



# TEXAS GLOBAL BUSINESS & MICROFINANCE BRIGADES

A PROUD PART OF GLOBAL BRIGADES

Dear parent,

Your son/daughter has expressed interest in participating in a humanitarian trip to Ghana this coming January with Global Brigades, the world's largest student-led global health and sustainable development organization. As president of the subsidiary chapter for Business and Microfinance Brigades at the University of Texas, let me begin by saying how excited I am for your son/daughter. The ten-day trips we lead to the developing world are excellent opportunities for college students to broaden their horizons, enhance their résumés, and serve others.

I understand that, as a parent, you probably have questions about the health and safety conditions our student volunteers will experience while in Ghana, and I'd like to address those concerns in this letter.

Health is a major priority for both the leadership team at the University of Texas and the Global Brigades staff members we work with in Ghana. In the months leading up to our trip, we ensure that our student volunteers are vaccinated for Yellow Fever and are fully informed about other recommended vaccinations. While in Ghana, our group is accompanied 24/7 by a trained medical technician, who has a full record of our student volunteers' known allergies and medical history. Food preparation is overseen by our staff, who also provide a steady supply of bottled water for our students.

Having been to Ghana myself twice with Global Brigades, I can tell you with confidence that Ghanaians are an incredibly welcoming people. The rural communities we work in are eager and willing to work with our students, respect our mission, and want to learn about our lives as we learn about theirs. While petty theft is a concern when traveling anywhere in the world, we make sure our students always stay in groups while in the capital city of Accra and other crowded areas. We have never had an incident in which a student had an item stolen from them, and we believe this is because of the travel safety training we put our students through both before and during our time in Ghana.

If you ever have any questions, please email me at [ian.carroll@globalbrigades.org](mailto:ian.carroll@globalbrigades.org); I am always happy to discuss our programs in more detail. Your son/daughter's admittance to our trip this January is contingent upon your consent, so please make sure you have discussed this opportunity with them before they apply. Thank you for your cooperation, and we hope to see your son/daughter in Ghana this January!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ian Carroll".

Ian Carroll  
President, 2013-2014