MISSION AWARENESS TRIPS

trip information

*The following information is for **2013** trips. The dates and trips to specific countries change from year to year depending on interest, the political situation within the countries and the ability of CFCA projects to host a mission awareness trip. A detailed schedule and additional information will be sent one to two weeks prior to departure in the pre-departure packet.*

PHILIPPINES

Trip dates: January 24 - February 4, 2013

Trip Cost

$800 (Includes food, lodging and in-country transportation. Airfare is **not** included.)
Minimum group size: 12

On your trip to the Philippines you may do some or all of the following activities:

- Meet your friend and possibly the family
- Be welcomed into the homes of CFCA families
- Travel to subprojects and learn about the reality and potential of CFCA families
- Learn about the realities that CFCA families, staff and communities face
- Learn about the diverse experiences and unique
- Observe the beauty that the country and people of the Philippines have to offer
- Visit Manila, Antipolo and Quezon
- Visit the beach at Legazpi
- The group will not travel to Zamboanga. Zamboanga sponsored friends will travel to Manila and visit with their sponsors there.

Entry and Exit Requirements

A passport valid for at least six months beyond the end of your intended stay is required to enter the Philippines. Upon arrival, immigration authorities will annotate the U.S. passport with an entry visa valid for 21 days. There is a **Passenger Service Charge, currently 750 pesos (about $20)**, to be paid in Philippine pesos when departing the country from international airports. *All fees are subject to change.* While in the Philippines, participants should carry a passport or a photocopy at all times. Participants who will be traveling with a minor should contact the CFCA mission awareness trip coordinator for additional information. Special requirements exist for the entry of minors unaccompanied by a parent or guardian.

Airport and Arrival Arrangements

Applicants should await receipt of the confirmation letter before making airline reservations. In the meantime, we strongly encourage you to research airfares with a travel agent, the airlines or via the Internet. Vista Travel, (800) 537-5066, may also be contacted regarding airfare. The agency is familiar with our programs and schedules.

Trip participants will arrive to and depart from **Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila (MNL).** Participants traveling from the U.S. should expect to arrive in Manila one to two days after departure due to overnight travel and crossing many time zones. Participants should arrive in Manila between 5 a.m. and 5 p.m. on January 26. The limitation in arrival hours is for safety reasons. **CFCA staff will meet all travelers at the airport who arrive on the scheduled arrival day within the stated hours.**

(over)

Airport and Arrival Arrangements (Cont'd.)

Do not accept any offers of transportation from anyone other than the CFCA team. Activities will begin midday on January 27.

The last activity will occur the morning of February 3. Return travel should be scheduled so that participants depart Manila after 2 p.m. on February 3. Participants returning to the U.S. will arrive in the U.S. on February 4.

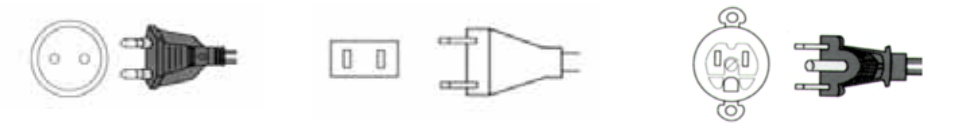
Accommodations and Food

All trip participants will stay in simple accommodations in Manila, usually in some type of retreat center or hotel. Private rooms for married couples and families are available. Individuals will be assigned a roommate. Running water for showers is readily available, though hot water is not. Tap water is unsafe for drinking. Instead, the project will provide bottled or purified water. Alcoholic beverages are not included in the trip cost.

Participants will eat simple, nutritious meals. You will have the privilege of trying a variety of foods. Typically, a selection of food is available at each meal. All food is prepared with purified water. All meals will be eaten with the group. Do not purchase food from street vendors. Meals are often served at a later hour than most Americans are accustomed to eating. We recommend bringing snacks such as dried fruit and nut mixes, raisins, granola bars, etc., as you may want something to eat between scheduled meals.

Bring an electrical converter and adapter if you wish to use personal electrical appliances. The **electrical current** in the Philippines is 220V. The diagrams below illustrate the types of plugs found in the Philippines.

Type A **Type B** **Type C**



Illustrations courtesy of www.escapeartist.com, a website for overseas job seekers

Climate

The climate in the Philippines is very warm year-round. Participants should be prepared for high humidity and very warm temperatures. Average highs during January and February are in the upper 80s with lows in the mid 70s.

