



VINEYARD MINISTRIES CENTRAL MEXICO CHILD SPONSORSHIP

Vineyard Ministries Central Mexico (VMCM) Internship Program

Purpose: Many people who attend a short term mission trip long for something more in depth. While a week can open eyes and hearts, spending more time on the field exposes people to missions behind the scenes. We hope people will experience life as a missionary and develop a great understanding of and appreciation for living and working within a different culture. The purpose of this program is to provide an opportunity for longer term although not permanent missionary experience.

Intern vs Volunteer: An intern is not a volunteer. Volunteers are tourists or residents who spend as much or as little time as they like helping VMCM in whatever capacity they choose. An intern is a staff member and co-missionary with missionaries serving on staff at VMCM. As a staff member, the intern is held to higher expectations than a volunteer. The intern must work full time for VMCM in whatever capacity they are given. Usually interns shadow a missionary, experiencing life as a missionary for the duration of the internship. Interns go to staff meetings, and may be given keys to the church or the office. While volunteers are always needed and help run the organization, interns receive a much more in depth and authentic missions' experience. Often interns may be exploring the possibility of becoming a full-time missionary. The internship is designed with those people in mind, although it is open to anyone.

Time: An internship may be any time frame from 2 weeks to 1 year. However, longer experiences are generally more fruitful.

Cost: As an intern, you are responsible to pay for 100% of your travel expenses. Interns are also expected to pay VMCM the following amounts for room and board. Interns may be sponsored by sending churches. Payment due to VMCM *before* arrival varies by length of stay as follows:

Length of Time	Cost	Length of Time	Cost
2 weeks:	\$300 USD	7 months:	\$2,300 USD
3 weeks:	\$350 USD	8 months:	\$2,600 USD
1 month:	\$400 USD	9 months:	\$2,900 USD
2 months:	\$750 USD	10 months:	\$3,200 USD
3 months:	\$1,100 USD	11 months:	\$3,500 USD
4 months:	\$1,450 USD	1 year:	\$3,800 USD
5 months:	\$1,800 USD		
6 months:	\$2,000 USD		

Payment should be made to **Mexico Missions Trips** and sent by wire transfer from your bank to **Compass Bank, McAllen, Texas**. The routing number is 114909013. The account number is 51082810. Your bank will be able to confirm that it is the Mexico Missions Trips account.

The address of the account is:

Mexico Missions Trips
3101 Harmony Lane
Mission, TX, 78574
(956) 585-1410

Please do not mail any deposits to this address

All deposits must be direct wire deposits. Mexico Missions Trips Inc. is a registered non-profit corporation with the state of Texas. It was established for handling the finances of visiting short term teams and missionaries.

Follow the following steps:

- Wire the money four weeks before your scheduled arrival.
- Confirm the amount that you owe before sending it.
- Confirm by email to missionsteam@vineyardmcm.org the date that the wire transfer was made, including the amount.

Mexico Missions Trips is a 501c3 non-profit organization registered in Texas.

In return for paying the stated amount, the intern will receive housing, most meals, and mission experience. The intern is responsible for his or her own transportation to/from Mazatlán and extra expenses incurred while here, including but not limited to: clothing, dining out in restaurants, recreation, transportation when doing non-missions stuff, etc.

**An intern must also purchase an international health insurance policy of some kind on their own prior to arrival, or must provide a signature of a parent or guardian on a waiver indicating that they understand the serious consequences of not having such insurance and choose to be uninsured in any event. Please provide us with a copy of the insurance card for VMCM files.*

Spanish: Although being fluent in Spanish is certainly not a requirement, interns will tend to learn more and have a better overall experience if they are able to communicate with nationals. We do require that all interns attempt to learn some Spanish while they are here. We do not expect people to be able to read ancient Spanish literature, but interns will be asked to demonstrate that they are trying to learn Spanish. Interns may take Spanish classes here, hire a Spanish tutor, study Spanish books, or simply attempt to talk with people, but must make some effort.

Expectations:

- Interns are strongly encouraged to attend a week long mission trip to Mazatlán with a team before applying as an intern. Previous experience has shown that interns who had been to Mazatlán before had a better idea of what to expect and a better overall experience.

