

Senior Parents.

We wanted to continue to share information with you about the Sr. Trip and hopefully answer some questions that we've been asked of late. Please allow this letter to be your "November 1st update" on the details of the Sr. Trip

First Payments: If you have not made your first payment of \$350 to Mr. Pifer, this should be done as soon as possible. We use these initial payments as a way of confirming your spot on the trip.

Important Dates: There have been questions about what's refundable and what's not for those families who are currently planning on travelling with us but worried that their situation may change. Here are the important dates:

- 1) **December 12th** – By this date we must make payments both to SCORE International (the in-country missions agency that we travel with) and to one of the airlines. If you have not made any payments for the trip by this date, we will not be able to guarantee a spot on the Sr. Trip. This is also the last date that we can accept alternate return destinations. If you are NOT planning on returning all the way to Columbus from the Dominican Republic, you must give us a return destination at this point so we can make all arrangements.
- 2) **January 6th** – On this date, airfare becomes "non-refundable". What this means is that if we have airfare ticketed in your name, you will not be able to get the cost of the airfare back. You will receive a voucher for the cost of the airline ticket (approx. \$850) – less \$150 for an airline exchange fee – to be used within 12 months of the original ticketed flight.
- 3) **January 27th** – By this deadline we must make final arrangements with SCORE International for all accommodations, transportation, and meals in the DR. What this means is that if you back out of the trip after this date, your total payment for this portion of the trip is fully non-refundable (approx. \$550). There may be options at that point to "sell" your spot to another student who desires to travel with us, but had not made prior arrangements, but Worthington Christian cannot guarantee this.

Simply put, if you have made full payment (\$1425) to Worthington Christian and after January 27th you determine that you will be unable to attend the trip, you will receive a travel voucher with the airline (approx. \$700), but we will be unable to refund the rest of the amount.

Financial Aid: We do anticipate having financial aid available for the trip. It is imperative that you speak to Mr. Burns or Dr. Buzz in the next week or so if you are in need of financial assistance. In ten years of working on this trip, I don't know of a single student that was left behind because of money, *as long as we knew early in the process that there was a need.* We can help.

RenWeb Accounting: Randy Steckel has been able to add the Sr. Trip to your RenWeb/ Parents Web financial page. Once you've made a payment for the trip or if you have allocated Legacy dollars from last year, you should see Sr. Trip in Parents Web right alongside tuition and lunch accounting. You are able to make payments through RenWeb as well as check in on your balance for the trip. Eventually, your Legacy contributions from this year will also be allocated

and will show up on that section. This is just one way to make payments. If you prefer, you may continue to pay by cash or check at school using the payment coupons.

Passports: Don't forget that everyone travelling must have a passport. While there is a recent history of a rapid return on passport application, please do not wait until the holidays to get this done.

Consent Forms: I know that there was some confusion about paperwork that must be completed before the trip. To be clear, *if your student will be 18 years old at the time of the trip, there is only one form to complete and it does not need to be notarized. If your student turns 18 during or after the trip, you must complete the first form as well as a second parental consent form. This second form must be notarized.* We will post these to the Sr. Trip website, and we will be sure to clearly articulate this repeatedly between now and leaving for the trip. These forms are not due until the spring, so there is no imminent rush to get them completed.

Immunizations: Please refer to the sheet titled "Health Care Information for the Sr. Trip" that was passed out at the Parent's meeting. If you were not there, you can download this information from the Sr. Trip website, or we can send you one if you call the HS office.

Web Site: The Sr. Trip website can be accessed from the school's homepage. Be selecting "Schools" and then "High School", you will see a new menu with "Sr. Trip" as one of the options. Please go here first with any questions as it has ample information. We're glad to help if what you need is not listed there.

Questions: In the interest of providing you with the most accurate information, if you have questions about the trip that are not answered on the Sr. Trip website, please contact Cathy Smith (csmith@worthingtonchristian.com) 410-4288 or Mr. Burns (tburns@worthingtonchristian.com) 410-4304. This is the quickest and most efficient way of getting answers to your questions.