Health/Medical Preparations

Contact your medical doctor or local health department for immunization recommendations based on your health history. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/travel has country specific recommendations regarding immunizations. CFCA staff members are not qualified to offer advice on immunizations. You may also contact them by phone at 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636).

You should also consult with your medical insurance company prior to traveling to confirm whether your policy applies in a foreign country. **If your policy does not cover emergency expenses such as medical evacuation, we urge you to consider the purchase of temporary travel insurance.** You may find further information on travel insurance through a travel agent or through research on the Internet.

Travelers with asthma or other respiratory illnesses should be aware that the urban air pollution in the Philippines has been known to exacerbate symptoms.

Currency Exchange and Handling

The local currency is the Philippine **peso** (PHP). Your lodging, food and in-country transportation are included in the trip cost. You should bring additional money for the purchase of snacks and souvenirs, and to cover entry/exit fees. You should not carry bills in denominations greater than $20 because they may be difficult for local banks or vendors to exchange. Do not bring torn or severely worn currency. You can bring U.S. dollars into the country. You will be provided with an opportunity to exchange money upon arrival either at the airport, at the lodging, or another method. Traveler's checks are not recommended, and ATMs are not readily available.

MISSION AWARENESS TRIPS

frequently asked questions

Q. How do I sign up for a mission awareness trip?

A. Complete the application form, read and sign the code of conduct, and return them along with a non-refundable $100 deposit to: CFCA, 1 Elmwood Avenue, Kansas City, KS 66103, Attn: Trip Coordinators. Submit your application as soon as possible because spaces are limited and trips fill up quickly. CFCA reserves the right to cancel any trip. Your deposit would be refunded if this happens. If there is no space available on the trip you want to go on your deposit will be returned and you will be placed on a waiting list.

Q. How much do the trips cost and is airfare included?

A. Airfare is not included. Trip costs range from $475 to $800 depending on date, length of trip, and location. Your food, lodging and most in-country transportation are included. The price is the same for adults and children. Additional costs include entrance and/or departure taxes that vary for each country; visa fees for U.S. citizens visiting Bolivia, India, Kenya and Uganda; immunizations and travel medical insurance. More specific cost information is included in the registration packet.

Q. Will I meet my sponsored friend? If so, should I bring my friend a gift?

A. The most important reason for a mission awareness trip is to meet your sponsored friend. CFCA will do everything possible to make this happen. Sometimes road conditions, illness and other unexpected circumstances can prevent visits from taking place. For this reason we cannot make guarantees. But most sponsors do get to meet their sponsored friend. Sponsored friends and their families usually travel to meet their sponsors as poor road conditions, safety of travelers, and other variables can make visiting the homes of sponsored friends difficult.

When you meet your friend, CFCA provides translators to help you communicate.

You cannot imagine how much sponsored friends and their families anticipate these visits. You may bring a small, simple gift for your friend and for the family if you wish, but you do not have to. Just your presence is a special gift. CFCA provides a list of suggested gift items in the travel guide sent with your confirmation packet.

Q. Who can go on a mission awareness trip?

A. Mission awareness trips are open to anyone based on availability: family, friends, even children, whether they are sponsors or not. All participants must be registered. A parent or guardian must accompany minors and be responsible for their behavior. Special considerations must be made to accommodate minors, so please let our trip coordinators know if you will be traveling with a minor. Priority may be given to first-time participants visiting their sponsored child or aging friend.

Q. What do you do on a mission awareness trip?

A. A CFCA trip is not a traditional mission trip. You will not be building houses or working in CFCA projects. A mission awareness trip is an in-depth immersion experience intended to strengthen the bond of friendship that already exists between sponsors and their sponsored friends, and to show sponsors how their contributions are used to support and empower families.

CFCA project staff will meet you at the airport and be your guides for the week as you travel to communities served by CFCA. You will be welcomed into the homes of CFCA families and talk to them about their daily lives. You will hear families served by CFCA describe their challenges and successes, and come to see them as

(over)

individuals with distinct gifts, abilities and potentials instead of as "poor" people. You will hear presentations about the culture, religion, social and economic conditions in the country. As you travel to CFCA communities, you will observe the country's unique natural beauty. Most days, you will have time for personal or group reflection where you can process what you have seen and learned.

Over the course of the week, we will try to provide you with shopping time as the schedule allows, but this is not guaranteed. You are likely to receive souvenirs of local handicrafts from the CFCA communities you visit.