- **Integrity** – Interns are expected to conduct themselves with honesty and integrity at all times, respecting everyone.
- **Work Week** – Interns are expected to work 6 days a week. Each intern will be allotted some time off (normally Monday). VMCM staff will tell the intern where to go and what to work on. The intern may or may not have a say in what he or she will be doing any given day. Expect to work 50-60 hours each week. This may include office work, such as answering emails, sorting donations, or making copies. On Sundays, interns are expected to attend 2 church services, unless informed otherwise (the 9am English service, an 11am Spanish service and possibly an afternoon service in a colonia church). Interns are expected to attend a weekly Bible study or youth group in Spanish. Although these can be difficult for non-Spanish speakers, they strongly aid in language acquisition, cultural exposure, and in forming quality relationships.
- **The Dumb Gringo** – Interns should read Fred Collom’s book, [The Dumb Gringo and How Not to Be One in Missions](#), **before arriving**. Fred has over 25 years missions experience in Mexico, over 10 of them in Mazatlán. The book will help the prospective intern gain a better picture of the history and overall goals of VMCM in Mazatlán, and will provide the intern with tips and common pitfalls to avoid. The book is available online at VMCM’s website.
- **Dress Expectations** – All shorts should end within 3-4 inches (6-10 cm) of the knee or longer. Although tank tops (non-spaghetti strap) are permitted, remember when packing that erring on the side of modesty will not offend anyone. Keep in mind, what an American considers conservative dressing may not fall under a Mexican’s definition of conservative dressing. Mexico has a more traditional culture, so even if interns are used to wearing t-shirts every day, they will feel more at home if they bring along a few nicer shirts as well, especially for church services. Although sandals keep feet cool, they also are more dangerous when walking on colonia dirt streets. Streets often have animal waste, sharp objects, and biting insects that tennis shoes will keep out. Women should pack an appropriate bathing suit that covers midriff and backside. Men should bring dress pants for church.
- **Drinking/Smoking** – Regardless of personal feelings or beliefs, interns are expected not to drink alcohol of any kind for the duration of their internship. Interns are also expected NOT to go to bars or dance clubs, regardless of whether or not drinking is involved. Ideally interns would not smoke while they are here. *As a missionary in a different culture, different rules must guide the intern’s actions and behaviors at all times. In Mexico, unlike other North American or western countries, sipping a beer could quite possible render missionary’s ministry & outreach totally ineffectual!*
- **Tattoos and Piercings** – Remember erring on the side of modesty will not offend anyone.

- **Quiet Time** – Interns are expected to have some form of quiet time, personal time to read and study the Bible as well as pray. Missions can be stressful and hard at times. Maintaining a close personal relationship with Jesus Christ is essential.
- **Reflections** – Interns are expected to write a weekly 1 page reflection on what they have experienced, likes, dislikes, cultural analysis, things he or she has learned, frustrations, and triumphs. Being honest about temptations and frustrations as an intern will enrich the overall experience in Mazatlán. Interns will be assigned an accountability partner/mentor in addition to doing a written reflection. This person will work with the intern on Biblical Leadership Qualities. Interns may also be given books to read regarding the lives of famous missionaries or other Christian literature.
- **Projects** – For interns staying three months or more, you will be asked to develop a program or project of the intern's choosing that may be permanently implemented in Mazatlán. If you can't think of one, a list will be provided for you to choose from. The project could range from developing an English curriculum for kids to working within a specific ministry. All projects will need to be approved before being implemented, and interns are expected to write up a proposal and submit it within the first month of their stay.
- **Relationships** – As an intern, refrain from forming new romantic relationships here in Mexico. Interns are expected to devote their time and energy to the ministry, not to looking for a mate.

Any violations of the above expectations may provide adequate reason for VMCM to release the intern from the internship prior to completion. The intern would be sent home at their own expense and their sending pastor informed of the violation.

Responsibilities of VMCM to the Intern – VMCM will provide housing and most meals. Transportation in and around Mazatlán will be dealt with on an individual basis. VMCM may deem it necessary to provide a cell phone to the intern while in Mexico; however that is at VMCM's discretion. VMCM will provide access to a phone to allow the intern to call the United States or Canada.

Housing: Interns are usually placed in a Mexican home to maximize the amount of cultural exposure they receive. Special circumstances requiring different housing, such as a disability or intern couples, will be dealt with on an individual basis, with the best interest of the intern in mind. Interns sleep and eat with their host family. Homes are carefully selected, ensuring that interns feel comfortable and safe in their living environment. Most interns enjoy their home experience and become very close to their host family. However, as a guest in someone else's home, a certain level of respect is required. Interns will be held to certain rules such as curfew or where to eat in the house or levels of tidiness that the family requests. Interns will also be expected to do their own laundry and help with household chores to some degree.

