

**Dominican Republic
HS Mission Trip
July 20-26, 2025
Application**



CASAS
P O R C R I S T O

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What are we doing in the Dominican Republic?

Lakeway Students will be partnering with a missions organization called “Casas Por Cristo” in order to build a home for a family in the Dominican Republic. We will be staying in housing rented out by the organization and will work with a local pastor as we spend 4 days building a house from the ground up. Then, on the 5th day we will go on an excursion where we will get to spend time relaxing after a weeks work.

What is Casas Por Cristo?

Lakeway Church & Casas Por Cristo

The Lakeway Church has partnered with Casas Por Cristo for years to bring families from The Lakeway Church to the border town of Acuna, Mexico and build a home for years. We also support the organization financially as a church, and believe in the mission that Casas por Cristo exists to open the door for local pastors and churches to share the love of Jesus Christ by serving.

Casas Por Cristo's Story

WHY WE DO IT

love of Jesus Christ by serving.

Casas por Cristo exists to open the door for local pastors and churches to share the

WHAT WE DO

Our mission is to build and serve.

Build

We are builders. That's who we are. We build homes for families that need to be reminded that Jesus loves them. We build relationships between volunteers, families, and pastors that would otherwise never have met. We strive to build the Kingdom of God by partnering with other local churches and ministries. We strive to build opportunities for growth by creating structured experiences that cause our volunteers to be stretched beyond their comfort zones.

Serve

Through this building process, God allows us to interact with our teams, local families, pastors, churches, vendors, and fellow missionaries. We do not want to take any of these interactions for granted. We believe that these are unique opportunities presented to us by God to serve each other.

WHO WE ARE

We began building homes along the U.S. / México border in 1993, first in Ciudad Juárez. We have since expanded to Ciudad Acuña, México; San Raymundo, Guatemala; Santiago, Dominican Republic; Chinandega, Nicaragua; and Marcala, Honduras. To date, we have provided over 6,500 families with homes. We are dedicated to meeting the physical need of better housing as a way of also meeting the spiritual need for Jesus Christ.

Our Missionaries

Casas por Cristo is primarily comprised of support-based missionaries. Each staff missionary is responsible for raising the majority of their salary. Most support comes in the form of donations from friends, family, churches, and team members. In addition to leading teams of volunteers through the building process, staff missionaries are responsible for administrative duties that allow the ministry to function.

Our Pastors' Committee

The Casas por Cristo Pastors' Committees are comprised of over 150 pastors who live and work in each of the locations we serve. These dedicated pastors meet monthly to worship together, encourage one another, and submit home applications for approval. Each pastor is personally responsible for visiting with the recipient family before and after they receive a home. This process is an opportunity to spread the Gospel and make disciples.

Our Volunteers

We look to partner with volunteer teams traveling from English-speaking countries, including the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, and South Africa, to build and serve in each of our locations.

Our Board of Trustees

Our Board is comprised of individuals from all over the U.S. and Canada.

Our Statement of Faith

If you would like to know more about what we believe as an organization, please view our **Statement of Faith**. Link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rr9qNZUnGqsWDuXh50F6a_kn0uGNIHol0rS2a3OngPQ/edit?usp=sharing

Details of the HS Mission Trip

Schedule

Day 1

Arrive at the airport, exit customs, and walk outside to meet your Casas representative and get on the bus. Arrive at your accommodation and enjoy a simple sack lunch/dinner in case you haven't eaten prior. A short orientation will be given.

Days 2 - 4

- 6:30 a.m. — Breakfast
- 7:30 a.m. — Head to work sites
- 4:00 p.m. — Return from work
- 6:00 p.m. — Dinner
- 7:30 p.m. — Devotional
- 10:00 p.m. — Lights out

Day 5

Your final day will be an excursion day with your team. You might be responsible for purchasing your lunch. *More details to come on the excursion day with team.*

Day 6

Early morning: head to the airport.

