

# RESPIRE HAITI STUDENT SPONSORSHIP LETTER WRITING GUIDE

Just as you are interested to know about your child and family, your sponsored student is delighted to hear details about your life. Your letters can inspire each student to study harder at school, to be more confident in his or her relationships, and to draw closer to God.

*Here are some guidelines to get you started!*

## WHAT SHOULD I WRITE ABOUT?

- + Describe what your life is like. What is your typical day like now?
- + What do you do at church/work/school?
- + What are some interesting facts about your state/region?
- + How do you relax?
- + What are you learning right now?
- + What are your closest family members like?
- + What are some recent changes in your life (workplace, moving, graduations)?
- + Talk about your spiritual life. This will help shape the Respire Haiti's students journey as well.
- + How did you become involved in your local church?
- + How has God comforted you in troubled times?
- + What was the last sermon you heard or class study about? How has that impacted you?
- + Explain how you are affected by sponsorship
- + What is your prayer for the student at Respire Haiti?
- + How do you remember the child throughout the week or month?
- + What do you appreciate about this child? (Comment on recent letter, the child's prayers for you, artwork in a letter, smile in the photo, or something else.)
- + How can you encourage your sponsored child on any recent successes or milestones?

## WHAT TOPICS SHOULD I AVOID?

*The list above is a good starting point for exploring together what you have in common. There are, however, a few things that might make your sponsored child feel uncomfortable or create expectations that can't be met. These include:*

- ✗ Elaborating on your material possessions (for example, the size of your home or kind of car you drive). This will only accentuate the difference between you and your child.
- ✗ Suggesting that your sponsored child visit the United States.
- ✗ Using slang or colloquialisms that would be difficult to translate or understand.
- ✗ Asking the child what they want as a gift from you-the kids are told not to ask for things from you out of respect, so please send any questions about gifts to the Director of Student Sponsorship, [sponsor@respirehaiti.org](mailto:sponsor@respirehaiti.org).

You can mail letters to:  
[Student Name]  
PO #807  
Parker, CO 80134  
Or you can email letters to:  
[sponsor@respirehaiti.org](mailto:sponsor@respirehaiti.org)

Letters will be translated and delivered to your student within two weeks of their arrival. You are also welcome to include a picture of you or your family, as the students love to see you too!

# RESPIRE HAITI STUDENT SPONSORSHIP GIFT GUIDE

Throughout your sponsorship, you have the opportunity to celebrate your sponsored child through gift giving. These guidelines provide culturally appropriate suggestions for gift giving. If any gifts do not meet these standards you will be contacted to discuss options. Please limit personal gifts to no more than twice a year.

## WHAT TYPES OF GIFTS CAN I SEND?

Your gift must be about the size of one gallon Ziploc bag and cost less than \$30 USD.

Gift ideas include: balls, tennis shoes, notebooks, pens, stickers, small purses, church shoes, small toys, games, arts and crafts, costume jewelry, clothes, hats, lotions, body sprays, nail polish, washcloths, bar soap, socks, sunglasses, school supplies.

If you would like sizes for your student, please contact the Director of Sponsorship at [sponsor@respirehaiti.org](mailto:sponsor@respirehaiti.org) for more information.

For security purposes, any gifts that do not meet the above criteria will not be able to be delivered to your sponsored child. However, we will contact you to determine if we can donate the gift to others in need to ensure your generosity still has a positive impact or return the gift to you.

## WHAT TYPES OF GIFTS SHOULD I AVOID?

Unacceptable gifts include: electronics, cash, expensive jewelry, perfume, mp3 players, liquids or perishable food.

## CAN I CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF THE CHILD I SPONSOR?

Yes! There is more to come on this in January 2021.

## WHERE DO I SEND A GIFT?

All gifts can be mailed to the Director of Student Sponsorship at:  
[Student Name]  
PO #807  
Parker, CO 80134

Updates and information about your sponsored student can be found on your account at [sponsor.respirehaiti.org](https://sponsor.respirehaiti.org)