DENTAL MISSION TRIPS WITH INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL RELIEF

Short-term missions offer dental professionals and students a unique opportunity to provide dental care to underserved and vulnerable communities around the world.

The goal of International Medical Relief is to staff a fully functional dental clinic on every trip to provide free dental services for patients who have never had dental care. Volunteer dentists, hygienists, dental assistants, and dental students, plus highly interested non-dental volunteers all work together in our dental clinics to give our patients the care that they desperately need.

VOLUNTEER ROLES

DENTISTS
Dentists focus primarily on meeting the greatest needs of our patients: performing examinations and extractions, treating abscesses, and referring patients for suspected oral cancers. Our dentists also provide restorations, sealants, and fluoride treatments when possible. Our goal is far greater than simply treating acute dental needs today; our goal is to save teeth in the future by providing oral hygiene education and toothbrushes to our patients and educating local dental students wherever possible.

HYGIENISTS
Hygienists perform preliminary oral examinations and patient cleanings, apply fluoride treatments and sealants, and provide much needed oral hygiene instruction. For most patients, a dental cleaning in our clinic is the first they have ever had, and our hygienists do their best to make cleanings a positive experience.

DENTAL ASSISTANTS
Dental assistants are critical in providing chairside care during dental procedures. They perform a variety of duties including patient management, patient registration, charting, fluoride treatments, and support with instruments and sterilization. Patient comfort and peace of mind for family members are critical to the success of every dental clinic. Our dental assistants help create a peaceful atmosphere in our dental clinics and stay with patients and family members throughout their experience. Post-operative instruction is also a very important role of our dental assistants, as we want to ensure proper use of any medications and proper care of the area treated.

DENTAL AND PRE-DENTAL STUDENTS
For pre-dental and dental students, mission trips with IMR provide an amazing learning opportunity. Dental students receive hands-on residency experience under boarded general dentists, specialists, and oral surgeons, as well as local providers. Pre-dental students have the chance to work alongside and shadow our dentists, providing assistance in patient care. We encourage pre-dental and dental students to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to gain hands-on experience, see the world, and impact communities in need, one smile at a time.

For information on our upcoming trips, visit InternationalMedicalRelief.org
ABOUT IMR

IMR offers short-term assignments for medical and dental professionals, students, and non-medical volunteers to conduct medical and dental clinics that provide free, expert care and health education in areas where it is limited or difficult to obtain.

We make all arrangements for our volunteers, including transportation, lodging/meals, government permits, and clinic logistics. We secure equipment, supplies, and medicines from within the United States through partnerships with pharmaceutical and medical supply companies, hospitals, and other health and development organizations. We provide this service without compensation or discrimination, and irrespective of race, religion, creed, or political affiliation.

International Medical Relief operates using only 1.5% of income for administrative and fundraising costs, meaning more than 98 cents of every dollar donated is invested directly into our programs.

FROM AN IMR VOLUNTEER

“My IMR trips to both Cambodia and Madagascar influenced my pre-dental experience more than I could have ever imagined. I was able to assist with dental patients who had health issues that I would never see in the U.S. and I truly felt as if I was making a difference in their lives… IMR sparked a love for giving back to the community that I am absolutely positive that I will continue throughout my career!”

Cara Kennedy, University of Pittsburg | School of Dental Medicine

JOIN US ON A TRIP!

For questions or more information:
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