Flight Information

Flight dates, times, and airlines:

AIRLINE	FLT #	DATE	DEPARTURE CITY	ARRIVAL CITY	DEP. TIME	ARR. TIME
American Airlines	812	7/20/25	Austin (AUS)	Miami (MIA)	11:43 AM	3:39 PM
American Airlines	2511	7/20/25	Miami (MIA)	Santiago (STI)	5:35 PM	7:50 PM
American Airlines	1149	7/26/25	Santiago (STI)	Miami (MIA)	8:15 AM	10:25 AM
American Airlines	2824	7/26/25	Miami (MIA)	Austin (AUS)	2:52 PM	4:52 PM

Flight Details:

We will meet at The Lakeway Church at 7:30 a.m. to leave for the airport by 7:45 a.m., arriving by 8:30 a.m. in order to begin checking bags and checking in with our group. Students will be with their family groups through this process and will work with their leader to ensure their travel documents including passports, letter of permission to travel, etc are secured. Parents are responsible for pickup from the Austin airport at 4:52 p.m. on July 26th.

Packing List

Please feel free to view and share our [What to Pack Video](#)

See link here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSKtBjB7Hkg>

- Travel documents (passports, etc.)
- Toolbelt or nail apron
- Work gloves
- Protective eyewear
- Long work pants (No capri pants or shorts on work site)
- Work shirts (t-shirts)
- Sturdy closed-toed shoes or boots & flip flops
- Hat or bandana
- 2 water bottles
- Sunblock
- Chapstick
- Bible
- Soap, shampoo, & other toiletries
- Feminine hygiene products (tampons are difficult to find)

REQUIRED TOOLS

- Hammer (no smaller than 16 oz.)
- Carpenter's pencil

- 25 ft. tape measure
- Utility knife

These items aren't mandatory but can be helpful

**Earplugs (for sleeping)*

**Flashlight*

**Wet wipes*

**Knee pads*

**Under clothing travel belt (for documents/passports)*

DO NOT PACK

- Tank tops or sleeveless shirts
- Torn pants
- Hairdryers, curling irons, and hair straighteners
- Shorts shorter than knee length, such as cheerleading/running shorts. (Shorts are NOT allowed on the work site but can be worn when not on the work site.)
- Tight-fitting clothing (yoga/spandex pants)

Group Trip Guide

Any other questions regarding the details of the trip may be answered in the Group Trip Guide provided below. If you have any follow up questions, please contact Dustin.

[Group Trip Guide](#)

Support-Raising

For the high school mission trip, we will be utilizing support-raising in order to cover the costs of the trip. We are moving to this model because of 2 reasons: One is that through support raising we can involve our communities in our mission trip by raising support and actively asking not only for financial support but spiritual support through prayer. The second is a better stewardship of our resources as a church.

This means that after the registration fee is paid, students' main goal will be to raise the remaining amount of the trip cost through raising support. This can be accomplished digitally by sharing a personalized giving link (we will discuss this later), and through giving physical support letters to friends and family which also have the same link through a QR code.

Philosophy Behind Support-Raising

1. Invite Others to Join God's Mission

Raising support gives us the chance to invite family, friends, and our church into God's mission. It shifts the focus from "this is my trip" to "this is God's work, and I want you to be a part of it." Romans 10:14-15 emphasizes how important it is for people to be sent:

"How will they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"

When we ask for support, we are inviting others to take part in God's kingdom work. Those who give are actively participating in the mission, not just financially, but spiritually as well.

2. Cultivate Dependence on God's Provision

One of the key reasons to raise support is to learn to trust God for our needs. When we choose to rely on God to provide through the generosity of others, we grow in faith and experience His faithfulness. Philippians 4:19 says:

"And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

By raising support, we learn that God is the ultimate provider, not just for the trip but in all areas of life. This builds a deeper dependence on Him.

3. Build Humility and Gratitude

Asking for support is an opportunity for us to practice humility. It requires us to step out of our comfort zones, acknowledge our need for help, and receive from others. Philippians 1:3-5 shows us how Paul humbly thanked and appreciated those who partnered with him:

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel."

We learn to express genuine gratitude to those who support us, whether through financial gifts or prayers. This experience fosters humility, appreciation, and a spirit of thankfulness for the body of Christ.

