



Frequently Asked Questions

1. About the Trip

Q. How do I apply?

A. Please email Kristen at kostrem@mnaog.org with interest in joining the team.

You can then download the following documents at mnbtg.org/projects, and email them to kostrem@mnaog.org, mail to Bridging the Gap 1315 Portland Ave S. Minneapolis, MN 55404, or bring them to the informational meeting on March 6th.

- 2017 Panama Application and Pastor Reference
- MAPS Insurance Adult or MAPS Insurance Student
- 2017 Acknowledgement of Liability
- 2017 Panama Flight Payment Agreement
- 2017 Chaperone Agreement (If applicable)

Q. What will we do?

A. We will partner with and support missionaries Gerritt and Tara Kenyon as they host the 5th- city-wide "Illumina" girls conference and the first-ever one-day boys conference! Volunteer help will be utilized in many ways, including registration, set-up/tear down, greeting, security, ushering, group stage performances, ministry through prayer, facilitating "Fun Zone" activities (i.e. nail painting, crafts, face painting, photo booth, and hair fun), and more. You will also be able to serve in high schools and junior high schools, helping with school assemblies that include short skits or human videos, individuals sharing personal testimonies, prayer ministry, and personally inviting young women to attend the Conference. Above all we are going to serve God excellently and as part of a large team!

Q. Are there any requirements?

A. You must have a personal relationship with God. We require a pastoral reference acknowledging this relationship. You will also need to submit a background check if you do not already hold a MAPS volunteer card. You will need to have a passport prior to trip. Please take note of the following important dates:

- (All meeting will take place at the District Office (1315 Portland Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55404)
 - March 6th - Informational Meeting (6:30PM-8:30PM dessert & coffee provided)
 - March 20th - Application & Down Payment Deadline
 - **April 10th - \$1200 total will be due.** Failure to meet the first payment deadline may result in a higher trip cost due to increase in flight amount.
 - June 12th - Tentative Planning Meeting (6:30PM-8:30PM dessert & coffee provided)
 - July 10th - Packing Meeting (6:30PM-8:30PM dessert & coffee provided) and final monies due
 - Trip Dates: July 24th – August 1st

Q. Are students under 18 able to go?

Yes! Students ages 14-17 are invited to join us with the supervision of an approved, adult team member at a maximum ratio of 1 adult to 4 students. Both the adult and student(s) must sign a student to chaperone agreement signifying their agreement to this oversight relationship. Students would be unable to be part of the trip without an adult chaperone.

Q. Who are the missionaries we will partner with?

A. Gerritt and Tara Kenyon are Assemblies of God missionaries to Panama. For more information, visit their website at www.elrefuge.com and <http://www.life4life.net>.

Q. How much does it cost? What all does it include? When do I need to pay?

A. The trip cost is approximately \$2100. This includes your flight, food, lodging, ground transportation, MAPS insurance, ministry costs, covering extra-baggage costs for carrying conference supplies to Panama, and a tour day! Personal snacks, souvenirs, and food purchased during flight are on your own. The Application and Down payment of \$250 is due on March 20th. The second installment of \$1,200 to cover airfare is due April 10th, and the final payment is due July 10th. This trip is tax deductible, and all money submitted is non-refundable. Please turn in \$250 with application to the District Office and all other monies to your local church by the appropriate deadlines. If other would like to give monetary gifts towards your trip, please have them include your name in the memo of any checks sent to your church.

Q. Will there be training? When is the training?

A. There will be tentative planning meetings on June 12th and a mandatory packing meeting on July 10th for training and discussing trip details and packing conference items into bags to bring down. Each team member should plan to carry personal items in carry-on bags and provide 1 to 2 checked bags (depending on the airline's allowance per ticket) for carrying conference supplies.

Q. Is this trip just for women and girls?

A. No! Especially with this year involving the first one-day boys conference, we are greatly in need of both men and women to join the team! We host public school assemblies with both boys and girls in attendance. The presentations and prayer ministry (altar calls or response time after the presentations) is hosted by both men and women volunteers. For the conference, male assistance is very-much needed for set-up/tear-down in the convention center, potential group performances, security during the event, and more.

Q. What should I expect?

A. While Gerritt and Tara highly value your time and want to make the week's itinerary as comfortable as possible for you, please be ready for long hours of work in preparing for and executing the conference. Meal times also may vary throughout the week.

2. Travel

Q. Do I need a visa?

A. No, you will not need to obtain a visa.

Q. Can I find my own way using different airport, frequent flyer miles, or employee discount?

A. Please contact trip coordinators Kristen Ostrem (kostrem@mnaog.org) individually.

Q. Where will we stay?

A. Gerritt and Tara choose a nice hotel in Panama City, adequate to hosting the large group coming from different US states. You may suggest your preferred roommates on your application.

Q. Do I need an adaptor or convertor?

A. You will not need a convertor. Electric system is the same.

Q. How can I contact home while I am there?

A. Some cell phone companies will work with a fee. Contact your provider for this information. Hotel will have internet, but may be slow.

Q. What is the best way to transfer money? How much is suggested?

A. There is no need to transfer money. The American dollar is the currency, and cash and credit cards can be used. Check with your bank and/or credit card provider to be sure of any potential fees and to notify them that you will be out of the country. We suggest bringing money for snacks and souvenirs.

3. Health

Q. Do I need pre-trip shots?

A. You may ask your health professional, however, we do not require any pre-trip shots.

Q. Is it safe to drink the water?

A. The hotel water is safe. We suggest bringing a plastic water bottle to refill. We will also have opportunity to purchase snacks and bottled water in a grocery or convenience store.

Q. I have asthma. Will air quality/ altitude play a factor?

A. Smog is similar to Las Angeles, California. Please consult your medical professional if this is a concern.

Q. Do I need travel insurance?

A. Travel insurance through MAPS is included in your trip cost. You will receive a list of this coverage. Additional travel insurance is offered but not mandatory. Any costs that may be incurred outside of the offered insurances are the responsibility of the individual traveler.

4. Additional Resources

Q. More about panama

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/pm.html>

Q. More about the Missionaries

A. <http://www.life4life.net>
www.elrefuge.com

Q. More about the Trip

A. <http://mnbtg.org/projects>

We are so excited to have you part!

Please contact trip coordinator Kristen Ostrem (kostrem@mnaog.org) or with any further questions.