Mission awareness trips are filled with activity and the schedules can be rigorous. Rest time is limited. You may travel long distances, sometimes in very warm weather and often on rugged terrain, and may be gone all day visiting a community. Participants walk each day, possibly on dirt paths or cobblestones. We suggest you check with your doctor if you have any doubts about whether you can handle our trips. In general, people enjoy our trips if they are flexible, enjoy meeting new people and trying new foods, and can handle long days with frequent changes in routine.

You will receive a detailed itinerary at least one week before departure. The trip itinerary may change to accommodate unexpected circumstances.

Q. What are the accommodations like?

A. Accommodations are simple, such as a retreat center or a modest hotel. Married couples and families stay in private rooms. Individuals are assigned a roommate. Running water for showers is usually available, but it may not be heated.

Meals are simple and nutritious. A selection of food is typically available, and you will have the opportunity to try new foods. All food is prepared with purified water, and the project provides bottled water for drinking.

Q. When do I schedule my flight?

A. Schedule your flight only after you receive your confirmation packet. You can research airfares with a travel agent and on the Internet. Vista Travel, (800) 537-5066, is familiar with our programs and schedules and may also be contacted regarding airfare.

Q. Do I need a passport and visa to travel?

A. A valid passport is required to enter all countries. Some countries require that the passport be valid at least six months after arrival. Certificates of naturalization, birth certificates, driver's licenses, and photocopies of these or other documents are not acceptable travel documents. A visa is needed by U.S. citizens visiting Bolivia, India, Kenya and Uganda. CFCA will provide instructions for obtaining a visa after you register.

If you are not a U.S. citizen, you will need to investigate additional requirements for entering the country you are visiting.

Q. Do I need immunizations?

A. CFCA staff members are not qualified to offer advice on immunizations. Contact your medical doctor and local health department for immunization recommendations based on your health history. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/default.aspx has country-specific recommendations regarding immunizations. You may also contact them by phone at 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636).

Q. Where can I get more information?

A. Visit www.hopeforafamily.org/mats/calendar.jsp for more information about a specific trip. Email your questions to trips@cfcausa.org, or call (800) 875-6564 or (913) 384-6500, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., CST.

Each traveler should complete and return the application form, statement of purpose and code of conduct and return it with a non-refundable deposit of $100 per person to: **CFCA, 1 Elmwood Avenue, Kansas City, KS, 66103-9816, Attn: Trip Coordinator.** Make checks payable to "CFCA." Submit your application as soon as possible. Spaces are limited for each trip and they fill up quickly. Complete a separate application for each participant. (You may make copies). To join a waiting list for a trip send an application without the $100 **Please write clearly.**

CFCA ID: (if applicable) ASC # _____

Trip date _____ Destination _____

Formal name _____ Passport No. _____
(as shown on passport)

Name to appear on your name tag _____
(first and last name)

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Daytime phone _____ Evening phone _____

Email _____ Check one: Male _____ Female _____

Birth date ____/____/_____ If not U.S. citizen, list country of citizenship _____

Adult T-shirt size: S M L XL XXL

Will you need an interpreter? (Spanish speaking countries only) Yes _____ No, I speak fluently _____

If traveling with a family member or friend, list their name and relationship _____

Visiting a sponsored friend: If you plan to visit a sponsored friend on this trip, place a CFCA mailing label with their name in the space at right. If you do not have a label, list the name of your sponsored friend and CH#.

Place sticker here, OR

Full name of sponsored friend

_____

CH# (if known) _____

_____ I will be visiting more than one sponsored friend and have placed additional labels or listed names and CH#'s on the back of this form.

Have you participated in a CFCA trip before? Yes ____ No ____ If so, where? _____

Check if appropriate: ***I am a …*** Nurse _____ Medical Doctor _____ EMT _____ CPR Certified ____

(Optional) Please use the space below to tell us about yourself (occupation, interests, etc.).

_____

_____

_____

_____

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE, POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

MISSION AWARENESS TRIPS

"A relationship of mutual respect between sponsor and sponsored person is central to CFCA's mission."

- CFCA Core Value 4

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

A mission awareness trip is an in-depth immersion experience with the sponsored members and staff of the CFCA projects. The primary purpose of a CFCA mission awareness trip is for sponsors to meet their sponsored friends, to strengthen the bond of friendship that already exists, and to see how sponsorship is making a difference in the lives of sponsored members and their families.

