

Young Adult Project 2017

Information Packet

Location: Georgetown, Guyana

Project Dates: July 19-30, 2017

Participation Fee: \$795

Flight to Georgetown is not included in the participation fee



Maranatha in Guyana

In 2017, the Seventh-day Adventist Church will commemorate 130 years of activity in Guyana. Their work over the years has resulted in over 62,000 members and more than 200 congregations meeting each Sabbath. Church leadership has requested help from Maranatha to build churches and schools in the country.

At one time, the Adventist Church operated several schools in Guyana, but in 1976, ten years after the country gained its independence from Great Britain, the new government eliminated all private schools, thereby closing all Adventist schools as well. In the 1990's the government eased that position and opened the door for private schools once again. However, the Adventist Church has not yet re-started any schools in the country. Seeking to change this, church leadership has made a commitment to start a new primary school (grades 1st-6th) in the capital city of Georgetown.

Several Maranatha groups are scheduled to go to Guyana in the Spring and Summer of 2017 to begin work on a collection of eight, one-day school buildings, plus block walls. The school hopes to begin their first school year in September of 2017.

The current scope of Maranatha's involvement will begin with the school campus and a few church buildings and will be fully defined as the project evolves.

Project Overview

Our major "work" for this Maranatha project will be the completion of the school. Several groups will work on this school throughout the spring and summer of 2017, so at what stage the campus will be at while this group is there is still to be determined. Most likely the volunteers on this project will work on some block work on the school structures, pouring sidewalks, and possibly some painting of the already finished buildings.

Project Schedule

Wednesday, July 19
Arrive in Georgetown, Guyana

Thursday - Friday, July 20 - 21
Orientation and Work Days

Saturday, July 22
Worship with the local congregation

Sunday-Tuesday, July 23 - 25
Work Days

Wednesday, July 26
Excursion Day

Thursday - Friday, July 27-28
Work Days

Saturday, July 29
Worship with the local congregation

Sunday, July 30
Departure from Georgetown, Guyana

In addition to the construction there are several community service options nearby including children’s ministry for young children under the age of five at a Red Cross sponsored orphanage and conducting some activities for a senior citizen’s home in the same neighborhood.

Accommodations

Our group will stay at the Ocean Spray International Hotel, just a bit outside of the center of Georgetown, and close to the “seawall”—the literal wall that protects Georgetown from the Caribbean since the city is six feet below sea level.

The hotel ranges between a 1-star and a 2-star hotel. The hotel is clean and provides bedding and towels, private bathrooms, hot water, and air conditioning. We recommend that you bring your own pillow and washcloths though. A small air freshener might be good to bring as well as some of the rooms can be musty due to the proximity to the ocean and the age of the building. There is also a simple swimming pool at the hotel.

Our group will be using the kitchen and dining room for our meals, plus there is a meeting room for our evening worships and socializing times. The drive from the hotel to the work site will be only about 10 minutes by the coaster bus that will shuttle our group in a couple of trips.

Excursions

The main excursion will be a one-day getaway up the Essequibo River. We’ll visit “Fort Island,” which has two historical buildings that serve as museums for the history of Guyana. The museums outline the struggle between the Dutch, French, Spanish, and British to colonize this area in hopes of taking gold back to Europe. The history includes slave trading with African slaves. After a short stop on the island, we’ll go upriver to another island that is the Aruwai Resort, where there is a swimming pool, beach volleyball, kayaks, paddle boats, a nice vegetarian lunch, and more.

Additional Excursion Options

Guyana doesn’t have a highly developed tourist industry. You won’t find very many souvenirs, but you can take photos to record memories. Perhaps the best-known spot for tourists is the Kaieteur Falls in the middle of the country, far from Georgetown. Due to the cost for this trip, this excursion is not provided or coordinated by Maranatha. If you are interested in this excursion will want to make plans to arrive early or stay a few days later to take the plane ride to the falls and back. The cost for the flight is approximately \$150/person.

