

WCS SENIOR CAPSTONE TRIP

March 11-18, 2027

AUGUST PARENT MEETING

Packet Contents:

- Page 1 – Timeline, General Trip Itinerary
- Page 2 – Finances and Details, Total Cost and Breakdown, Payment Schedule
- Page 3 – Payment Schedule (cont.), Payment Process, Setting up SCORE Account
- Page 4 – Changes and Refunds, Financial Assistance
- Page 5 – Sample Support Letter
- Page 6 – Requirements for those Staying Home, Medical Team, Contact “Cheat Sheet”

TIMELINE

- **NOW:** Check your student's **passport**. If he/she does not have a passport, begin the application process ASAP. If the passport is set to expire prior to July 2027, please begin the application renewal process immediately as well. Passport officials say it could be up to 16 weeks for the entire process. Please don't wait!
- **August – September:** Set up your **Managed Missions SCORE account** (instructions on pg. 3).
- **September – November:** Begin setting money aside in anticipation of the first payment deadline and/or sending out financial assistance letters.
- **December 1: Half of your trip cost is due** in your SCORE account. We CANNOT reserve your flight and thus, your spot on the trip, without this payment.
- **January 20: Your final trip payment is due** in your SCORE account.
- **Now – March:** Pray for our trip. Pray for the students and chaperones going, pray for the students staying behind, and pray for the people in the Dominican that we will encounter during this experience. We know the Lord is already at work in the DR, and we are thrilled to join Him there in what He is doing.

GENERAL TRIP ITINERARY

**subject to change*

Thursday 3/11 – Travel to DR
Friday 3/12 – Ministry Day
Saturday 3/13 – Catalina Island
Sunday 3/14 – Church in Santo Domingo, Team Building
Monday 3/15 – Ministry Day
Tuesday 3/16 – Ministry Day
Wednesday 3/17 – Tourism Day in Historic Santo Domingo
Thursday 3/18 – Travel Home

Each day also includes small group meetings, a chapel/devo service, and reflection time.

FINANCES AND DETAILS

The Senior Capstone is configured as a mission trip through SCORE International. By bringing the entire trip under SCORE's institutional umbrella, the trip can be financed through tax-deductible donations to SCORE. Each student going on the trip will set up a fundraising account with SCORE **(instructions attached)**. In this way, students will be able to send out support letters to raise money through tax-deductible gifts to help fund their trip to the Dominican Republic.

Expense Payment Guidelines: SCORE has set fixed fundraising/financial deadlines for our student accounts. 50% of the cost will be due December 1 to lock in our flight reservations and the remaining balance will be due January 20.

Fundraising Principle: Excess fundraising will go directly into a scholarship fund to aid other Worthington Christian families in their attempts to send their child on the Senior Trip. There is no refund of any excess money contributed to your account.

Scholarship Opportunities: Worthington Christian School is committed to making it financially possible for each student in the senior class to attend the Dominican Republic Senior Trip. To that end, scholarships are available to students and families who may be in need. The process for receiving a scholarship for the trip will include an application due in the fall. In conjunction with the application families/students will need to demonstrate that they have sent out support letters in an effort to raise funds and support for his or her trip.

Scholarships are available for up to 40% of the cost of the trip. *Please see page 4 for the link to the financial aid application.* Cheri Rettstatt will process each application and work with families on the financial details.

TOTAL COST AND BREAKDOWN

We are in the process of finalizing the cost of the trip based on a few final details, including final traveler numbers. However, we estimate the cost will be about **\$2507**. Please know that we have competitively shopped, and our trip is still several hundred dollars less than other similar options that also include lodging, meals, local missionary guides, translators, ground transportation, airfare, 3 meals per day, etc. The only things not included in this cost are airport meals, 1 meal in Santo Domingo, snacks, and souvenirs. Everything else for all 8 days is covered.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

You may start making payments into your SCORE account at any time! Because you are able to raise funds, we have only a few specific "deadlines" to help you track your progress and to assure we are able to cover the costs for the trip as they arise. However, we would encourage you to think about the cost of the trip in terms of "chunks." For example... 5 chunks of \$501 each. Or 8 chunks of \$313 each. You can structure it however fits your budget best, but these are the dates you should have in your mind as our official checkpoints:

December 1 – By this date you must have at least half of the cost of the trip in your account (\$1254). We are responsible for that amount to SCORE by this week. If you have not paid that amount by this deadline, we cannot secure your spot.

January 20 – At this point final payments are due. Given the reality that we do not run a surplus on the funds for the trip, timely payment is very important to ensure that we have the funds available to make payment for the trip.

