



# HAITI ALLIES

## ***SPARE/Video Free Trip to Haiti Contest Details***

***Thanks so much for your interest in winning a free trip with us to Haiti!***

*This contest has been put together particularly with teenagers in mind, and we are hoping this will be a fun and meaningful activity for youth groups and school classes of all kinds.*

*That being said, ANY individual or group can participate in this contest, with the one exception that the prize for “best video production” cannot be won by a professional videographer.*

*The best thing about this contest is that it is a fun and playful way to do something beautiful and just—to help provide food and education for some of the poorest people on earth, and to do so in a way that moves beyond charity from a distance and that creates an opportunity to actually communicate with the people who are receiving the funds raised. To learn more about our Haitian partners and the work they are doing to make a better life for themselves and their country, poke around the rest of this website and contact us if you have questions.*

## **Haiti Allies Facebook Video Contest Details**

***Please read the following contest details carefully, and then if you have any questions please contact Haiti Allies trip organizer Bryan Sirchio. He can be reached at:***

Website: [www.haitiallies.org](http://www.haitiallies.org)

Haiti Allies Facebook Page

Email: [bsirch@sirchio.com](mailto:bsirch@sirchio.com)

Phone: 608-577-8716

**Note:** The trips to Haiti awarded as prizes in this contest are defined as follows and subject to the following criteria;

- The free trip is for one person from each entering group, and refers to participation in one of Haiti Allies regularly scheduled “Journeys of Mutual Exchange.” As noted bellow, additional trips for other members of your group can be earned by raising additional funds. If a group raises enough money, it would be possible for a separate trip to be put together specifically for that entire group alone, but again, the trips awarded for winners in this contest refer to regularly scheduled Haiti Allies Journeys of Mutual Exchange. These trips typically take place in early August and late January or early February.
- The free trip begins at the “gateway city” departure city for our group in Florida (usually either Ft. Lauderdale or Miami). The free trip begins in Florida and includes round trip airfare from Florida to Port au Prince, Haiti. Winners must pay for their own trip to and from the gateway city in Florida. Since our groups are often made up of folks from many different parts of the U.S., we meet in Florida to begin the trip together.
- Persons selected to travel to Haiti with Haiti Allies must be at least 14 years old and be approved for this trip by Haiti Allies leadership. A short essay and application will need to be submitted and accepted by Haiti Allies. Haiti Allies leadership will have final word as to whether or not an applicant passes our criteria for participation in a Journey of Mutual Exchange. These trips are fun, but they are also emotionally intense. People will experience first hand the reality of some of the poorest communities on earth. We are careful to make sure that our trip model is the right fit for those who express an interest in joining us. For more information about these trips, please read about them on our website or contact Haiti Allies trip leader Bryan Sirchio.

## **How to Enter and Win A Free Trip To Haiti!**

### **1. You create your own video**

The video does not need to be polished or elaborate. It should not be longer than 5 minutes. A simple video taken with an i-phone and no additional edits is fine! The content does not need to be a “music video” even though that is what our Haitian friends chose to do. It can feature another art form—dance, comedy, a brief poem or reading or speech. The idea is for it to be either fun and playful or a sharing of gifts and talents, or both. Be imaginative, relaxed, and have fun with it. Our Haitian friends will love seeing what you’ve put together. It could be as simple as your group singing along with a favorite song of yours. Keep the content appropriate—people of all ages will be watching it, and Haiti Allies is all about dignity, respect, compassion, equality, and justice.

## **2. Create a Facebook Go Fund Me Campaign to raise the contest entrance fee**

Once you’ve finished your video, you create a “Go Fund Me” Facebook Page, upload your video to it, and begin a campaign to raise the entrance fee minimum total of \$500. Every penny of this \$500 will go to support a meal program and a school in one of the poorest communities of Haiti’s capital city. If you win a free trip, you will actually visit this school and meet the people you are helping to feed and educate. You do not have to limit your fundraising to the Facebook campaign, though this is a fun and easy way to keep track of your progress and it is an easy way for people to make donations. If contributors would like to make a larger gift and receive a tax deduction, they can donate through the donate tab on the Haiti Allies website ([www.haitiallies.org](http://www.haitiallies.org)), let us know that their gift is for your particular group’s Video Contest campaign (they can indicate this in the forms provided when they make their contribution online), and they will receive an acknowledgment for their tax records. Their gift will be fully tax deductible.

**3. Once you raise the minimum of \$500,** you collect and send that amount (or more!) and a copy of your video to us at Haiti Allies. There are a few ways to do this.

The best way to send the money you raise is to mail us a check for the total you have raised. Make your check payable to Haiti Allies, be sure to note who you are and that this check is for your entrance into the contest, and mail it to: *Haiti Allies Video Contest/P.O. Box 45236/ Madison, WI/ 53744-5236.*

**Note:** If for some reason your group does not raise the total of \$500 by the contest deadline of Nov. 1, 2016, we will be thrilled to receive whatever funds you did raise, and you will have had fun making the video and contributing to something meaningful and life-giving.