4. Strengthen Faith and Prayer Support

The process of raising support is not just about finances—it's also about building a strong foundation of prayer. James 1:5 reminds us to seek God's wisdom:

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given to him."

As we reach out to others for support, we are often asking for prayer as well. This creates a network of people who are praying for us and the mission, strengthening the spiritual impact of the trip. The faith of the student and the supporters grows through these prayers.

5. Experience the Power of Community

Raising support teaches us the value of community and the power of the body of Christ. 2 Corinthians 8:13-14 talks about sharing resources so that all can participate in God's work:

"Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time, your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need."

When we raise support, we learn that missions are not an individual effort. It's a community effort. The trip becomes something bigger than just us—it becomes an opportunity for the whole community to come together and be part of God's mission.

6. Teach Generosity and Stewardship

By raising support, we learn the responsibility of stewarding God's resources well. We are not simply receiving donations but are accountable for how those funds are used. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 reminds us:

"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

This principle encourages us to see giving and generosity as central to the Christian life, both for ourselves and for those supporting us. We learn to steward the money with integrity and to appreciate the sacrifices others make for the sake of the gospel.

Conclusion

Raising support is about more than just funding a mission trip—it's about cultivating faith, learning humility, inviting others into God's mission, and experiencing the power of community. It allows us to grow spiritually as we trust God, steward resources, and build relationships with supporters. Paying for the trip ourselves would limit us of these valuable lessons and the deeper experience of God's provision through the body of Christ.

Trip Cost & Support-Raising Goals

The total cost of the trip for students is \$1500, divided into a \$400 registration fee and a \$1100 support-raising goal. This cost covers the flight, meals, transportation, the cost of the house we are building, our excursion, travel insurance, baggage fees, and supplies. The \$400 registration fee is required upon registration and cannot be refunded after the closing of the registration period. The Lakeway Church is contributing \$17,000 to the trip, and we will also be raising \$3,000 for the trip through a fundraiser in the Spring that students registered for the trip will be able to participate in. Both contributions are already factored into the \$1500 cost of the trip.

Early Bird Discount

All summer trips for 2025 will receive a \$75 discount if registered prior to December 31st, 2024. This means that the initial registration fee will be lowered to \$325, but the support-raised amount remains \$1100.

Managed Missions

Upon registration for the HS Mission Trip, students will be given access to their own Managed Missions account. Through this software, you will be able to track the amount of support you have raised for your trip, receive any documents from the student ministry staff regarding the trip, complete any forms required for the trip, and have a digital link that can be shared with friends and family for raising support.

3. How do you see a mission trip fitting into your spiritual growth (What do you think God is calling you to learn or do on this trip?)

4. How do you currently serve others in your church, school, or community?

Mission Trip Expectations

5. What do you hope to learn from this trip?(Culturally, spiritually, personally?)

6. What do you think will be the biggest challenge for you during this trip? (Leaving home, physical labor, new experiences, etc.)

7. How will you handle situations where things don't go as planned? (Give an example of a time you adapted to a challenging or unexpected situation.)

Team Dynamics and Attitude

8. How do you contribute to a team atmosphere? (Describe how you work with others and resolve conflicts.)
9. What steps will you take to remain spiritually focused and connected with the team during the trip?
10. How do you plan to show respect for the culture and people you'll be serving?

Commitment

11. How do you plan to prepare yourself spiritually, physically, and emotionally for this trip? (This could include prayer, Bible study, fundraising, exercise, etc.)

12. Are you committed to attending all pre-trip meetings, training sessions, and fundraising events? (If not, please explain.)

13. This mission trip will require long days and a willingness to serve in any capacity. Are you fully committed to this challenge?

(Yes / No)

If no, explain any concerns you have:

Student Signature:

Date:

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date:

Agreements

Financial Agreement

Payment Timeline

November 18th – Open Registration & Begin Early Bird Special

December 31st – End of Early Bird Special

January 31st – Close Registration

April 14th – \$500 Support Due

July 20th – Full Support Due

Student Ministry Financial Policy

Payment for any student ministry trip will be required upon registration.

