



Frequently Asked Questions

What is a child sponsor?

A child sponsor is an individual, couple, family, Sunday school class, etc., who has decided to personally invest in the life of a child in need. You can build a relational and prayerful connection with your child while helping to financially support his or her well-being.

Does my child directly receive the money?

When you make a sponsorship payment, the money goes to the ministry that your child participates in and is combined with the money of other sponsors. This provides the opportunity for the physical, educational, and spiritual needs of the children and keeps these programs running. However, special donations like birthday and Christmas money do go directly to your child. If you give more than the suggested \$25 amount for these special gifts, most if not all funds will be used for gifts and any remaining funds will either go to their family to use or go directly to the child.

How much of the \$40 goes to administrative support?

\$6 is kept in a special account for administration costs and for emergency needs at the orphanage, daycare, or school.

How long do I sponsor my child?

Many of the children have experienced little consistency in their lives, so we would love for you to continue sponsorship for as many years as you are able and as long as the child is in the program.

However, we understand circumstances can arise, so if you are no longer able to continue sponsorship, please let us know immediately. Also, a child's circumstances could change, and they may leave the program. Should this happen, we will inform you.

Can I visit my child?

You may join one of the many teams SCORE sends to the Dominican Republic. You can also visit your child while in the DR as a tourist, but you must contact our home office to arrange a visit.

Can I write my child a letter?

We definitely encourage this! Writing your child letters is the best way to connect with them. Here are some tips, suggestions and important guidelines:

- Keep your letters short and simple
- Share about your family, favorite activities, the area where you live and/or your likes and hobbies
- Share about your relationship with Jesus
- Be an encouragement in any way you can; let your child know you are praying for them
- Do not elaborate on material possessions (such as the size of your home or about your car) since they live in poverty
- Do not "open the door" to your child by inviting them to visit you or even by asking what kind of gift they want.
- Do not give out any of your personal information such as your address, telephone number, email, or social media information.
- Be careful about using slang or colloquialisms that may not translate well.



Birthday and Christmas Gifts

To give a birthday or Christmas gift, please go to our website and click on the **Donate** tab and select **Sponsor a Child**. There simply fill out the form including your child's name and program, and select that it is a birthday or Christmas gift. We suggest giving \$25 for birthday/Christmas gifts. A SCORE staff member in the country will use these funds to purchase a gift for your child. If you give more than the suggested \$25 amount for these special gifts, most if not all funds will be used for gifts and any remaining funds will either go to their family to use or directly to the child. It is quite rare to have leftover funds, though.

You will be sent an email reminder about your child's upcoming birthday and about when Christmas gift donations should be sent in by should you wish to give.

Letters

As a sponsor, you will receive a minimum of two correspondences a year from your child – one around Christmas and one around Easter or sometime in the summer. This may be a card, a special craft, an update or a picture of your child. We encourage you to write accordingly and send a letter at least twice a year. A SCORE staff member will translate your letter into Spanish. Please send your letters to childsponsor@scoreintl.org or by mail to:

SCORE International
ATTN: Child Sponsorship
PO Box 9994
Chattanooga, TN 37412

You may include small items in your letters if you wish, such as photographs, artwork, stickers, coloring sheets, small bracelets or whatever might fit inside a normal mailing envelope. Please make sure to use correct postage should you send a heavier letter or include anything above that exceeds the weight limit of one postage stamp. Please use the labels included in your profile packet and include one inside any letter you send.





Packages

Many people ask to send gifts to their sponsored child; however, getting packages to your child can be rather tricky. We as an organization do not send packages directly to the Dominican Republic because of how expensive it is and because oftentimes things get lost in process to another country, get stuck in customs, or get sent back to the U.S. This means any physical gifts must be taken down by someone going to the Dominican Republic on one of our trips. That also means asking someone to give up precious space in their luggage. Because of this reason alone, we highly discourage packages. If you wish to get your child a gift, we suggest a special donation (primarily around their birthday or Christmas, but you may give a special donation whenever), and a SCORE staff member in the country will purchase a gift for your child. This is just a simpler process for you and for us.

If you do decide to send something, you should contact our office by email or phone **first**, and we will ask our upcoming groups if anyone would be willing to fit whatever you're sending in their luggage. Once we find someone willing to do that, we will connect you with that traveler so that you can mail your package directly to the traveler for them to pack and take. If you or your church are taking a trip to the Dominican Republic, you are more than welcome to bring a gift for your child or send it with the group going, provided someone is able to carry it in their luggage.

If you are sending your child a package, items must fit in a gallon size ziplock bag. Some small item suggestions are as follows:



- *Small Toys*: dolls, matchbox cars, stuffed animals, kazoos, yo-yos, harmonicas, jump ropes, bouncy balls, baseballs, dollar store treasures and trinkets
- *School Supplies*: pens, pencils and pencil sharpeners, erasers, crayons, markers, writing pads or paper, stickers, solar calculators, coloring books, composition books
- *Hygiene Items*: mild bar soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, lotion, washcloths, towels, comb
- *Items to Wear*: clothes, undergarments, shoes, sandals, ball caps, hair clips, toy jewelry
- *Other*: Spanish Bible, Spanish children's books, snacks, framed photo or photo album with pictures of your family or your visits with your sponsor child

Again, please **do not** mail your package to our PO Box. Please contact our office **first**. We will then connect you with a traveler, and you can send your package straight to them to prevent things getting lost in the mail and extra shipping costs.