

## **Group Leader Guide**

Jamaica Mission Trip | On Mission Network

Leading a team to Jamaica is an opportunity to guide others into meaningful, hands-on ministry. This guide is designed to help you prepare your team, lead effectively during the trip, and maximize impact both on the field and after returning home.

### **Your Role as a Leader**

As a group leader, you are more than an organizer—you are a shepherd, coordinator and example.

You will:

- Prepare your team spiritually and practically
- Communicate clearly before and during the trip
- Set expectations for attitude, work ethic and flexibility
- Support team unity and resolve challenges
- Help your team process and apply their experience

Your leadership sets the tone for the entire week.

### **Before the Trip**

#### 1. Build Your Team

- Recruit individuals who are ready to serve with humility and flexibility
- Set clear expectations about the nature of the work (light to hard construction)
- Emphasize that this is both a ministry experience and a team commitment

#### 2. Set Expectations Early

Make sure your team understands:

- Work may include restoring metal roofs and rebuilding homes
- Conditions may be warm, physically demanding and unpredictable
- Flexibility and a servant mindset are essential
- Clear expectations prevent frustration and help your team thrive.

#### 3. Prepare Spiritually

Encourage your team to begin preparing their hearts before arrival:

- Schedule 1–2 team meetings prior to the trip
- Pray together for the people you will serve
- Discuss what it means to be the hands and feet of Christ
- Set a tone of humility, service and unity

#### 4. Logistics & Communication

- Confirm travel details and documentation for all team members
- Share packing lists and trip schedule
- Establish a primary communication method (group text, email, etc.)
- Collect emergency contact information

### **During the Trip**

#### **Lead by example**

- Your team will follow your attitude.
- Serve with energy and humility.
- Stay flexible when plans shift.
- Encourage others consistently.

#### **Create team unity**

- Begin each day with encouragement and focus.
- Watch for team dynamics and support individuals as needed.
- Reinforce that everyone has a role and purpose.

#### **Support the work**

- Help organize your team at ministry sites.
- Ensure safety practices are followed.
- Encourage effort, not perfection.
- Remind your team that the goal is serving people, not just completing tasks.

#### **Lead daily debriefs**

Each evening is a key moment for reflection.

- Ask: Where did you see God today?
- Encourage sharing and listening
- Help your team process both challenges and wins
- Keep the focus on growth, not just activity

### **After the Trip**

#### **Debrief as a team.**

Within 1–2 weeks of returning:

- Gather your team to reflect on the experience.
- Share stories and impact moments.
- Talk about how to continue living more mission-minded at home.

#### **Capture the story**

- Collect photos and testimonies.
- Share with your church/organization and OMN.
- Celebrate what God did through your team.

#### **Encourage next steps**

Help your team continue serving:

- Stay engaged with OMN opportunities. Stay up-to-date on available opportunities [\*\*here\*\*](#).
- Encourage future trips or local service.
- Identify leaders for future teams.

### **Tips for Success During the Trip**

- Set expectations clearly — this is key to a healthy trip.
- Stay flexible — ministry environments change.
- Focus on people over projects.
- Encourage constantly.
- Model servant leadership at all times.

### **Common challenges (and How to Handle Them)**

Fatigue

→ Build in rest moments and keep morale high

Unmet expectations

→ Remind the team of the mission and purpose

Team tension

→ Address early, privately and with grace

Changing plans

→ Stay flexible and reinforce trust in the process

### **Final Encouragement**

You are not just leading a trip—you are helping shape how people live out their faith.

Your leadership will impact not only the work done in Jamaica, but the hearts of those on your team and the communities you serve.

### **Ready to Lead a Team?**

On Mission Network is here to support you every step of the way.

Start planning your trip by **signing up now and filling out this form.**

Or you can **contact us for more information.**