

2023-2024 GUIDELINES FOR WINGO MISSION FUNDS

To receive Wingo Funds for any mission trip or project, all volunteers must undergo a background check with the GBA. This requirement follows the mission sending agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention and is for the legal prudence of the GBA. No funds will be dispersed for any trip or project until the background screening requirements are complete, and payment has been received.

BACKGROUND SCREENING REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Volunteers must submit three references using the reference forms provided by the GBA. The references must be from individuals who are not family members of the volunteers and must be at least 21 years of age. One of the three references must be from the pastor of the church where the volunteer is a member. In cases where the church is without a pastor, a staff member or chairman of deacons may serve as a reference.
- 2) Volunteers must complete a personal interview questionnaire form provided by the GBA.
- 3) Volunteers under the age 18 are only required to submit reference forms and the personal interview questionnaire.
- 4) Volunteers who are older than 18 must have a background check through the company used by the GBA. A consent form will be provided for the volunteer to grant permission for the background check.
- 5) The volunteer will be responsible for paying the fee for the background check.
- 6) Volunteers are required to watch a child protection video provided by the GBA.
- 7) Volunteers are required to undergo background screening every four years with the GBA.
- 8) Churches participating in a mission trip other than a GBA led trip, shall conduct the background screening as outlined above. All background screening forms shall be maintained on file with the church. GBA will make available online background checks for churches. When a church has completed the background screening, an authorized representative of the church must sign a declaration statement provided by GBA, verifying that the background screening has been completed for every mission volunteer receiving Wingo Funds. Background screenings are valid for four years. In cases where a church receives a Church Scholarship (Multiple Scholarship), the same procedures must be followed along with a signed declaration statement to the GBA. Wingo funds will not be granted until such procedures are completed.

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS PROJECTS

Gibson Baptist Association (GBA) Volunteers and churches participating in international mission projects are eligible for financial assistance from the Wingo International Fund account. Scholarships from this account primarily seek to encourage and help GBA Churches and Volunteers (ages 15 and older or a student who has completed 9th grade) to participate in mission projects. The following guidelines apply:

- A. **Individual:** Funds are available to assist GBA "lay" persons who participate in their very first international project/trip. First time mission volunteers are eligible for a scholarship of up to \$600. GBA "lay" persons who participate in subsequent international projects/trips are eligible for a scholarship of up to \$500. (once per calendar year).
- B. **GBA Church Scholarship:** If a GBA Church coordinates and plans in consultation with GBA on an international mission project, that church is eligible for Church scholarship up to \$4,000 maximum. (Individual scholarships would not apply, however, the church must utilize stated formulas per volunteer, once per calendar year, GBA Volunteer requirements apply). Example: A church taking 4 lay people and a senior pastor on a subsequent mission project would receive up to \$2,800.
- C. **GBA Multiple Church:** Multiple GBA Churches which coordinate and plan together in consultation with GBA, are eligible for scholarship up to \$5,000 maximum. (Individual scholarships would not apply, however, they must utilize the stated formulas per volunteer, once per calendar year, and GBA Volunteer requirements apply).
- D. **Senior Pastor:** A GBA Senior Pastor who has never participated in an International Mission Project/trip is eligible for a scholarship up to \$1,200. A "first time" Senior Pastor Scholarship does not impact scholarship maximum amounts stated above. Subsequent international project/trip for Senior Pastor are eligible for scholarship of up to \$800. (once per calendar year and is included in maximum scholarship amounts stated above).
- E. **Ministerial Staff:** GBA Ministerial Staff (other than the Senior Pastor), who has never participated in a International Project/trip is eligible for scholarship up to \$800. A "first time" Ministerial Staff scholarship does not impact scholarship amounts listed above. Subsequent international project/trip are eligible for scholarship up to \$600 (once per calendar year and is included in maximum amounts stated above).

- F. Individuals and Churches requesting Wingo Funds must complete an application which is available from the GBA office, in a timely fashion (**Appendix 1**).
- G. Special requests not addressed in these guidelines may be submitted to the Send Team for consideration.
- H. GBA churches are also encouraged to support their members financially as they feel led to participate in International Mission Projects.

DISASTER RELIEF PROJECTS

- A. International disaster relief projects will qualify for travel assistance for GBA volunteers as listed above. However, for International Disaster Relief Projects, the minimum amount from this fund shall be \$500 for any volunteer from GBA, regardless of the number of trips/projects the volunteer may have participated in.
- B. Matching funds from the local church is encouraged.
- C. The maximum total contribution to volunteers from a single church for any specific project/trip travel assistance is \$2,000.
- D. USA disaster relief projects qualify for gasoline reimbursement for volunteers from GBA going to a disaster point as called upon by the GBA or TBC.
- E. An allocation of up to \$1,000 may be given to any area where a disaster has occurred. The gift and amount is to be determined by the Send Team of the association.

NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS PROJECTS

Gibson Baptist Association (GBA) Volunteers and churches participating in North America Mission Projects/trips are eligible for financial assistance from the Wingo North American Fund account. Scholarships from this account primarily seek to encourage and help GBA churches and volunteers (ages 13 and older or a student who has completed 7th grade) to participate in mission projects which require travel away from home/overnight. The following guidelines apply:

- A. **Individual:** Funds are available to assist “first time” North America volunteers (senior pastor, ministerial staff, or lay people). A scholarship of up to \$250 is available. In addition, if air travel is required, up to \$250 is also available. Funds are available for volunteers who participate in subsequent North America projects/trips. These volunteers are eligible for up to \$200 scholarship. In addition, if air travel is required, up to \$200 is also available. The amount available is once per calendar year, per individual volunteer, GBA requirements apply.
- B. **A GBA Church** which plans & coordinates in consultation with GBA for a North American Mission project, is eligible for scholarship up to \$2,000 (Utilizing stated formulas per volunteer, which is the maximum amount available for North America Project, per church, once per calendar year, GBA requirements apply, individual scholarships would not apply).
- C. **GBA Multiple Church:** Multiple GBA churches who plan together on a North America Mission project, in consultation with GBA, are eligible for scholarship up to \$2,500 (Utilizing the stated formulas per volunteer, which is the maximum amount available for a North America Project, per church, once per calendar year, GBA requirements apply, individual scholarships would not apply).
- D. Individuals and Churches requesting Wingo Funds must complete an application which is available from the GBA office, in a timely fashion.
- E. Special requests not addressed in these guidelines may be submitted to the Send Team for consideration.
- F. GBA churches are also encouraged to support their members financially as they feel led to participate in North American mission projects.

WINGO OFFERING

Each year the Send Team of the association will recommend a goal for the Wingo Offering at the Annual Meeting of the GBA. Gifts from churches or individuals for these accounts are welcomed anytime during the budget year. However, a recommended date for receiving the Wingo Offering in the churches is the last Sunday of each month, May through September each year. Fund allocations from donations/offering will be determined by the Send Team each year. The Wingo Offering is named in honor of Rev. Charles Wingo, first Director of Missions, GBA. Wingo Funds exist to encourage volunteers and church participation.