### **3 possible ways to send us your video:**

- You can post your video on your own You Tube or vimeo account and email us the link to it.
- You can send us the video online by using a large file sharing account such as Dropbox or We Transfer.
- You can save your video on a flash drive and mail it to us at: *Haiti Allies Video Contest/P.O. Box 45236/ Madison, WI/ 53744-5236.*

**4. We'll upload your video to our Facebook Page** so you're officially in the contest and notify you when it's on our page. Then you and your group can start communicating directly on our Facebook Page with our friends in Haiti. They are looking forward to getting to know you and to becoming friends with you. One of the purposes of this contest, in addition to raising funds to help support our Haitian partners financially, is to provide a safe, fun, and meaningful way for young people in our network in Haiti to be in relationship with young people here in the U.S. This is a unique opportunity to enter into direct relationship (with the oversight of Haiti Allies) with some of the world's most materially destitute people and to learn about their lives and to share our lives with them. This is one of the ways in which Haiti Allies is trying to put a human face on the realities of poverty that can often seem so distant, removed, and impersonal.

### ***There are 6 ways to win a free trip to Haiti in this contest:***

**1. A fundraising race:** You can win by being **the first individual or group to raise \$3,000**. The simple truth is that our Haitian partners urgently need funds to keep their school and programs open and to feed the students. *So speed and enthusiasm* will be rewarded.

**2. The best participation:** Some of you will love to get **involved on the communication and participation end** once your video is on our page and you can communicate with our Haitian friends. When the **Nov. 1, 2016 deadline** arrives, we'll look at the page and our Haitian partners will choose the group they feel had the most consistent and meaningful participation. That group will win one free trip. If you want to aim for the best participation then the sooner you post your video the better!

**3. Best video production:** Some of you will have a person (or several) who loves **the technology of making a good video**. Our Haitian friends will choose the video that they

think displays the greatest video production value. Again, the **deadline is November 1, 2016**, and the individual or group that submitted this video will win a free trip to Haiti with us.

**Special Bonus Prize Here!** The professional videographer who did the Haiti Allies videos has offered to meet with the group that wins the best production prize and give a workshop on video production and help you create a high quality video featuring a topic or focus of your group's choosing. Haiti Allies will cover the costs of sending the videographer to your location to work on this video. If you are a church youth group, for example, this could be a promotional video for your congregation. If you are a school class, this could be a video in support of a school, club, teacher, or social issue.

**4. Most talented artist:** Some of you will have a group **or a person with some serious artistic talent of some kind—music, dance, any artistic expression you can feature on video.** Our Haitian friends and your friends will be able to vote online for what they consider to be the best performance on the videos featured, and the winner of this talent contest will win a free trip.

**5. Raise \$4,000 or more by Nov. 1, 2016:** Any group that raises a total of \$4,000 or more by Nov. 1, 2016 wins one free trip to Haiti. You can raise this on your Go Fund Me Facebook page or with additional fundraisers (car washes, bake sales, etc.) If groups would like to send more than one member of their team on a free trip, additional trips can be earned in exchange for each additional \$2,000 raised beyond the first \$4,000.

**Note:** It is possible of course that the group that wins the race to the first \$3,000 will also raise more than \$4,000 total. This one group only will then win 2 free trips to Haiti—one for being the first to reach \$3,000 and another for raising \$4,000 or more. This same group, like all others, could then win another free trip with each additional \$2,000 raised beyond the \$4,000. You could send your whole group this way if you raise enough and could conceivably schedule a separate trip with Haiti Allies to take a group entirely from your own context.

## Questions about any of this?

Email or call Haiti Allies leader Bryan Sirchio and he will be glad to help with any of these details. He can be reached at 608-577-8716 or [bsirch@sirchio.com](mailto:bsirch@sirchio.com) or by emailing us through our website contact form.

**Okay, the contest begins as soon as you are ready!** Make your video, have fun, raise that initial \$500 and dive in! The sooner you start the better chance you have of reaching the initial prize of being the first group to raise \$3,000.

**Like our Facebook Page right away** and check there for updates and details on the contest. We will also put updates on our website from time to time, but the Haiti Allies Facebook Page will be the go to spot for everything connected to this contest.

***Deadlines:***        ***Nov. 1, 2016*** for the most meaningful communication/participation

***Nov. 1, 2016*** for the most talented artist featured in your video

***Nov. 1, 2016*** to raise the minimum \$4,000 needed to automatically win a free trip.

**Winners will be announced within the first 2 weeks of November, 2016** and will be eligible for the Jan.-Feb. 2017 trip or the August 2017 trip or any other scheduled trip in 2018.