



Newsletter No. 3  
February 24, 2019

Hi everyone,

The trip is getting close and preparations are going well! Below is some additional information to help you prepare for the trip, as well as some specific requests and information relating to projects and supplies.

### **Airport transfer**

As mentioned previously, we decided it would be more efficient for people to arrange their own transfer from the airport to the hotel, a short distance away, rather than to wait at the airport to be transported as a group. Taxis are plentiful - taxi drivers wait outside the terminal holding taxi signs. (The taxi drivers patrol themselves, so you shouldn't need to worry that someone holding a taxi sign is not an actual taxi driver.) The cost of a taxi should be around RD\$250 (US\$5), but you should agree the price before getting in the taxi. Taxi drivers will likely take dollars if you have not exchanged money, but the rates are typically agreed in RD\$. It is a good idea to take note of the taxi driver's ID number in case something is left in the taxi

Uber is available, and prices are reasonable - however, Richard Weber, our logistics partner, recommended using taxis from the airport, as you might need to wait longer to get an Uber.

The hotel also provides complimentary transport from the airport to the hotel, but you will need to contact the hotel to arrange (<mailto:reservashgc@hodelpa.com>).

Please send your flight information to João and to me if you haven't already done so!

### **Changing money**

There is an ATM that takes international cards, as well as an exchange office, located to the right as you exit customs into the public area of the airport. Currently, the exchange rate is approximately 50 Dominican pesos (RD\$) to the dollar. Cash can also be exchanged at the hotel, but the rate will not be as good and they may not have smaller bills.

You should not need much cash. All meals are covered, but you may want cash for taxis, paying for alcoholic beverages (not included with most meals) and any items you wish to purchase. Incidentals at the hotel can be charged to your room. (When you check-in, the hotel will ask to run your credit card to cover any incidentals. No charge will be made unless you incur incidentals.)

### **Packing information**

The weather in Santiago/Batey Libertad is getting hot. While our hotel is air conditioned, there will be no air conditioning while we are in the batey. Please bring lightweight clothing - shorts are acceptable culturally, but you may want to consider sun exposure and exposure to insects. You should bring a good hat, sunscreen and insect repellent, and you may want to consider treating clothing with Permethrin in order to repel mosquitos. If you are going to be working with the construction team, you should bring closed-toed shoes and work gloves. We will be providing water bottles, and there will be refilling stations set up for us. We will be going to the beach one afternoon, and waterfalls another day, and the hotel has a gym, so bring whatever gear you need.

The Dominican Republic uses 110V electricity and US-style plugs, so special adapters should not be necessary.

### **Basic phrases**

Attached below is a sheet provided by Yspaniola with basic phrases in Haitian Creole and Dominican Spanish.

### **Baseball/soccer equipment**

We are planning to play baseball with older kids, and soccer with younger kids. If you have any child-sized baseball gloves, bats or balls that you are willing to contribute, please let George Spanos know (<mailto:gspanos44@gmail.com>). If you have any soccer balls you are able to contribute, please let me know.

### **Expertise with learning apps**

If you have expertise in working with learning apps, Judy Crawford is looking for assistance with planning some activities for kids on tablets that were previously donated to Yspaniola. If you are able to help, contact her at <mailto:heyjude54@comcast.net>.

### **Transporting supplies**

Judy Crawford has obtained a donation of approximately 200 books that we need to transport to Santiago. If you live in the DC vicinity and are able to take an additional suitcase with books, please let me know and Judy can arrange to get the suitcase to you.

## Timetable for Arts/Education/Dental Hygiene

Attached is the schedule (subject to change) for the pre-K through sixth grade kids we will be working with. This identifies the classes that the Arts and Education Teams will be conducting, and also includes the timing for dental hygiene and public health initiatives directed at the younger kids in school.

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Please feel free to contact me (and João) with any questions you have.

I am looking forward to seeing and working with all of you!

Perry