

MEXICO



MISSION TRIP

-SERVANT GUIDE-



MEXICO MINISTRY
BIENVENIDOS AMIGO!

WHO WE ARE

Thank you for your interest in the mission outreach to Mexico. Trinity has a team of committed leaders who are constantly working to make a better, safer and more rewarding experience for volunteers while at the same time providing for the real needs of the people in Mexico. This guide will help familiarize volunteers with the extended weekend mission trip. Remember to pray for Mexico and the loft house ministry. Consider how the Lord is leading you to become involved in His Kingdom's work here on earth. The hope is that these trips will help each of us learn to maintain a flexible/servant attitude, and that we will surrender ourselves to God's will and learn to become an effective partner in ministry.

WHY DO WE GO TO MEXICO?

Simply, to glorify God by tangibly demonstrating the love of Christ through building loft-houses, playing with children, and by showing love to the people we meet. Jesus said: "...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me!" Matthew 25:40

WHO DO WE PARTNER WITH?

Trinity Church works in partnership with Hands of Mercy, a non-profit organization which seeks to help people and reach the lost with the message of Jesus Christ in Mexico. This goal is accomplished by providing safe housing for families who live in make-shift shelters. The two-story pre-fabricated loft houses which dot the landscape around Enseñada, Mexico exhibit a visible testimony of Christ's love and provision.





WEEKEND-AT-A-GLANCE

As with any international trip, flexibility is the key to a successful mission. This is what the average weekend mission trip to Mexico looks like. The team will leave Trinity Church at 8:00 am on Friday and will caravan across the border, staying for two nights at YUGO Ministries in Ensenada, Mexico.

Friday evening, the team will meet the recipient family and enjoy dinner with them followed by a worship service.

Saturday morning, after breakfast and worship, the team will travel to the work site where the Loft House is built. A sack lunch will be provided, or an authentic noon meal will be prepared by the recipient family. Once the house is finished, it will be dedicated to the family, as they are presented with keys, and a Spanish Bible. After dinner, there is a time of worship and a challenge to think about and discover how we might participate with what God is doing around the world.

After breakfast and worship on Sunday morning, the team will head for the border. Travel time home will vary considerably due to traffic, time of day, and various other delays at the border while waiting in line for U.S. border security. The team should arrive back to Trinity Church in the afternoon or early Sunday evening.

TYPICAL SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

- 7:00 am Meet at Trinity. Please eat breakfast before arriving and pack a few snacks.
- 8:00 am Depart
- 10:00 am Make a final stop in the USA before entering Mexico
- 2:00 pm Tacos in Ensenada
- 4:00 pm Arrive YUGO ministries, assign bunkhouse
- 5:30 pm Meet the recipient family
- 6:00 pm Dinner and worship

SATURDAY

- 7:00 am Breakfast and worship
- 8:00 am Depart for job site(s)
- 6:00 pm Return to YUGO for showers
- 7:00 pm Dinner and evening worship

SUNDAY

- 7:00 am Breakfast and depart
- 10:00 am Arrive at the border
- 2:00 pm Arrive at Trinity Church (Up to 5:00 pm depending on border crossing time)

WHAT TO BRING:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Passport** or Passcard | <input type="checkbox"/> Work clothes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping bag | <input type="checkbox"/> Work boots |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pillow | <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight | <input type="checkbox"/> Warm jacket |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shower shoes/flip flops | <input type="checkbox"/> Wide brim hat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Towel | <input type="checkbox"/> Hand tools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toiletries | <input type="checkbox"/> Snack to share |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hand sanitizer | <input type="checkbox"/> Bible, journal and pen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen | <input type="checkbox"/> Cash for snacks & |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle (refillable) | souvenirs (small bills) |

For minors unaccompanied by parents, Parent Permission form is required.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Please conserve water as much as possible by taking short showers and don't let the water spigots run.
- Avoid drinking tap water (brush your teeth with bottled water).
- Given the nature of working in rural parts of Mexico and certain site conditions, it is sometimes difficult to stick to a strict schedule, including meal times, so pack some snacks.
- Parents – your first priority at all times is the health, safety and welfare of your children!
- Please do not touch, play with, or feed the dogs. Some carry diseases that could affect you or your pets at home.
- Please do not give money to anyone who is begging. We are working to meet people's needs in a sustainable manner.
- Separate trash into different containers: organic scraped into slop buckets, metal and glass to be recycled, plastic and paper to be burned.
- Do not flush toilet paper (a trash can will be provided)
- Be flexible and maintain a servant's heart.
- Strive to represent Christ well, encourage others, look for OTS (Opportunities To Serve).
- Weapons are strictly prohibited in Mexico (construction knives are okay)

Note on appropriate dress: *We want to be sensitive to the different cultural practices in Mexico. Dressing modestly is essential for men and women. Avoid sleeveless shirts, exposed midriff, short shorts, Lycra/spandex pants, tank tops, exposed tattoos and pierced body parts (except ears for women). Women are encouraged to bring one modest skirt or dress for ministry activities. Long pants and modest shorts (knee length) are appropriate for painting and construction activities.*



FOOD

All meals are included in the trip cost. Many people look forward to consuming some of the local fare from various taco stands. On the way down, after a hard day of work or maybe even on the way home, the team will stop and enjoy a taste of Mexico. At YUGO the food is very good and served in a “summer camp” style mess hall in an enclosed facility.



LODGING

The team stays in very modest accommodations, dorm style facilities with minimal heat and electricity. Raised bunk beds with a mattress pad. A sleeping bag, or blanket, and pillow is needed. The showers are hot, with a saltwater taste, **DON'T DRINK THE WATER.** The restrooms are on the same floor as the bunkrooms. Refer to the section on “What to bring.” It is suggested to plan as though camping. Remember to dress for the weather forecast in Ensenada, Mexico.



TRANSPORTATION

Teams will ride in heavy-duty passenger vans which have space for luggage and supplies, and provide a safe, comfortable environment for volunteers to interact and get to know each other before they start working. There is at least one stop in the USA before crossing the border. The team will caravan across the border in multiple vans during daylight hours for security reasons and stop only at designated stops for fuel and food. It is not recommended to leave cars parked at Trinity Church. Team members should be dropped off and picked up at Trinity Church.

COST

Current cost available online.

Cost includes food, lodging and transportation. Cost is non-refundable and tax-deductible.

Please note:

Trinity encourages families to think creatively about funding their family mission trip through a garage sale, support letters or other fund raising ideas.



OUR PHILOSOPHY

Due to the language and cultural barriers, Trinity partners with local churches who share the verbal witness of Christ's love and purpose for people.

While our loft-house ministry meets the physical needs of people in under-resourced areas of Mexico, the local pastors are meeting their spiritual needs.

THE APOSTLE PAUL COMMENTED:

*"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow...
The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose,
and each will be rewarded according to his own labor."*





**HOW WOULD YOU
LIKE TO BE INVOLVED?
NO TASK IS TOO SMALL.**

Mexico Team Leaders

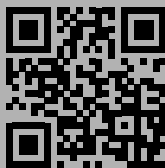
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