Deadlines: Interns are required to turn in (via email) their application and any reference letters three (3) to six (6) months prior to their expected arrival date to allow time for processing. The intern will be informed within one (1) month of all requirements being received, (and probably sooner), whether or not they have been accepted to the program. At this point, a telephone interview will be set up to answer in person any additional questions, comments or concerns the intern may have.

Complete the application below. Save the document as your full name. **Email** a completed *application* and a *pastoral letter of recommendation* to missionsteam@vineyardmcm.org, Intern Coordinator, three (3) months prior to arrival. **Mail** a copy of the completed application and signed pastoral letter of recommendation to Vineyard Ministries Central Mexico – Attn: VMCM Intern Coordinator – 1500 N Lincoln Ave. – Urbana, IL 61801

Personal Information:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: M: ___ F: ___

Country of Birth: _____

Marital Status: Single: ___ Married: ___ Divorced: ___ Separated: ___

Highest Level of Education: _____

Home Church Information:

Name of Sending Church: _____

Mailing Address of Church: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Church Phone: _____ Denomination of Church: _____

Pastoral Letter of Recommendation:

Sponsoring Pastors Name: _____

Relationship to Intern: _____

Number of Years Known: _____

**Pastor must email a letter of recommendation detailing both his or her relationship to the intern and why he or she thinks the intern is a good candidate for this position. If for some reason a pastor is not the ideal sponsor (ie. Pastor hasn't known the intern long), the candidate may provide an additional letter of recommendation from a non-pastor with the pastoral recommendation.*

List desired dates of possible internship including year:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Short Answer Questions:

How would you describe your spoken Spanish skills?

	I know how to say hola, and that's about it.
	I can find a bathroom and pay my cab driver if I had to.
	I was pretty good at Spanish in high school, but that was a long time ago.
	I can form simple sentences and carry on basic conversations.
	I understand probably about half of what I hear, but sometimes I have trouble saying what I want to say.
	I understand and can communicate fairly effectively, although my grammar needs some work.
	I am fluent.
	Mi español is perfecto.

How do you plan to practice and learn more Spanish while you are in Mazatlán?

With what denomination do you affiliate yourself and why?

Please list any leadership experiences you've had:

List your past 3 work experiences including the amount of time at each:

**Have you ever been convicted of a crime?
If yes, please explain:**

**Are you currently exploring the possibility of being a full-time missionary?
If so, where?**

List any personal characteristics, special knowledge, or skills you have that may be beneficial to VMCM:

Describe your current service in your home church:

List three (3) interesting facts about yourself that are completely irrelevant to internship:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Just for fun, list the last two movies you've watched, last two songs you've listened to, and last two books you've read and briefly your reactions.

Movies:		
Songs:		
Books:		
Reaction:		

Essay Questions: *Please answer the following questions completely and concisely.*

What are you hoping to learn from this internship experience? Why do you want to come here?
What are you hoping to get a chance to do while you are here?

Describe how you came to be a Christian and your current relationship with Christ and your local church.

Describe a time in your life that was difficult, what happened, and how you responded.

Expectations:

Please check the following signifying that you agree to follow the expectations.

	As an intern, I will attend every meeting and event I am expected to attend.
	As an intern, I will take my responsibilities very seriously, and I am prepared to be responsible for any keys, cell phones, vehicles, and task I may be given.
	As an intern, I will take my responsibilities very seriously, and I am prepared to be responsible for any keys, cell phones, vehicles, and task I may be given.
	As an intern, I will take my responsibilities very seriously, and I am prepared to be responsible for any keys, cell phones, vehicles, and task I may be given.
	As an intern, I will take my responsibilities very seriously, and I am prepared to be responsible for any keys, cell phones, vehicles, and task I may be given.
	I understand the pricing system, and I am prepared to pay the required fees in advance.
	As an intern, I commit to improving my Spanish speaking abilities.
	As an intern, I will not drink, smoke, or go to any clubs or bars.
	As an intern, I will dress modestly and appropriately.
	As an intern, I am prepared to work long, full weeks, without complaint.
	As an intern, I commit to maintaining a daily quiet time.
	As an intern, I will respect all authority and submit to what I am required to do.
	As an intern, I will submit all reflections and project proposals on time.
	As an intern, I will respect the home and family I stay with.
	As an intern, I will refrain from beginning new romantic relationships in Mexico.
	For 2 years following my internship, I will obtain permission from VMCM for any visits to Mazatlán.
	I ascertain that all responses contained in this application are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge.
	I understand that violating these expectations is grounds for my dismissal, at my expense, from the internship program prior to completion.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

By writing your name in the above space, you are electronically signing this document.