

Information for Teachers



Prepare your class for the Real Life Exhibit

1. What to expect: The Real Life Exhibit is intended for students over the age of 10. The experiential nature of the content can be deeply emotional.

Your group will step into eight places Medical Teams International's staff and volunteers serve with international partners:

- A portrayal of the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan ("Yolanda") in the Philippines;
- A room with a 25-foot tsunami wave;
- A Ugandan camp for refugees from neighboring countries;
- A Haitian earthquake site and a tent camp where homeless Haitians are living;
- A Cambodian village where mothers and children struggle to survive and thrive;
- A Mexican garbage dump;
- A Guatemalan community where children die from preventable illnesses;
- A Mobile Dental unit where children and adults in our local communities receive care.

2. Previewing the exhibit: We strongly encourage you to visit the exhibit before taking your group through it. Our website, www.medicalteams.org/exhibit, gives information regarding scheduling a preview visit.

3. Promoting hope: While the exhibit demonstrates the needs of people around the world, it also promotes hopefulness by showing examples of what Medical Teams is doing to address those needs. Please encourage an attitude of hope and a desire to positively influence the world in your students before and during the visit.

4. Experiential Learning: Several places in the exhibit allow visitors to interact with what they see:

- **Leave a message:** Two walls display drawings made by children in the disaster zones as well as their stories. You are invited to leave a message for the children—a thought, a message of hope, a prayer.
- In a few places, you are invited to **experience** real life by walking into a Ugandan hut, lifting a jerry can of water, stepping into a latrine, etc.
- **Make a difference:** In the final room in the exhibit, ten market stalls help visitors decide how they *will* make a difference. They can take a card that explains the practical steps they can take to bring hope and healing to people they met in the exhibit.

5. Who we are: Medical Teams International provides medical and dental care, humanitarian aid, and holistic development programs to all people in need, regardless of religion, nationality, gender, or race. We respond to disasters around the world—and here at home—by sending teams of volunteer medical professionals and medical supplies to care for the sick and injured. We also mobilize long-term health promotion initiatives, collaborating with established partners within each community to ensure that our programs have a sustainable impact.

Our exhibit reflects who we are: a Christian humanitarian aid organization. Our mission statement is visible; we mention God in a few of the text panels; one of market stalls includes options for how people can pray for those affected by disaster, conflict, and poverty. These are pieces of information about who we are, but certainly no person going through the exhibit will be required to participate in any religious activity. If you have questions or concerns about this, email exhibit@medicalteams.org, or call our exhibit staff at 503-624-1216.

- 6. Adult supervision:** Your group should include at least **one adult for every 12 students**. Our exhibit volunteers will serve as greeters, hosts, and discussion facilitators, but they are not responsible for supervising your group. Chaperones should be instructed to stay with their group and ensure that they are having a meaningful experience.
- 7. Large student groups:** Due to space limitations in the exhibit, we will send the students through in smaller groups of 15-20 individuals at five- to ten-minute intervals. Students should remain on the bus until it is their turn to start the tour. Additionally, dividing the students into groups before you arrive makes things much easier for our volunteers.
- 8. Reflection and discussion:** At the end of the exhibit there is a Reflection Room where you will gather before leaving the exhibit. One of our trained facilitators will lead a discussion with the students to help them process what they have experienced in the exhibit. This is also a time to ask questions. If you wish to lead this time with the students yourself, please let us know prior to your arrival.
- 9. How long will it take?** Typically, it takes about 45 minutes to go through the exhibit. This is followed by about a 30-minute reflection session, mentioned above. So, an overall time of 1-1/2 hours is usually ample. If your group is large, more overall time may be needed to allow for a staggered starting of smaller groups.
- 10. Facilities & Policies:** The exhibit has restrooms and drinking fountains. It is heated but not air-conditioned. No food or beverages are allowed in the exhibit. In addition, we have no room for backpacks or jackets; please keep those on the bus.
- 11. Directions:** We are located at **14150 SW Milton Court, Tigard, OR 97224**. When you arrive at our building, follow the Real Life Exhibit signs to our second driveway and the exhibit entrance. Please have buses park and drop off students on the street in front of the exhibit, not in the parking lot.
- 12. Send us your comments and share your ideas:** After you and your group tour the exhibit, please let us know about your experience. Send suggestions, comments (yours and your group's), lesson plans, and project ideas to exhibit@medicalteams.org. We appreciate your input!