

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 through one of our partnering programs.

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.

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

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Can I visit my child?

You may join one of the many teams that 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.

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 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.

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Can I write my child a letter (cont.)?

- 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.

How often will I hear from my sponsored child?

You will receive a minimum of two updates per year, one around Christmas and one around Easter or during the summer. These may include a card, photo, craft, or personal update from your child. We encourage you to respond and write to your child at least twice a year.

How do I send letters, and can I include small items?

You may email your letter to childsponsor@scoreintl.org or mail it to:

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

All letters are translated into Spanish by a SCORE staff member. You may include small, flat items inside a standard envelope, such as photos, stickers, coloring sheets, or small bracelets. Please:

- Use the labels included in your profile packet and include one label inside your envelope
- Ensure proper postage if your letter exceeds standard weight

Can I send a package to my sponsored child?

We understand the desire to send a special gift to your child. However, mailing packages directly to the Dominican Republic can be complicated. Shipping costs are high, and items are sometimes delayed, held in customs, lost, or returned. For this reason, SCORE does not ship packages internationally. Physical gifts must be carried by someone traveling on a SCORE trip, which depends on available luggage space.

What is the best way to give my child a gift?

We recommend giving a special donation, especially around your child's birthday or Christmas, though you may give at any time. A SCORE staff member in the Dominican Republic will purchase a thoughtful gift for your child on your behalf. This is the simplest and most reliable option for both you and your child.

What if I still would like to send a gift?

We understand the desire to send something special to your child. Because SCORE does not ship packages internationally, any physical gift must be carried by someone traveling to the Dominican Republic on a SCORE trip. If you would like to send a small package:

- Please contact our office first by email or phone.
- We will check with upcoming trip participants to see if someone is willing and able to carry your package in their luggage.

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What if I still would like to send a gift (cont.)?

- If space is available, we will connect you directly with that traveler so you can mail the package to them.

If you or your church are traveling to the Dominican Republic, you are welcome to bring a gift with you, provided there is room in the luggage. To make transportation manageable, all items must fit inside a gallon-sized ziplock bag.

What types of gifts are appropriate to give?

Small, practical, and age-appropriate items are best. Because gifts must fit inside a gallon-sized ziplock bag and be carried in luggage, simplicity is important.

Helpful categories include:

- Toys: small dolls, toy cars, balls, jump ropes, or other simple toys
- School supplies: pencils, crayons, notebooks, coloring books, markers
- Hygiene items: toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, deodorant
- Clothing & accessories: clothes, sandals, hats, hair clips, simple jewelry
- Encouraging items: a Spanish Bible, a Spanish children's book, or a small photo album

When choosing a gift, think practical, lightweight, and easy to pack. These types of items are both meaningful and manageable to deliver.

What if I have additional questions?

We are more than happy to help! If you have any questions about child sponsorship, letters, gifts, or special donations, please feel free to contact us:

Email: childsponsorship@scoreintl.org

Phone: 423.894.7111

Our team would be glad to assist you and provide any clarification you may need!