

# Operation Hope Medical Missions: Volunteer Interest Guide



OUR MISSION IS TO USE THE GIFTS AND  
RESOURCES THAT HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO US TO  
SERVE THE POOR BY PROVIDING FREE MEDICAL  
AND SURGICAL CARE

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*In the same way, let your light shine before  
others, so that they may see your good works and  
give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

*Matthew 5:16*

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## Introduction

Operation Hope Medical Missions (OHMM) was formed in October of 2018. OHMM is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Christian organization. OHMM was founded with the purpose of increasing the number of yearly surgical brigades at San Benito Jose Medical Center.

Our mission is to help the indigent in Comayagua, Honduras. We are dedicated to serving the underserved and underprivileged families by offering free medical and surgical care. The patients we serve at San Benito Jose Medical Center have limited or no access to healthcare services. Patients are often sick and in pain and cannot afford to be treated for their various medical problems. Once a year, a team of approximately thirty volunteers finance their own trip to Honduras to operate on as many patients as possible.

It is my hope that this information will answer some of your basic questions about our mission. I appreciate you taking the time to review the information, and hopefully you will consider joining us on a future brigade. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Matt Miller, DNAP, CRNA, ARNP  
Founder and President  
Operation Hope Medical Missions  
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## The Volunteer Process

### WHAT

Operation Hope Medical Missions is planning a surgical mission to Comayagua, Honduras. Our mission is to use the gifts and resources that have been given to us to serve the poor. All medical and surgical care is provided **free of charge** to patients.

### WHEN

Currently, our organization is traveling once a year, typically in the spring.

### WHERE

Saint Benedict Joseph Medical Center (San Benito José Centro Médico), also known as SBJ in Comayagua, Honduras.

### WHO CAN VOLUNTEER

Our team consists of specialized healthcare individuals. We are in need of surgeons, anesthesiologists, CRNAs, circulating RNs, pre-op RNs, PACU RNs, scrub nurses, RNFAs, CSFAs, surgical assistants, and surgical technologists. A very limited number of nonmedical team members will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

## **Your Responsibility as a Team Member**

### **Commitment**

Our team is comprised of a limited number of specialized individuals. All team members are equally important to the success of our mission. Once you make a commitment and are accepted as a team member, we are counting on you to fulfill your commitment. Carefully consider your choice to volunteer with our organization.

**Do not take this commitment lightly**

If you agree to join us and then change your mind, you can seriously jeopardize the success and effectiveness of our team. Patients will have already been pre-screened, the hospital reserved and staffed, preparations made, and supplies paid for and gathered. Your decision to cancel can have a negative effect on our patients and committed team members, and this is why we appreciate your efforts to be fully on board.

### **Assignments**

The mission leader will make team assignments for the week. We will take into consideration each team member's strengths and experience. Please let us know your background and your preferred place to work (i.e. PACU, Pre-op, OR, etc.). We will make every attempt to place you in your desired position but it cannot be guaranteed. The needs of the team will determine each member's position.

### **What makes a good volunteer?**

**Flexibility:** Mission work will be different from how you work currently. Being flexible to adapt to different circumstances, equipment, and situations is vital for the success of the team and the mission itself.

**Honesty:** It is also important to be honest and upfront with your experience when expressing interest. You do not want to place any of our patients in harm's way.

**Be ready to work:** While we usually do an optional excursion at the end of the trip, know this is not a vacation. There is a vast need and a lot of work to be done and the team does work hard while we are there.

Teamwork: This group truly functions as a team. Being willing to help each other out, even if it is not your role, is an important part of being a volunteer.

### **Some things you will need**

1. Passport
2. License/certification information
3. Secure the time off from work and arrange childcare/pet care prior to committing.
4. Registration fee of \$500 (when accepted this fee is non-refundable and non-transferrable should you choose to no longer go on the trip)
5. Means to pay for your trip costs (breakdown is in the next section)
6. Other vaccinations: We recommend that you make sure you are familiar with the CDC recommendations, that can be found [HERE](#). Some of these vaccinations are 2 doses so you will need to plan for this a couple of months before the trip date. Other travel suggestions can be found [HERE](#)

## **Your Expenses and Fees**

Each team member is responsible for paying for their passport, vaccinations, travel medications, hotel, food/tips, and flight. Your airline ticket will be your biggest expense and obviously this varies. The registration fee of \$500 covers food and tips for the week and helps offset the costs of surgical supplies, anesthesia medications, and shipping of supplies. The hotel will be approximately \$285.00 for the week with double occupancy and approximately \$440.00 for single occupancy.

