



# PARTICIPANT GUIDE

BAJA CALIFORNIA & PUERTO PEÑASCO, MEXICO

**Amor Ministries**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>ABOUT AMOR MINISTRIES</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>What to Expect</b> .....	<b>4</b>
Camp	
Bathrooms & Showers	
Worksite	
<b>The Family</b> .....	<b>5</b>
How the Family is Selected	
Interacting with the Family	
Communicating with the Family	
<b>Sample Packing List</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Camp Rules/Worksite Rules</b> .....	<b>7</b>

# AMOR MINISTRIES

Est. 1980

## Our Story...

When Amor Ministries began, many of the poorest families were sending their children away to orphanages because they could not provide for them. Orphanages were filling up with children whose parents loved them but lacked the resources to take care of their general needs.

Amor's Founders, Scott & Gayla Congdon, decided to offer an alternative; provide adequate housing to keep families together.



## The Families...

Amor partners with the local community of pastors in Mexico, called the Ministry Planning Board. The pastors will nominate the family, present them to the board to decide on them receiving a home. Our Baja pastors are pictured.

The pastors live and work in the communities we build in so they know the need better than we ever could. After the home is built, the pastor is there to follow up with the family and continue a relationship with them.

## Where We Serve...

We serve in the Baja California area and Puerto Peñasco (across the Arizona border). Baja California includes:

- ◇ Tijuana (open year-round)
- ◇ Tecate\* (open for a few weeks in spring)
- ◇ Rosarito\* (open for a few weeks in summer)

We place groups to build where there is the greatest need, but also do our best to meet your group's needs and requests.

\*These camps will not be open for the foreseeable future.



## The Building Process...

We generally recommend 15-25 people per single worksite in order to complete the home in about 3-4 workdays. However, it's up to your group on how many people you put on a worksite and how many days you work.

We offer support on the worksite along with all building materials delivered and ready for your crew. You can choose to add-on tool rentals or bring your own. We do not allow power tools on any of our worksites.



2025/2026

## Camp

- Our camps are open spaces of gravel and dirt.
- Our camp caretakers, people hired by Amor, are in camp 24 hours/day to prevent unauthorized entry into and departure from the camps.
- Each group is given a designated area to camp—do not enter into another group's area without invitation.
- Each camp will have an Amor Store where you can purchase snacks, merch, and toiletries. USD and credit/debit cards accepted.
- Hacienda Camp pictured.



## Bathrooms & Showers



- A bathroom is called a baño (bahn-yo) and it resembles an outhouse. They are cleaned and disinfected daily.
- Amor camps use bucket showers with separate, enclosed structures, marked “boys” and “girls”.
- Water is provided in water barrels just outside the showers. Bring your own shower apparatus like a camping solar shower or a bucket. **Keep your shower apparatus in your campsite, not near the enclosed shower structures. If you leave it near the showers, expect that it will be used or taken by someone else.**
- A swimsuit is required in the showers. Please exercise modesty while walking from campsites to the showers.
- Shower facility in Puerto Penasco pictured.

## Worksite

- The worksite is the family's property that we've been invited into. Do not invite other community members, neighbors or children onto the worksite.
- Your Amor rep will work alongside your group; they will help make decisions, show groups more effective ways of working, and generally assist in any way possible.
- A t-shirt, long pants, and a pair of closed-toed shoes are the minimum dress code requirement.
- The work day may begin no earlier than 8:00am and must conclude 1 hour before sunset or no later than 5:30pm.
- No power tools are allowed on the worksite. A battery-powered drill for the door is acceptable.



## How Families are Selected

- Amor works alongside a team of pastors and community leaders who nominate families in their communities to receive a home.
- The only requirement for a family to receive an Amor home is that they own the property or are making payments to owning it.
- Amor then assigns groups like yours based upon need—you may not receive a family you requested (like one with children) but we appreciate your willingness to help anyone in need.
- Families are notified via Amor and the pastors that they'll be receiving a home.
- A woman learning that she's been selected to receive a home pictured.



