



Newsletter No. 4
March 2, 2019

Hi everyone,

I know you are all now focused on getting ready for the trip, and I wanted to follow up with some additional information and details.

School Dress Code - Important

Yspaniola has informed us that the public school follows a fairly strict dress code - everyone working on the school premises (arts and education, public health visits to the school, etc.) will need to comply. On Monday morning, all of us will be attending a short welcome ceremony at the school before starting our programs.

The school dress code specifies:

- **No open sandals or shoes - sneakers and closed-toed shoes are fine**
- **No short shorts or skirts, knees should be covered**
- **No shoulders exposed (especially no spaghetti strap or sleeveless tops)**

Shorts should be ok on the playing field, for those playing soccer and baseball.

Arrival/Orientation

I believe we now have everyone's arrival information. On Friday evening, we will have welcome drinks starting at 7:00pm, dinner at 8:00pm and then some ice breakers and introductions of Yspaniola staff after dinner. For those of you arriving after 8:00pm Friday evening, we plan to have food available for you once you arrive at the hotel.

We will have an orientation at the hotel on Saturday morning, then go to the batey for a short tour, before heading to the beach in the afternoon. (We will have box lunches provided, and then an early dinner at a beachside restaurant.) It will be a fairly long day, with quite a bit of time on the bus, but it is a lovely beach, frequented by locals, not tourists. For the few of you arriving on Saturday afternoon/evening, there will be no chance to join us, so you should plan on arranging your own dinner at the hotel or elsewhere in Santiago - if you would like any restaurant suggestions, let me know.

US flag

If anyone has a US flag that they can bring along, please let me know. The school principal would like to take a photo with us and would like to display both the Dominican and US flags, in addition to the Yale banner.

Waterfall visit

On the last Saturday, after having our open house and celebratory lunch in the batey, we plan to visit a series of waterfalls, where you will be able to swim, slide, jump and climb. You may want to bring appropriate footwear and clothing for this. I am sure some of us will want to be more adventurous and others will want to relax.

Voodoo ceremony

The local voodoo priest in Batey Libertad, Caco Pelao, is going to give us a presentation about voodoo. (João and I found it interesting, and fairly intense, when we participated last year - no one is required to go if they prefer to skip it.) Because his ceremonial space only fits about 20 people, we will split into three groups, with one group going on Monday evening, one group on Tuesday evening and one group on Wednesday evening. Those staying for the presentation will not go back to the hotel with the rest of the group, but will have an early dinner in the nearby town of Esperanza and then return to the batey for the presentation, which will give you a chance to see what life is like in the batey in the evening.

Updated directory

Attached below is an updated directory. In the interest of reducing our paper consumption, we do not plan to distribute printed copies to everyone. If you would like a hard copy, please either print a copy to bring along, or let me know after you arrive and I can arrange to get you a printed copy.

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Please contact me if you have any questions. João and I are both flying down to Santiago on Wednesday and will be around coordinating preparations and organizing shipping expeditions for supplies on Thursday and on Friday morning. (For those of you arriving on Thursday, please reach out to us if you would like to coordinate dinner - my cell for texts or calls is +1 917 657 7905)

See you all soon!

Perry