PAYMENT PROCESS

All payments are made directly to SCORE. This means those payments are tax-deductible. However, it also means they are non-refundable. To make your own payment to SCORE or to share with someone else who may be financially supporting your trip, please use the instructions below:

- If you would like to donate online:
 1. Go to SCORE website - www.scoreintl.org
 2. Click on "Donate" (top right of page)
 3. Click on "Support a Traveler"
 4. Click on "Give Now" below Dominican Republic
 5. Fill in the name of the student you are making a payment for as the "name of traveler."
 6. Scroll down until you see our trip: "Worthington Christian – DR – March 11-18" and insert the amount of your payment in the box below – with NO \$ (ex: 100.00)
 7. Scroll to the bottom to enter your personal/financial information. You will get an e-mail confirmation so you know it went through (it can take a day or two to process, so confirmation may not come through immediately).
NOTE: There is also a link you can access through your account page if you prefer to simply email the link to potential donors.
- If you would like to donate by check:
 1. Make the check out to "SCORE International"
 2. DO NOT PUT THE STUDENT'S NAME ANYWHERE ON THE CHECK
 3. **Detach the bottom portion of the support letter and send it along (see pg 5).**
 4. Mail your check to: SCORE International, P.O. Box 9994, Chattanooga, TN, 37412

REGISTERING FOR YOUR MANAGED MISSIONS SCORE ACCOUNT

- A. Use this link <https://scoreintl.managedmissions.com/MissionApplication/Start/4419>
Only use this link one time to submit your application. Once it's been submitted and approved, you'll receive a link to log directly into your Managed Missions page. You'll make any changes needed to your information there. Only register with (1) email address. Do Not register with a parent's email and a student's email address. Registering again with a different email address results in a duplicate registration.
- B. The trip name to choose will be: Worthington Christian - DR 3/11-18/2027
- C. If you are submitting applications for more than one person using the same e-mail address you need to begin again each time using the link and then you will choose "New person".
- D. After your application has been submitted you will receive **2 emails**. The first saying it was successfully submitted for approval. The second email will say it has been approved, and you have been added to the trip. You will not see your trip in Managed Missions until your application has been approved. Approvals are processed each business day Monday-Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm. Applications submitted after hours or on the weekend will be approved the following business day.

CHANGES AND REFUNDS

Because we have developed the opportunity for your trip contributions to be tax-deductible, the legal reality is that we do not have the ability to provide refunds. However, we recognize that sometimes there are last minute emergencies that happen, so if that occurs, please contact us and we will do all we can to work with you.

Additionally, if you are intending to defer from the flight itinerary (i.e. pick your student up in Atlanta after the senior trip so you can head on to your spring break destination), we need to know that ASAP, but no later than November 1st. **Please contact Andrea DiAsio in the Upper School Office to change your child's return flight.**

*If your child is on the WC basketball team, please reach out to Cheri Rettstatt about payment options because of possible tournament play.

FINANCIAL AID

Applying For:

We fully understand that for many families this trip is too costly a venture, and despite our efforts to keep costs down it is still too expensive. ***Simply put, we are committed to taking every student who wants to go. Please don't let money be the reason you don't go.*** Over 2 decades of WCS Senior Trips we have seen the generosity of our community in action, and no student who has informed us of their need early on in the process has been left behind because of finances. If you believe that you are unable to make this trip and the only reason is the money, we need to know that you desire to go but cannot afford the entire cost. We will help make it possible for you in a non-threatening and totally anonymous fashion, but we must know by October 1st that you are planning to go and that you have financial need.

Please complete the application at the link provided to request financial aid for the trip: <https://payit.nelnet.net/form/PtTXgs2h> This application is due to Cheri Rettstatt no later than October 1st. She will let you know the amount of your aid no later than November 1.

Assisting With:

Finally, throughout the year we may call on some of you to help with financial assistance for the trip. Please understand that you are in no way obligated to help as this trip for your child is costly enough, but we know that God has given some extra financial resources, and this is one opportunity for you to help those in need. **If you feel led to contribute beyond your child's costs or know someone who may be interested in helping to get all of our seniors on this trip, please email Dawn at dawn.mcmahon@worthingtonchristian.com, and she will work through the process with you.** Any monies added to your child's SCORE account beyond what is due for him/her will be distributed to other accounts in need.

We encourage you/your child to send out financial support letters giving others the opportunity to participate in what God is doing. The next page is a sample support letter. These documents will be sent virtually as well, so you can edit easily for your personal use.

