

## **Preparations and Timeline for EAB Immersion Program in DR**

*This list of reminders has been prepared to help you stay on track as you prepare yourself/ your child for this experience.*

**Passport:** If you do not currently have a passport you should apply 6 months ahead and have your passport secured secure 4 months ahead. This will allow time for EAB to purchase your ticket with your passport information.

**Payments to EAB:** Please refer to your contract agreement for these dates; a short grace period is allowed, after which late fees will apply, as well as a returned check fee.

**Waiver:** All waivers must be signed and returned to EAB along with the signed contract.

**Medical form:** Returned with contract; updates needed 2 months before departure. This must have accurate emergency contact and health insurance information.

**Travel insurance:** finalized 30 days before departure, and info sent to EAB. (However, some insurance policies require that you purchase the policy very shortly after paying any deposit on a “trip,” which in this case would be the first payment for this program.)

**Immunizations:**

- Consult with family doctor (who knows personal history), and Center for Disease Control recommendations about Dominican Republic, as early as possible, 6 months or more before departure
- Schedule appropriate vaccinations, tetanus shots, doctor appts, etc 3-6 months ahead of time, to avoid pre-summer rush.

- Other immunizations and disease prevention should be completed at least 1 month or more before departure (Typhoid, Malaria, Hepatitis, antibiotics for diarrhea with fever, etc.).

#### Packing list:

- Consult the packing list at least 2 months prior to departure.
- Set a goal to have gathered and/or purchased everything 2 weeks before departure, and put it all together in a designated place. This sounds goody-two-shoes, but the idea is to leave enough time to find the last few things that you may lack, and to make the packing day less stressful.
- Some people find it helpful to use ziploc bags for packing, both to organize (eg, all socks in one place) and as an extra protection against moisture and bugs

#### Donations collection:

- Confer the Service-Immersion page on EAB; at the bottom are several downloadable documents, including “Donations Most Needed.” In general, we need usable clothing, school supplies, books in Spanish, and sports equipment.
- Our goal is that each student/teacher takes one suitcase of their own belongings, one suitcase of donations. If you can, please pay the baggage fee for the donations bag in addition to the personal bag (the airlines are deaf to our pleas to waive this fee).
- Our community members greatly appreciate all donations! This is a simple, direct, very important way to make a difference!

#### Before leaving for the airport:

- Make sure passport is in a secure location; once in your vehicle-- *before starting the car*-- make the student show you the physical document. You may even decide, as a parent, to hold onto this yourself, and give it to your child as they check in at the airport
- Make sure bags are fully closed

- Take food for the flights (It's a long trip, and airlines don't necessarily provide any food)
- Make sure any glasses, contact lenses, medications, etc that student will need during the flights are in the carry-on (not checked) bag

**PLAN TO ARRIVE AT THE AIRPORT 3 HOURS BEFORE FLIGHT'S SCHEDULED DEPARTURE.**