Leadership

Angela Boothby | Project Coordinator

Angela grew up on a small farm in Michigan with her parents and two brothers. She currently works at Heritage Academy where she is a girl’s dean and teaches four classes. In addition, she organizes outdoor education trips where she combines her love of nature and of God. Angela first joined Maranatha in 2006 as a participant on the Ultimate Workout, Maranatha’s teen project. The last few years she has joined both the Ultimate Workout and Young Adult Projects in leadership positions. She is very close to her family and loves to spend time with them when not traveling the world. Angela is thrilled to be leading this project!



Looking for More Leaders

This project still needs a Spiritual Coordinator, Construction Superintendent, Team Medic, and Outreach Coordinator. If you are interested in leading any of these areas, please contact Maranatha at (916) 774-7799.

Expenses

The participation fee of \$795 covers housing at the Ocean Spray International Hotel, three vegetarian meals a day, ground transportation to and from the airport and project site, local excursions, secondary accident insurance, a Maranatha t-shirt, and luggage tags.

Maranatha must receive all funds and forms by June 19 due to application processing time. Wait for confirmation of acceptance on the project before purchasing your airfare.

Maranatha participation fees are tax-deductible. For Canadian tax-deductible receipts, payments must be made by check to the Maranatha Association (address located at the end of this information packet). For U.S. tax-deductible receipts, payments can be made by cash, check, or credit/debit cards.

If you are fundraising or receiving donations, please have them sent directly to you or work with your local church treasurer to collect funds and issue tax-deductible receipts, since it is difficult for Maranatha to track individual small checks. If your church will not work with you, please wait until you have collected the full amount of your participation fee before submitting your participation fee to Maranatha.

Estimate of Additional Costs

Flight to Georgetown: \$1,000

Passport: \$130 or \$110 for renewal

Exit Tax: \$21/person

About Guyana

This South American country, with Venezuela to the west and Suriname (formerly Dutch Guyana) to the east, has a northern border on the Caribbean Sea. The majority of the country, which is about the size of Idaho, is covered in thick jungle and is mostly undeveloped. In fact, 90% of the population lives on 10% of the land in Guyana, with most people living in the capital city of Georgetown.

Although Guyana borders the Caribbean, there are no white sandy beaches nor palm trees. Georgetown is six feet below sea level. When the Dutch ruled this area before the British, they built a seawall to keep the sea away. So instead of a beach, the coastline is composed of a lengthy seawall.

Ever since Europeans started establishing colonies in the Western World in the 1500s, the Dutch, French, Spanish, and English have sought Guyana. This involved wars, skirmishes, sales, and negotiations as Guyana passed from one European rule to another. Under the British, agriculture and trade expansion introduced Africans and East Indians into the population. Then in 1966, Guyana achieved a peaceful independence from Great Britain, changing the name from British Guyana to simply Guyana.

Guyana citizens have a low expectation that the government will ever provide the kinds of opportunities expected in other countries. Because of this, the population has never exceeded 750,000 because a steady stream of Guyanese move to other countries each year. Queens, New York, is purported to have more than 200,000 Guyanese inhabitants.

The major people groups include East Indians, Africans, and Amerindians (indigenous), and now an emerging mixed population. This also means there is no major religion with plenty of Hindu, Muslim, and a variety of Christian denominations. The Seventh-day Adventist Church has approximately 62,000 members, with about one-third of them active in the church currently.



Facts and Figures

Capital:
Georgetown

Population:
736,000

Language:
English

Climate:
Hot and humid; tropical

Religion:
Protestant 31%, Hindu 28%,
Catholic 8%, Muslim 7%

Currency:
Guyanese Dollar

Travel Information

Volunteers will purchase their own plane tickets to the city of Georgetown, Guyana (see below). Please wait for confirmation from Maranatha before purchasing your airfare to ensure there is still space on the project. Together volunteers will travel by bus to the project location.

Flights

Arrival | Please plan to arrive in Georgetown (airport code GEO) on Wednesday, July 19, 2017.

Departure | Please plan to depart from Georgetown in the morning or afternoon of Sunday, July 30, 2017.

Flights to Georgetown can be limited, and you might find yourself flying on a smaller, little-known airline. Recommended connections will probably route you through New York (JFK) or Miami (MIA).

Arriving Early or Staying Late

Some of you may choose to arrive earlier than July 19 or stay beyond July 30 to explore the country on your own. Please make your own hotel and transportation plans for days outside of the Maranatha project dates. If you have any questions, feel free to call Maranatha at (916) 774-7700.