Dear

As a senior at Worthington Christian, I have an opportunity this spring, March 11-18, to travel with my class and teachers on a capstone experience to the Dominican Republic. On our trip we will experience the culture and beauty of the country and will also spend three days dedicated to ministering to the people of the DR. We will be working with 2 ministries that have been serving God faithfully in the DR for decades (SCORE International and Vision Trust International). I will have the chance to spend time in sugarcane villages and urban schools, playing games with the children and sharing the gospel with them. I will also get to encourage the Dominican believers who serve God faithfully all year long in these communities.

I am excited about what God is going to do in my life and in other people's lives through this ministry. I do, however, need your help. I am looking for people who will support me both in prayer and in finances. If you would be willing to support me in prayer, will you call or email me and let me know? When I return, I would love to update you with what God has done and how he has answered your prayers. If you would be willing to support me financially, that would be a huge blessing. The cost of the trip is \$2507. *I need to raise half of this by December 1, and the full balance by January 20.* If you are willing and able to support me, please see the instructions at the bottom of the letter. You can send your support through the mail or online. All of your gifts are tax-deductible.

Thank you so much for considering supporting me prayerfully or financially!

- If you would like to donate online:
 - Go to SCORE website - www.scoreintl.org
 - Click on "Donate" (top right of page)
 - Click on "Support a Traveler"
 - Click on "Give Now" below Dominican Republic
 - Fill in my name as the "name of traveler."
 - Scroll down until you see our trip: "Worthington Christian – DR – March 11-18" and insert the amount of your payment in the box below – with NO \$ (ex: 100.00)
 - Scroll to the bottom to enter your personal/financial information. You will get an e-mail confirmation so you know it went through (it can take a day or two to process, so confirmation may not come through immediately).
- If you would like to donate by check:
 1. Make the check out to SCORE International
 2. DO NOT PUT THE STUDENT'S NAME ANYWHERE ON THE CHECK
 3. **Detach the bottom portion of this support letter and send it along.**
 4. Mail your check to SCORE International, P.O. Box 9994, Chattanooga, TN, 37412

(Detach here and send with your check)

_____ traveling to the DR with Worthington Christian, March 11-18, 2027
student name

Donor name: _____

Donor address: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

PROJECT AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THOSE STAYING HOME FROM DR

We recognize that not every senior will attend the trip, and we support whatever decision is best for your family. **Any student who chooses not to go on the senior trip is required to complete several things here at home.** The goal is to expose students to experiences that are somewhat comparable to what students in the DR are experiencing. The “stay home project” has morphed some over the years, but has maintained elements of serving, reading, and reflecting for several years now. With that in mind, here are the requirements for students who choose not to go to the DR:

1. **3 Days of Serving** – Students will report to the school and will take part in 3 different days of serving, arranged in advance by the school. These days will take place as a group and your student is required to attend.
2. **Reading** – Selected reading provided to students in the weeks leading up to/during the trip is required for both travelers and non-travelers.
3. **Reflection Journal** – Students will complete a journal that assists them in reflecting on the things they are learning both through serving and through reading (this includes some specific questions related to the readings completed). The journal is provided to them, and completion is required and recorded as a grade in Bible 12.

Just as students who go to the DR receive academic credit for the work they accomplish before and during the trip, so students who stay home receive academic credit for these 3 things.

Not going on the trip does not mean you get an extra week of spring break. These days are academic days, and so students who stay stateside must complete these things to receive credit for these days.

MEDICAL TEAM

We plan to have a medical mission team comprised of parents to accompany us on the trip. This team will be led by Dr. Ben Winfree (senior dad and returning medical team leader). This team typically works with SCORE staff to set up and facilitate medical clinics in neighboring villages, providing outreach to the local Dominican people and opportunities for our seniors to serve and learn. You are required to pay your own trip cost, and you must be a medical professional able to serve in the Dominican Republic. If you, a senior parent/guardian, are in the medical field and would like to be a part of a medical mission team on the senior trip, please reach out to Dawn McMahon ASAP.

CONTACT “CHEAT SHEET”

- Flight Changes – Andrea DiAsio, andrea.diasio@worthingtonchristian.com
- Requesting Financial Aid – Cheri Rettstatt, cheri.rettstatt@worthingtonchristian.com
- Providing Financial Assistance – Dawn McMahon, dawn.mcmahon@worthingtonchristian.com
- Passport Questions – Raechel Morrow, raechel.morrow@worthingtonchristian.com
- Health/Medical Team – Dawn McMahon, dawn.mcmahon@worthingtonchristian.com
- Safety Questions – Nick Way, nick.way@worthingtonchristian.com
- General Trip Questions – Dan Roads, dan.roads@worthingtonchristian.com, Dawn McMahon, dawn.mcmahon@worthingtonchristian.com or Jake Ferrier, jake.ferrier@worthingtonchristian.com