

VENCEREMOS BRIGADE APPLICATION

49th Contingent Travel Challenge

Venceremos Brigade (VB) Education
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FOR 2018 THE \$100 APPLICATION FEE HAS BEEN WAIVED

The Venceremos Brigade (VB) is a political education work project that, since 1969, has directed its efforts toward developing solidarity with the Cuban Revolution. Despite the U.S. blockade against Cuba, the VB has brought more than 9,000 people from across the U.S. to Cuba, striving to send highly diverse contingents. The VB works to raise consciousness around issues related to Cuba such as democracy, social justice, and the role of U.S. imperialism, while working within the larger U.S. Cuba solidarity movement to strengthen its unity and broaden its influence. The VB considers travel to Cuba to be our right and has never requested a license from the U.S. government. The 49th Contingent of the Venceremos Brigade is an education project in partnership with the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP). It will be a civil disobedience Travel Challenge, following the success of 15 previous Travel Challenges spearheaded by the Venceremos Brigade and IFCO Pastors for Peace.

Total Cost:

\$1,500 plus the cost of travel from your home to Toronto and from NYC to your home.

Payment Due Dates:

First Payment: \$1,000 due no later than March 1st, 2018.

Final balance must be received by March 21st, 2018.

If a partial scholarship is awarded it will be deducted from your final payment.

Partial refunds will only be considered if requested before March 21st.

Alternate payment schedule can be created upon request.

ESTIMATED TRAVEL DATES:

Approximately 10 days between April 20 and May 6, 2018,
in honor of May 1 and in association with the International May Day Brigade

HOW TO APPLY:

- 1. NOTE: APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!!!**
2. Read and complete entire application (fill out a separate application for each family member)
3. Mail applications to the PO Box listed at the top of this page and purchase delivery confirmation (i.e. tracking number).
4. Submit your name, email, phone number and tracking number to VBRIGADE@GMAIL.COM
5. If you don't hear from someone within 2 weeks please send a follow up email.

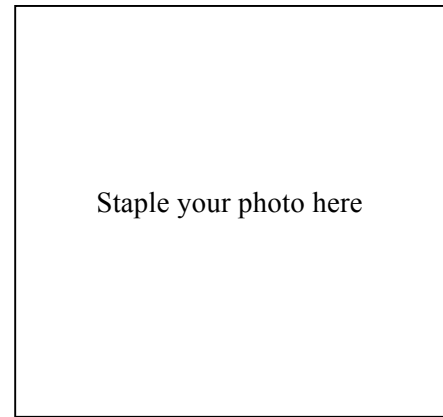
A complete application MUST include the following. If any part of the application is missing, your application will not be accepted. Please PRINT clearly or TYPE.

- The initialed and signed originals of this application indicating that you have read, understand, and accept the conditions
- Two (2) recent photos attached where indicated on the application form (black and white or color, passport size and quality)

PLEASE KEEP THIS FIRST PAGE FOR YOUR OWN RECORDS

VENCEREMOS BRIGADE APPLICATION

49th Contingent Travel Challenge



Basic Applicant Information:

Legal Name (LAST NAME, FIRST NAME):

As it appears on your passport

Please indicate by circling your preferred method(s) of communication:

Cell Phone #: _____ Home/Work #: _____

Email: _____ Birth Date _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

Street Address City State Zip

Occupation: _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Race/Ethnicity: _____ Country of Birth: _____

Are you traveling with another applicant? YES NO If yes, what is their name and what is their relationship to you: _____

Gender Pronouns: _____ T-shirt size: _____

Are you: Vegetarian Vegan Other _____ Have special dietary needs? _____

Emergency Contact Person # 1: _____

Name Phone # Relationship to you

Emergency Contact Person # 2: _____

Name Phone # Relationship to you

Please note the following:

1. If accepted, a **medical form** will be sent to you for your health and safety. This must be completed and returned prior to departure
2. This form must be signed by all parents/legal guardians and notarized for all applicants under the age of 18. After acceptance, participants under 18 will receive a parental consent form permitting them to travel with the Brigade.
3. If an applicant is traveling with children and/or a partner each individual must complete an application and medical form. For children the application can be completed by the parent/legal guardian on his or her behalf. If questions #13-#18 are not applicable due to the child's age you can write "N/A" as an answer.

VENCEREMOS BRIGADE APPLICATION

49th Contingent Travel Challenge

Please read the following information carefully, and **initial on the line before each point** to indicate your understanding and agreement. If you have any questions about any of these points, please ask a Brigade organizer.