Travel Resources

- **Azumano Travel:** 800-777-5149 or by email with Erle or Azumano Team at corporatetravel@ciazumano.com
- **Butler Travel:** 503-879-5005 or by email with Nathanael at nathan@butlertravel.com or with Ellen at ellen@butlertravel.com.
- **Kayak:** www.kayak.com

When contacting the Azumano or Butler travel agencies, make sure you mention Maranatha to receive a discounted service charge.

Entry Requirements

Passport | All passports must be valid for at least six months from the dates of intended travel (valid until January 30, 2017). If you do not have a passport, U.S. citizens can apply at any U.S. post office or online at <http://travel.state.gov>. Canadian citizens can apply online at www.passport.gc.ca. It can take up to two months to complete the entire process, so plan accordingly to give yourself enough time to receive your passport.

Exit Tax | No visa is required for the country of Guyana. However, there is an exit tax of approximately \$21 USD. This is not typically included in your airfare, so you should plan to have this available in cash to pay as you leave the country.

Citizens of countries other than the U.S. or Canada, please consult the Guyana embassy or consulate in your home country for entrance requirements.

Staying Healthy

Maranatha requires that every volunteer have a current tetanus vaccine (within the last 10 years). The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also recommends vaccines for hepatitis A, typhoid, yellow fever, and an anti-malarial medication other than chloroquine.

Some of these you may already have and some you may deem unnecessary for this trip. You should schedule a consultation with a travel clinic doctor to talk about the medical risks in Guyana and the ways to minimize them.

Zika

Recently the Zika virus has been spreading around Central America and the Caribbean. This mosquito-borne disease acts very similar to a hard-hitting flu with symptoms lasting about two weeks. There is currently no

vaccine or treatment for the disease, and the CDC has issued a Level 2 warning. This warning does not suggest that you postpone all travel, but it does urge travelers to take heightened precautions to avoid being bitten (see recommendations above). This virus is still being studied, and information is continuing to be released. There are currently no known long-term effects; however, there does seem to be a link between the virus and possible birth defects in babies born from women who were infected during their pregnancy. The virus can remain in a woman's body for approximately eight weeks and in a man's body for approximately six months, and it can be spread through physical contact. If you or your partner is pregnant, think you might be pregnant, or trying to get pregnant in the next six months, Maranatha recommends speaking with your doctor to determine if you should travel.

Giving Opportunity

With the start of a brand new school, there will be many start-up costs such as books, desks, school uniforms, classroom supplies, and even scholarships for students with financial needs. We don't have specific information on any of these items at this time, but we expect those needs will become more evident as we get closer to the project time.

How to Register

To register, please complete the online registration and pay the full participation fee or an initial deposit of at least half the total participation fee. You can make this payment by credit card online or over the phone or with a check made out to Maranatha Volunteers International and sent to the address below. If for any reason you need to cancel your participation, Maranatha will do their best to refund your deposit up until one month before travel. After that point, \$150 is non-refundable and the remainder will depend on the reservations and the project arrangements already made.

Register online at Maranatha.org or over the phone.

Contact Information

Phone: (916) 774-7700

Fax: (916) 774-7701

Email: volunteer@maranatha.org

Website: www.maranatha.org

Mailing Address:

Maranatha Volunteers International
990 Reserve Drive
Suite 100
Roseville, CA 95678

Canadian Payments Only:

Maranatha Volunteers International
Association
c/o V06494C
PO Box 6494, Station Terminal
Vancouver, BC V6B 6R3

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CAP \$12



All cotton and easy to pack, this cap is sure to keep the sun off your face on a mission project and at home.

HARD HAT \$11



This MSA V-Gard hard hat, with Staz-On suspension, ensures excellent shock absorption on the job site.

WATER BOTTLE \$15



The autospout water bottle by Contigo features a one-touch-button spout for convenient one-handed drinking. It also has a spout shield to protect the spout from debris and dirt when not in use—perfect for the project site.

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*All confirmed volunteers on an International Maranatha Open Team receive a Maranatha t-shirt as part of their participation fee.