During the trip, participants get close to the reality of CFCA families and see family members as individual persons with distinct gifts, abilities and potentials. The trip also serves as an opportunity to appreciate and respect the diversity and viability of other cultures. Your presence and participation is a symbol of love and solidarity on behalf of all sponsors to the CFCA community.

The mission awareness trip will intensify the sense of solidarity sponsors develop with their sponsored friends and the CFCA project teams in the field. It is our hope that sponsors will return from the trip inspired to share their experience with others.

CODE OF CONDUCT

CFCA has developed the following Code of Conduct for the protection of each sponsored person, the privacy of sponsors, and the integrity of CFCA as an organization. When visiting a project and your sponsored friend, we require that all participants adhere to these standards to ensure a positive and fulfilling experience for all involved. CFCA reserves the right to determine whether a participant's behavior is considered offensive or inappropriate and has instructed the CFCA project to notify CFCA-Kansas if there is a violation of any CFCA policy and to notify local authorities when necessary. This Code of Conduct provides standards of behavior including, but not limited to:

I. Behavioral Policies and Guidelines

a. Traveling to another country and with a group requires an extra level of behavioral sensitivity. Treat everyone with respect, patience, courtesy, dignity and consideration.
b. Always follow the directions of the local CFCA project coordinator and staff members.
c. All participants must stay with the group and follow the project's planned itinerary at all times. No personal itineraries, agendas, or unregistered guests are permitted during the trip.
d. Be culturally sensitive when choosing your clothing. Revealing or immodest clothing is inappropriate. CFCA recommends that clothing covers the knees and shoulders. Shorts are inappropriate for most activities during the trip. Do not wear excessive or expensive jewelry.
e. Never give monetary gifts or other valuable gifts directly to a sponsored person or family member. All monetary gifts should be made through CFCA's Kansas City headquarters. This allows us to ensure that your contribution is used appropriately and effectively, in the best interest of the child or aging friend. Also, we can send you a receipt so that your gift may be tax deductible. Project offices cannot provide receipts required for tax-deductible donations.

f. If your sponsored friend or a family member asks for additional monetary or material assistance, please speak with a project staff member before agreeing to provide any additional assistance. Remember, monetary gifts may not be given directly to a sponsored friend or family member. Please be aware that CFCA discourages these types of requests from sponsored friends and their families.
g. Randomly distributing gifts in public, including candy and money, is not appropriate. Such actions create scenes of chaos and are disrespectful of the dignity of community residents.
h Excessive consumption of alcohol and/or public drunkenness is not acceptable at any time during your visit.
i. The use or possession of illegal drugs is prohibited at all times. This is a serious offense, subject to the laws of the country visited.

II. Protection and Consideration of Sponsored Members, Sponsors and CFCA Staff

a. A CFCA staff member or volunteer must accompany you at all times when visiting with the sponsored members. For your and everyone's protection, you should not be alone with a sponsored member at any time.
b. Be sensitive to another's need for space. Sponsored members should not be held, kissed, touched, cuddled or hugged in a manner that a reasonable person might construe as inappropriate.
c. Avoid flirting, unwelcome flattery, suggestive comments, or intimate relationships with members of the CFCA community or staff.
d. All communication during and after the visit must follow CFCA's regular correspondence guidelines. Never provide, ask for, accept or record personal contact information, including addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses, to a CFCA sponsored friend, family member, or directly to CFCA project staff. In addition, do not locate or communicate with a CFCA staff member, sponsored member, or family member through social media sites such as Facebook and MySpace. Initiation or acceptance of direct communication with a sponsored member could result in the termination of the sponsorship.
e. Do not ask for, or accept, accommodation with the family of a CFCA sponsored friend or staff member during or following the trip.
f. Do not offer, or accept, a petition to bring a sponsored friend to visit or reside in the U.S. or your country of origin.

Failure to comply with the aforementioned standards or with the recommendations of local CFCA project staff could result in the loss of visiting privileges or possible termination of sponsorship. If, during your visit, you observe others acting inappropriately or inconsistent with these standards, please report this activity immediately to the local CFCA project staff.

I have read, understand and agree to abide by the aforementioned CFCA mission awareness trip Code of Conduct.

_____ _____
Printed Name Date

_____
Signature

A copy of the Statement of Purpose and Code of Conduct will be in the trip travel guide included in your confirmation packet.