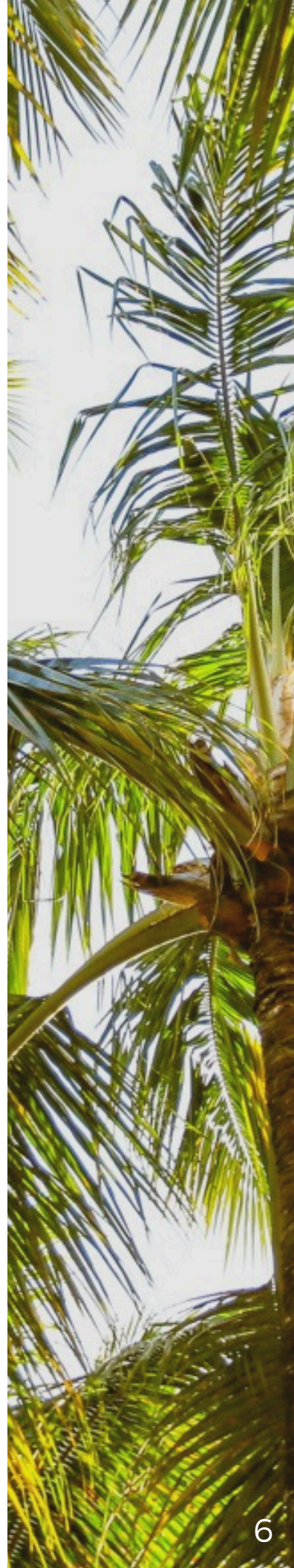
- **Project Clothes** (paint/construction): Men and Ladies - Shorts must be long knee-length, sleeved shirts (no tanks), closed-toe shoes. Note - All clothes and shoes may get dirty or ruined.

- **Extra clothes**: keep in mind that you will be sweating more than normal, and may have more than one project day - laundry services are not available, so you need to bring enough clothes/underwear to cover your needs for the week

Dress Code Reiterated:

Out of respect for those we partner with, the Christians in these communities, and for our Makarios staff, we ask that you adhere to the dress code **at all times**. Without exception, trip members will not be permitted to participate in ministry activities, if they are not appropriately dressed according to this code.

DO NOT BRING: bottoms shorter than knee-length, tights, tank tops or sleeveless tops. No crop tops (midriff showing with raised arms). No heating devices (hair dryers, curling irons, or straighteners).



POLICIES & GUIDELINES

Below are the policies and guidelines for all teams who visit Makarios.

- We prayerfully lift up and live out the Christian values illustrated in the Bible. We want to be sure we are always illustrating Christian principles in everything we do and use the Bible to guide our actions. We expect the same from our guests.
- Please use only positive words and refrain from using unwholesome or discouraging talk.
- Please abide by the dress code as explained in this packet.
- Please adhere to our social media policies outlined below.
- Please honor our guidelines on giving "gifts" outlined below.
- Please help us by **only listening to and/or singing Christian music** when in common spaces, in communities, in conversations or on transportation.

If the policies and guidelines of Makarios or our partner churches and schools are not upheld, it may affect our on-going partnerships. We desire to protect the communities we serve above all else.

SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

- Many of the local people that you meet in the DR will be active on social media and will want to become "friends" with you. We ask that you only develop connections with our staff if you are willing to acknowledge that your posts AFTER the trip can impact our ongoing ministry. We ask that you do NOT form social media relationships with our students or other children in our communities.
- Keep in mind that your photos, posts and captions can have a negative impact on our work. Avoid things that would be demeaning or disrespectful to our communities.
- Always ask permission before taking a photo or video of someone you meet.
- Don't let social media be a distraction to you. In fact, we recommend not carrying cell phones with you throughout the day or using international data plans, if they will become a distraction for you. WiFi is not available except for team leaders.



GUIDELINE FOR "GIFT" GIVING

We ask that you do not bring or purchase gifts for kids or people in our communities (e.g., candy, bracelets). At times, it may be appropriate to give kids items that are part of a planned activity, but otherwise, we do not give things away to people during community visits, ministry activities or when walking down the streets. We do not want to create an unhealthy expectation or cause confusion or conflict among the people we serve. If you have a desire to share something, please speak with your team leader and Makarios host/leader before doing so. We only want to provide things that can be well-managed and distributed by those who live and serve here and who have the proper context for whether the gift is truly helpful and empowering.

PREPARATION

As you prepare for your trip to the DR, Makarios asks that you become a present and active member of your team. Your commitment to your team begins before you even set foot in the DR. We challenge you to spend time with your team prior to travel, getting to know one another, praying together, and preparing for your trip. We are here to support you in any way we can.



PODCASTS

Below are podcasts to help you prepare for your trip to the Dominican Republic. We encourage you to listen to each session prior to your arrival.

[Session 1 - Makarios Trip Philosophy](#)

[Session 2 - DR Culture](#)

[Session 3- Trip Do's & Don'ts](#)

[Session 4 - Trip Preparation](#)

[Session 5 - Sharing Your Story](#)

[Session 6 - So You're About to Leave...](#)

[Session 7 - Now What? \(post-trip\)](#)

OTHER RESOURCES

We are committed to providing each team member with tools to help them each step along the way: pre-trip, during, and post-trip. We have included in this ministry packet:

- [5-Day Devotional Pre-trip PDF](#)
- [5-Day Devotional Post-trip PDF](#)
- Journal Prompts will be provided upon arrival





LAST BUT NOT LEAST REMINDERS

- Please take time to look through the [Makarios Website](#). This will help you get acquainted with staff, families, key people, and some very pertinent Dominican cultural information.
- It's a good idea to pack anything you will need for the first few days along with a day or two of extra clothes in your carry-on luggage. Luggage can get lost.
- Leave your electronic devices at home or plan on leaving them off once you arrive at the Mak House. WiFi access is only available for the team leader. Although these devices can be incredible blessings, they can interrupt the unity and focus of a short-term team. Group emails can be sent and distributed to families by a group leader.
- It is very dusty in the DR, so if you wear disposable contacts, you'll probably go through them quicker than you do in the US.
- Please do not drink alcohol or use tobacco products, including e-cigarettes and vaping devices, when in the DR.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Makarios Phone: 512-399-0122 (in case of EMERGENCY this rings to our staff in the DR)


Internet access: Skype, WhatsApp, and FaceTime are all accessible

Address:

49 Calle Frica, Los Ciruelos, Montellano, Puerto Plata
(you will need similar information for your immigration form; more detailed answers for this form will be provided to your Trip Leader)

Makarios Mailing Address in Texas

1801 E 51st Street
Building C, Ste 365-300
Austin, TX 78723
512-589-9018



**THANK YOU FOR JOINING
US IN OUR MISSION TO
SEE THIS VISION BECOME
A REALITY BY EQUIPPING
FAMILIES, CHURCHES,
AND SCHOOLS AS WE
WORK TOWARDS
SPIRITUAL RESTORATION
FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE.**

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