

1|Packing for Haiti

Read this dress code carefully to avoid confusion, offense, or embarrassment in a different culture.

Teaching in Haiti is a highly respected profession. As missionaries and teachers here, we feel it is very important to our ministry, our reputations and our witness that we dress modestly and respectfully. It really has nothing to do with what we feel is acceptable to wear, but what Haitian culture feels is acceptable.

Women

We ask that women wear dresses or skirts that fall below the knee at **all** times. Sleeveless tops are fine. Sandals or closed-toe shoes are fine too. Please no shorts, pants, skirts or skinny straps at any time. Nothing too short, low cut, or too tight-fitting.

Men

During school hours, working in or around the school, we ask that men wear pants or slacks (no jeans) and button-down shirts or polos. We also ask that they wear closed-toe shoes on school grounds. No printed t-shirts, please (logos, high schools, etc.). In the afternoons/evenings - shorts, pants, t-shirts and sandals are fine for men.

People working construction

Modest work clothes are acceptable - please keep them all on even if it's hot. (!)

For Church

Haitians dress to the nines for church. Plan to dress up, too (no jeans, tennis shoes, t-shirts for men; nothing short for women). We just want to avoid problems or wrong impressions to people in our community. Thanks for your help and understanding.

Plan to wear some outfits 2-3 times or more. Planning to mix-and-match is smart.

Checked Bag Packing List:

This is stuff that will mostly go in your checked luggage. You'll also be packing Sonlight items in your checked luggage, so don't pack tons!

- ~2 Khaki or Black Dress Pants & Belt (Guys)
- ~3 Polo-type Dress Shirts (Guys)
- ~3 Knee-length or longer Dresses and/or Skirt outfits (Ladies)
- ~2-3 Work Clothes (they may get paint on them)
- Dress Shoes (close-toed)
- Socks/Underwear
- 1 Set Pajamas (if you'll want more than the one set in your carry-on)
- 1-2 pair Shorts/capris (approx. knee-length)
- ~2-3 non-work t-shirts
- Work gloves (if you don't have any, let me know)
- Bathing Suit (probably won't use, modest 1 piece only); You can opt to swim in clothes if we swim
- Other necessary toiletries
- Money for Souvenirs (\$40-50 – don't do too much. The more you take, the more you can lose.)
- Flashlight w/batteries (power sometimes turns off after dark)
- Bug Spray & Sun Screen
- Wet Wipes
- FOR HCO: Please pack 1 roll of toilet paper & EITHER a plastic jar of peanut butter or a plastic jar of jelly (any kind)

Keep in mind that electricity is not a given in Haiti, so pack accordingly. (Consider if you REALLY need a flat iron or hair dryer for 1 week.)

You can choose to bring an extra pair of shoes or other extra items (small clothing items, toiletries etc.) to leave behind in Haiti as a donation, but you **must ask Sonlight before giving anything away.*

See Carry-On & Travel Wear on Back.

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Organizing Your Carry-On:

In your carry-on (about the size of a normal backpack) & personal item (purse or small bag):

- 1 change of street clothes & 1 change of dressy clothes
- 1-2 changes of underwear
- 1 set Pajamas
- Shower shoes – you will want flip flops to wear in the shower, esp b/c the floor can be dusty
- Bible & Journal
- Wristwatch & Battery Powered Alarm Clock (*some* cell phones work there; check if your provider has a partner company in Haiti)
- Passport & Other IDs, money, etc.
- Snacks for airport travel
- Reading material & team folder
- Empty water bottle
- Camera if you're bringing one.
- Malaria Medication & other personal meds if you have any
- Toiletries in small bottles & in quart-size baggie, no aerosol (3.4 oz max) – toothpaste, shampoo, soap, etc.
- Bug spray & Sunscreen (small bottles again, no aerosol)
- Hand sanitizer optional – *Please* only use in private—can come off as condescending to people there – “You’re so dirty & I don’t like touching you.” Plus, Sonlight has plenty of soap.

Travel Wearing:

- Tennis shoes (to be your work shoes, too)
- Casual clothes (not sloppy work clothes, not fancy church clothes)
- No belt
- No metal jewelry (except stud earrings if you need to)
- Money/passport pouch if you want