You will pay your hotel bill while in Comayagua. Most major credit cards are accepted by the hotel. They will provide you with a receipt for your accounting purposes.

Finally, if a post-surgical mission trip excursion is planned (such as visiting Roatan) and you choose to participate, all expenses will be your responsibility.

**Anticipate total personal costs of \$1,700 - \$2,000 for the week  
(not including the optional post-surgical mission excursion)**

### **An Important Note About Security**

The United States Department of State continues to issue a travel advisory for travelers to Honduras as it has for many years. With that being said, we need to constantly be aware of changing conditions.

Your safety is our **PRIORITY**. The hotel and hospital are enclosed campuses and have security. We will adhere to safety guidelines at all times. For the safety of everyone, we will remain together as a team at the hospital and hotel. No one is to wander off for any reason. There will be **NO** walking off the grounds of the hospital or the hotel, and **NO** other behaviors which could jeopardize the group. Trips to local orphanages and downtown may be taken only if ok'd by the Team Leader. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding in keeping everyone safe.

Team members will be registered with the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (a service of the US Department of State) and we will be advised of any changing or urgent conditions.

**\*Before you plan to join us, please be sure that you are comfortable with these conditions and limitations. \***

## Our Host Hospital

Saint Benedict Joseph Medical Center, Comayagua, Honduras

Also called San Benito José Centro Médico (SBJ)

<http://www.sbjhonduras.com> SBJ website

<https://www.facebook.com/OperationHopeMedicalMissions> OHMM Facebook page

<https://vimeo.com/148147434> SBJ an 11 min informational video

The idea for SBJ was conceived in 1999, and the structure was ready for patients in 2004. Its special purpose was to serve the poor of Comayagua and the surrounding areas. The facility hosts volunteer surgical missions throughout the year. It has four air-conditioned operating rooms with anesthesia equipment that has been donated from a variety of sources.

SBJ is administrated by the Franciscan Mission Outreach and directed by Dr. Angela Rivera along with her staff. They have had very successful Medical and Surgical Missions since 2004.

Past surgical missions have included General Surgery, Orthopedics, Gynecology, and Urology.

In addition to Dr. Rivera and her staff working with the patients, there are a few staff members that are from Honduras that will be working in the autoclave and instrument prep area. They have many years of experience in working at SBJ with these missions and are able to answer most of your questions about supplies and equipment.

Translators will be available in the evaluation rooms, Pre-op, OR, PACU, and wherever they are needed.

**The patients that are served at SBJ are:**

- Families with income of less than \$200 per month
- Single mothers and their children
- Senior citizens with no family support
- The homeless, handicapped, and mentally ill
- Residents of homes for children and the elderly
- Manual laborers without professional degrees or titles
- The malnourished, abused, and neglected
- Those who lack adequate housing
- Those who live in remote rural areas, engage in subsistence farming for survival, and members of indigenous tribes

## Operation Hope Medical Missions

Operation Hope Medical Missions (OHMM) is a volunteer organization with no paid positions. We are dedicated to providing free health care to the underserved people of Comayagua, Honduras in cooperation with The Franciscan Mission Outreach and St Benedict Joseph Medical Center. We coordinate with medical professionals to offer their expertise and services for the poor on a week-long mission. Our goal is to provide professional medical/surgical services and care, free of charge to the poorest of the poor, who would otherwise be unable to provide for themselves.

### How your family and friends can contribute to our mission

Operation Hope Medical Missions operates as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization so all donations are tax deductible.

Donations are accepted through:

Operation Hope Medical Missions Facebook page using the donate button (we receive 100% of your donation)

Venmo:

@Operation-Hope-MedicalMissions



Our website: [www.operationhopemedicalmissions.org](http://www.operationhopemedicalmissions.org)

It takes many specialized team members to provide these services to the poor. We appreciate you being a part of this team because we are only able to continue this work, thanks to your generosity.