Payment Plans

Payment plans will be available for certain trips depending on 1. the amount of time in-between the date of registration and the actual trip date, and 2. The total cost of the trip. Payment plans will be at the discretion of the student ministry directors and will be communicated on the registration form if they are available for that trip.

Refund Policy

Refunds will only be available prior to the end of a registration period for a trip. After registration has closed, all fees paid for registration will not be refunded for any reason. Refunds may be given if there is another person on the waitlist that decides to take the spot of the participant requesting a refund. In this case, the participant would receive a refund for their registration fee after the waitlist participant pays their registration fee. Refunds given are at the discretion of the student ministry directors.

Support-Raising Policy

Any funds raised in support of a trip cannot be refunded for any reason. These are considered for tax purposes a charitable donation and are not considered a cost paid for a service provided by the church, and therefore cannot be refunded even if a student may no longer be able to attend the trip, they are support-raising for.

Waitlist Policy

A waitlist will be created for each trip should there be a cap on the number of participants. This waitlist will be used whenever a participant drops out of the trip. Once this happens, a waitlist participant will be contacted in the order of their registration to the waitlist to take the open spot.

Scholarship Policy

Scholarships will be awarded at the discretion of the student ministry directors and are not guaranteed for any trip. Students interested in scholarships for a trip shall fill out a scholarship application form.

Discounts for Lakeway Church Staff

Lakeway Church offers discounts for children of any staff members who would like to attend a trip with the student ministry. Full-time staff will receive a 50% discount on their registration fee, and Part-time staff will receive a 33% discount on their registration fee for any student ministry trip.

By signing below, I agree to the statements above and certify that I am financially responsible for the payment of all registration and support-raised fees required for this trip. I recognize that upon the closing of the registration period, my registration fee may no longer be refunded. I also recognize that any support that is raised for my trip may not be refunded at any time for any reason, even if my student is no longer able to attend the trip.

_____	_____	_____
Student Signature	Print Name	Date

_____	_____	_____
Parent Signature	Print Name	Date

Covenant Agreement

Our heart behind the Student Covenant is to provide an environment where all students and leaders are supported, safe, and respected. We believe each person is accountable for their actions and that one way we can demonstrate love for each other is by respecting these boundaries. Our values uphold those of the Lakeway Church. As you initial beside each statement below, you are agreeing with and pledging to uphold our values. If at any time you do not uphold these values, you are subject to a conversation with a Lakeway Students volunteer, Conversation with Lakeway Student staff & your parent/guardian, and/or being prohibited from participating in the trip activities.

Please initial by each of the following points

_____ I pledge to be honoring those in authority by following rules and directions as given, leading by example among their peers.

_____ Though no one is perfect, I will strive to live a life that sets an example and a model for those around me.

_____ I pledge to be responsible for demonstrating respect for others through their use of appropriate language, avoiding profanity, slurs, or degradation of others through verbal and nonverbal communication.

_____ I pledge to be respectful of Casas Por Cristo and Lakeway Church property.

_____ I will participate in all scheduled activities (e.g. meal times, teaching sessions, game times, etc.), and will stay with my family group until dismissed by a leader or the event concludes.

_____ I will conduct myself with integrity and discretion in any dating relationship I may have while on a Student trip. I will make sure that my relationship models godliness and is not a hindrance to the ministry.

_____ I will refrain from public displays of affection during the Mission Trip. No girls in guys' dorms, and no guys in the girls' dorms.

_____ I will dress modestly and in an appropriate way during the trip.

_____ I commit to report any suspected abuse (physical, emotional, or sexual) of a Student to a full-time Lakeway Staff member.

_____ I realize that while I am on a Lakeway Students Mission Trip, if I begin participating in any of the following activities during retreat, I will be sent home or no longer allowed to participate in activities:

- Sexual activity on the trip
- Illegal use of drugs or alcohol
- Use of any weapons (e.g. guns, pocket knives, lighters, etc.)

_____ I agree to attend the February 8th fundraiser event along with any other required trainings

_____	_____	_____
Student Signature	Print Name	Date

_____	_____	_____
Parent Signature	Print Name	Date