____ 1. The cost of the trip is: **\$1,500.00 per person. All accepted applicants will be responsible for purchasing their airline tickets from their home city to Toronto as well as your return flight that will depart from NYC to your home city. NOTE THAT YOU WILL NOT PURCHASE A ROUNDTRIP TICKET.** Cost includes transportation between Canada and Cuba, food and lodging while in Cuba and return flight to NYC. It does not include flight from your home city to Toronto or from NYC to your home city, passport costs, items of a personal nature, or costs you may incur during your travel (drinking water, food at airports, etc). Partial scholarships are available to be applied for while funds last. Scholarships are given priority for those with financial need, people of color, commitment to social justice and Cuba solidarity. **A separate application for scholarships is required and can be found on the last page of this application.** All participants are required to comply with the payment schedule and policies of the Brigade. The payment schedule is as follows:

- \$1,000 due no later than March 1st, 2018.
- Final balance due no later than March 21st, 2018.
 - Partial Scholarships may be available and, if awarded, are applied to the final balance.
 - Partial refund is only possible if requested before March 21st

____ 2. Applicants must be United States citizens. Participants must possess a valid U.S. passport by March 1st 2018. Since the process of getting a passport may take up to eight weeks, you should **APPLY NOW TO AVOID DELAYS.** Current passports must be valid for at least 3 months after the trip.

____ 3. A medical form is required to be completed and received by April 1st, 2018. The VB will provide the medical form after you have been accepted to join the brigade. Please discuss with an organizer of the VB any medical condition you have that might affect your participation. It is important to list any medications you are taking (you should check with your doctor whether the medications can be kept in hot temperatures). The trip is rigorous and we do not want to burden the Cuban health system nor compromise your health or the health of anyone in the group or our Cuban partners. If you become ill or injured during the trip, you are responsible for all expenses, if any, that may result.

____ 4. The VB is not liable for any health-related issues that were not communicated either through application, interview, health form, email or otherwise by April 1st.

____ 5. A personal interview will take place after your application has been received. This may be an individual or a group interview. All applicants must be interviewed. The references listed in your application may be contacted.

____ 6. Prior to departure a series of meetings will be facilitated in preparation for a positive experience on the Brigade. **Participation in these prep sessions is mandatory for all people traveling on the Brigade.** Depending on your location they will be provided in person, phone and/or via internet. Efforts will be made to make scheduling as convenient as possible for participants. **Failure to attend and/or late arrival/early departure may result in cancelation of your participation on the Brigade.**

____ 7. While in Cuba you are required to obey all Cuban laws and to discourage and/or report any unlawful activities on the part of any Brigadista. Breaking the law in Cuba, or helping others to break the law, may result in being sent home from Cuba at your own expense. For instance, all drug use, including marijuana, is illegal in Cuba. I agree to report any illegal behavior to a *responsable* (someone in a leadership position) or an ICAP (Cuban representative) working with our group.

VENCEREMOS BRIGADE APPLICATION

49th Contingent Travel Challenge

____ 8. The Venceremos Brigade experience in Cuba is a GROUP experience, with an organized program of work, political and cultural activities, and travel. All Brigadistas are expected to FULLY participate in the program and no individual arrangements will be accommodated. **Because this is a travel challenge, all members of the Brigade must travel to and from Cuba together.** We are not tourists and we stay in work camps in Cuba; our final program is dependent on ICAP and other Cuban institutions.

____ 9. Although the Brigade is committed to providing as many U.S. people as possible with this unique opportunity to experience Cuba for themselves, the Brigade may, at any time, limit or deny any person the right to participate. This may include rejecting an applicant prior to leaving and/or sending a participant home because his/her health, behavior or participation has a negative effect on that person or other participants in the Contingent. **No refunds will be granted if a participant withdraws or is eliminated after March 21st, or during his/her/their visit to Cuba.**

____ 10. Signing below will confirm your understanding that the Venceremos Brigade neither seeks nor accepts a license from the U.S. Government to travel to Cuba and that you understand the limitations of the Brigade's legal liability related to this trip. **This trip will explicitly challenge the United States restrictions on travel to Cuba, including press releases and conferences and acknowledging to government officials that we are traveling to and from Cuba.** The Venceremos Brigade accepts no responsibility for losses or expenses incurred while traveling, or during any event related to the trip. Participants under 18 must have the waiver signed by their parents and/or legal guardians, and they must also sign this document.

____ 11. The Venceremos Brigade does not support, encourage or condone any form of online fundraising that includes the use of the Venceremos Brigade's name or the naming of travel to Cuba. Should online fundraising or any online transactions via services such as PayPal, GoFundMe, or others be reported by the site to OFAC (the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control) and/or if funds are seized or frozen, it will lead to the immediate termination of your application for this contingent.

By signing below, you confirm that you have read this document and that you agree to the rules and the principles stated in it.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Print Name: _____

If under 18, parents or legal guardians' signatures:

Signature: _____

Relationship: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Relationship: _____

VENCEREMOS BRIGADE APPLICATION

49th Contingent Travel Challenge

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

Please complete all questions and use additional paper if more space is needed to provide complete answers.

