

## Writing and “Invitation Letter”

Be creative—people have done the garage sales, chicken port, sold jewelry on an artsy website, etc.

You will surely have surprises—remember to go out of your immediate “circle”. DO NOT “pre-judge” people, thinking “I’m not sending them anything because I KNOW they won’t pray or give financially”, don’t rob that person of an opportunity to be part of your story....

- REMEMBER, IT’S AN **INVITATION**, NOT A SUPPORT LETTER
- 1<sup>st</sup>- think of why you are feeling SENT to this country/ mission-
- don’t think of it as “just” a mission/soccer trip, but one of the many missions God will send you on, and you want friends/family with you on this
- PRAY

### Invitation letter structure

Basic Structure: - 4 paragraphs—Try to fit letter in one page

**1<sup>st</sup> paragraph-** Why you are feeling called/ sent on this mission, where it’s located, and why there specifically.

**2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph:** What you are going to do in Brazil—Lots of relational time with the kids we will play against, many of them are from very poor neighborhoods. You will also be exposed to a level of soccer that will help you achieve your dreams of becoming a better soccer player. We will also visit some non-profits that use soccer a way of social inclusion.

**3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph:** Succinctly describe part of your( and your family) life journey that led you up to this point of going to Brazil

**4<sup>th</sup> paragraph:** Boldly make an INVITATION for friends and family to come on this journey with you, whether financially, in prayer, or both. This will be where you will mention the cost of the trip, \$3,200, and that you’re excited for how this trip will not change you, but change the people around you

**Other things you may want to include in the letter-** A meaningful Scripture to you, pictures of you/family, e-mail address, the Sports With a Purpose website ( [www.sportswithapurpose.net](http://www.sportswithapurpose.net)) SWAP’s Facebook page ( Sports With a Purpose), and for people who want to make a donation electronically ([www.sportswithapurpose.net/trips](http://www.sportswithapurpose.net/trips))

- I would encourage you to get letters by the end of February, because usually it takes time for people to get back to you in regards to invitation letters.
- Tips:
  1. Put in a letter when you’re planning on giving them a call to follow up on your letter
  2. Even if you print your letter, write a personal note on it( on post it note or whatever) to those who are closer to you
  3. Make sure you keep in touch with the people before, during, especially after the trip, so that they are people who will truly be on a journey with you for the long haul