

Dear SERVE Traveler,

We are so glad you have decided to travel across the border for a SERVE trip this summer. We are excited for how God is already working in these places and how he will continue to work through you and your group this summer!

We have compiled information from both official government websites as well as from some of our experienced SERVE travelers to share with you. Information regarding crossing the border can be found here: travel.gc.ca/destinations/united-states and <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/travel-voyage/td-dv-eng.html> and <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Canada.html>

Concerning Necessary Documents

For entering the US from Canada:

- For those 16 and older:
 - If travelling by air, you must present a valid passport or NEXUS card that is valid for the duration of your stay.
 - If travelling by land, you must present a valid passport or a Trusted Traveler Program card. Adults may be able to use an enhanced driver's license (EDL) or enhanced identification card (EIC). Your identification must be valid for the duration of your stay. A NEXUS card can be used to cross, but everyone in the vehicle must have NEXUS cards to do so.
- For those 15 and under:
 - If travelling by land, they must have one of the following documents:
 - A passport
 - An original or a copy of a birth certificate
 - An original Canadian citizenship certificate
- Canadian citizens aged 18 and under travelling with an organized group must have written parental/guardian consent.

For entering Canada from the US:

- A NEXUS card or FAST card may be used, but a passport is the preferred and recommended identification for crossing the border
- A letter of consent for travel with parent information and signature is needed for minors

Proof of vaccination for COVID-19 is not required anymore to cross the border

What our Experienced Leaders Say:

- Things are a lot easier if everyone opts for the passport option instead of the NEXUS card or EDL. Ensure that the passports are valid (to the travel date).
- Have both parents sign the consent to travel forms, print them on your church letterhead, and get them notarized. All of these make them seem more legitimate and will be accepted faster. (There is an example Consent to Travel Form in our Resource Box at thereforego.com/resource-box)
- It seems to be appreciated if you are very organized with your paperwork including organizing the passports in order of seating from front to back.
- Keep backup copies of everything in multiple places.
- Know what's expected of you and the youth you're bringing across in terms of documentation from OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT WEBSITES. Print off these sections, along with the URL they came from, and meet or exceed these expectations. Have this sheet with you, so you can show the border agent if they say something different.

THEREFORE MINISTRIES

Other Documents and Information You Need

- The address and name of the church you will be going to. Also, having the contact information of the Host Team Coordinator at the Site may come in handy. The Host church will be sending you a letter of invitation and you'll want to bring a copy of that.
- Keep one of your leader's Spiritual Life Guides to show the things you will be doing if asked detailed questions.
- You may even want to print a basic itinerary on your church letterhead.

We will reach out to you directly with additional information and tips for crossing the border as your SERVE week gets closer, but the information provided above should help you get the correct identification and documents prepared for your border crossing. You can expect your letter of invitation from the SERVE site around a month to a month and a half before your trip.

If you have any concern around your journey we are always here to help! We are happy to answer whatever questions you have about any part of SERVE. You can contact our office at 616.241.5616 x3038 or by email at serve@thereforego.com.

Happy Planning!

The ThereforeGo Ministries Team