1. Number of children _____ Names & Ages _____

2. If you are a student, indicate school and major _____

3. Have you ever been on the Venceremos Brigade before? YES NO
If yes, which contingent(s): _____ and/or what year(s): _____

4. How did you hear about this year's Venceremos Brigade? Please be specific.

- Past Brigadista. Who? What year on VB? _____
Contact info (email or phone) _____
- Friend. Who? _____
Contact info (email or phone) _____
- Flyer or ad or Web site. Where _____
- Brigade Event. When & where? _____
- Organization. Which? _____
- Other. Please be specific _____

5. If you have traveled to Cuba before, please list details of your other visits below:

- | | Date | Sponsor/Route utilized | Purpose of Trip |
|----|-------|------------------------|-----------------|
| a) | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| b) | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| c) | _____ | _____ | _____ |

6. What other nations have you visited, when and why?

- | | Year | What country | Purpose of trip |
|----|-------|--------------|-----------------|
| a) | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| b) | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| c) | _____ | _____ | _____ |

7. Give a chronology of the social change/community/political/solidarity work you are or have been involved in:

- | | Group/Activity | Date | Your role |
|----|----------------|-------|-----------|
| a) | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| b) | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| c) | _____ | _____ | _____ |

8. Please give the names of THREE references **from the activities above**. If you have not been active, please list three non-family references who can comment on your character.

- | | Name | Position or relation to you | Phone # (required) |
|----|-------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| a) | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| b) | _____ | _____ | _____ |

VENCEREMOS BRIGADE APPLICATION

49th Contingent Travel Challenge

c) _____

9. If you are now employed, give a chronology of your work history, starting with your current job:

Occupation/Profession Date Work Place

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

10. Have you ever been convicted of a crime (including driving under the influence) in the U.S. or Canada?

YES NO If yes, when and for what? _____

Have you ever been arrested on any charge in Canada?

YES NO If yes, when and for what? _____

Are you: On parole On probation Awaiting Trial Under subpoena

Have you ever been asked or ordered by Canadian authorities to leave Canada? _____

If yes, please explain: _____

11. Have you ever been in the military? If yes, please provide service information

Dates (start & end) Service & where stationed Rank & Dues (MOS)

12. Have you ever been otherwise employed or paid for service by the U.S. Government or any police force?

Please provide details:

Date (start & end) Employer & where employed Position & duties

13. Do you have any physical limitations or conditions or chronic illness that could affect your full participation in all aspects of the Venceremos Brigade contingent, or could possibly require medical attention while in Cuba?

YES NO If yes, please explain: _____

14. Depending on funds made available through group fund-raising and donations, **partial scholarships of up to \$500 may be available, based on need and an application. (SEE LAST PAGE OF THIS APPLICATION)**

a) Are you applying for a partial scholarship? YES NO

If you mark YES, complete the scholarship application on the last page and submit with this application.

b) The max you can request in scholarship is \$500. How much scholarship are you requesting? \$ _____

17. Please tell us why you want to travel to Cuba with the VB/What are you hoping to get out of this experience?

VENCEREMOS BRIGADE APPLICATION

49th Contingent Travel Challenge

18. Explain how you can help forward the mission and activities of the Brigade upon your return. Note any special skills or resources that you can contribute.

19. Do you have any special interests that you would be interested in exploring on the trip? Please note that we cannot guarantee that anyone's special interest will be addressed in the trip's program.

20. Do you have any special skills that might be useful on the trip (i.e., medical, construction, workshop facilitation, mediation, etc.)?

21. If there is something additional you would like us to know about you, please tell us here:

Signed: _____

Date: _____

END OF APPLICATION

VENCEREMOS BRIGADE APPLICATION

49th Contingent Travel Challenge

Scholarship Application

The Venceremos Brigade strives to provide financial support to applicants who **need** the aid in order to participate, **and** who have the capability and willingness to contribute to the Brigade mission in the future. **Priority is given to youth activists and people of color.** Funds are provided only **if** the Brigade and its participants are able to collectively raise them. We are not an organization and do not have funding. Brigade scholarships only provide **partial** funding; therefore, applicants are urged to explore their own sources of funds (i.e. friends, relatives, and fellow activists who might help sponsor their trip). For instance, perhaps your organization will sponsor a fundraiser for you. Please write vbrigade@gmail.com for fundraising ideas.

The Venceremos Brigade does not support, encourage or condone any form of online fundraising that includes the use of the Venceremos Brigade's name or the naming of travel to Cuba. Should online fundraising or any online transactions via services such as PayPal, GoFundMe, or others be reported by the site to OFAC (the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control) and/or if funds are seized or frozen, it will lead to the immediate termination of your application for this contingent.

The cost of the trip is \$1,500 and includes air from Toronto to Cuba, and Cuba to NYC, food and lodging while in Cuba.

NAME _____ AGE _____

RACE _____ OCCUPTION _____

Amount of scholarship you are applying for (maximum scholarships are for \$500) \$ _____

Should you not be awarded the amount you request or if funds are not available, will you be able to participate in the brigade without financial assistance? YES NO

1. Please share why you need financial assistance in order to participate in the Brigade. Describe any special circumstances you feel the VB committee should understand in order to evaluate your application.

2. In what specific ways will you support/contribute to the continued work of the brigade and Cuba solidarity movement after you return?

3. If you should receive a partial scholarship from the Brigade, how will you raise the remainder of the funds you need?

Please note, if you receive a scholarship, it will be credited toward your final balance. Therefore, first payment of \$1,000 is still due by March 1st, 2018.