## Interacting w/ the Family

- The Mexican family may not be present or as interactive as your group may like. We ask that you respect their boundaries. Remember that this is their space that we've been invited into.
- On the other hand, we encourage you to interact with the family if they are present and invite them to participate in your building.
- ¡Hola! Don't be afraid to try Spanish with the family. Learning a few phrases can be a great way to connect.
- Please do not give monetary donations to the family; if you'd like to give monetarily, give to the Amor Impact Gift Fund. This helps fund the pastor's ministry to their community via food banks and school assistance.



## Contacting the Family

- Many families will want to connect with you after your trip (whether that be through Facebook, sharing email, phone numbers, etc.).
- Communication is great but we discourage conversation about giving money, bringing donations next year, and setting expectations.
- It's important to remember that we want to support the pastors and their ministry to the family. We don't want our interaction or communication to interfere with the pastor's continued relationship with the family.



## PERSONAL PACKING LIST

ITEM	HAVE	BORROWED	PACKED
<b>ONLINE PARTICIPATION FORM COMPLETED (no need to print)</b>			
<b>PASSPORT OR PASSPORT CARD</b>			
Sleeping bag, blanket, & pillow			
Foam or air mattress and/or cot			
Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, brush, soap, deodorant)			
Towel(s) & wash cloth			
Flashlight, headlamp, or lantern			
Water bottle or canteen			
Camp chair			
Sunglasses & hat			
Sunscreen & lip balm			
Insect repellent			
Work gloves (two pairs)			
Work shoes (closed-toed)			
Work clothes (no dresses, shorts, capris, tank tops)			
Bathing suit & cover for showers			
Camp/warm clothes for evenings			
Ear plugs for sleeping in camp			
Hand wipes/sanitizer			
Camp shoes			
Solar shower & shower shoes			
Jacket & sweatshirt			
Rain gear			
Spending money (US cash or credit card for the Amor Store)			
Bible, journal, pen			
Camp games (i.e. cards, soccer ball)			

**Do not bring:** alcohol, illegal drugs, fireworks, blow dryers, curling irons or valuables.

**Contact your group leader to find out if you need to bring tools or other camping gear.**

# CAMP RULES

**QUIET HOURS ARE FROM 10pm to 6am.** Be respectful. Please have campfires and pre-bed bathroom trips completed by 9:45 to be back in your camp area and quiet by 10pm. No generators are to be used during quiet hours.

**NO DRUGS OR ALCOHOL** (smoking or vaping is only allowed by your group's campfire)

**NO PETS**

**NO DRONES**

**DO NOT EXCEED 4MPH IN CAMP**

**NO BONFIRES** (no fires over 3 feet high)

**NO FIREWORKS**

**NO RIDING IN THE BACK OF TRUCKS OR ANYWHERE OUTSIDE OF A MOVING VEHICLE**

**DO NOT PLAY WITH OR TOUCH ANY ANIMALS**

**VISITORS IN CAMP:** All visitors in camp must be approved by your Amor Trip Coordinator or Amor Field Rep. All visitors must fill out a participation form prior to entering Amor's camp. As the Trip Coordinator, you assume responsibility for any visitors.

For your safety, please notify an Amor rep where you are at all times. All groups must be in camp by sundown. The camp gate is locked at 10pm. If for some reason you are not returning until after 10pm, you must inform an Amor rep.

Stay in the Amor camp as demarcated by the fence. The surrounding area is the private property of others and we are not permitted to enter.

Notify an Amor rep immediately if you see something/someone out of the ordinary.

**Showers:** Swimsuits are required. 2.5 gallons of water per person per day. Do not use this water to brush your teeth. Please cover up when walking to and from the showers.

**Baños:** In camp, please use the toilet paper provided. Lock doors during use.

**Trash:** Please bag and tie all trash and put in the designated area. Burn paper products only.

# WORKSITE RULES

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY,** contact an Amor rep immediately. (i.e. theft, injury, accident)

**NO POWER TOOLS!** The only exception to this rule is a battery-powered drill for the door.

Be off the worksites by 5:30pm during daylight savings time (after early March) and by 4pm after daylight savings time (after early November).

**DO NOT PLAY WITH ANIMALS!** If someone is bitten, apply necessary first aid and contact an Amor rep immediately. If it is safe, keep track of where the animal goes.

Follow all posted speed limits and do not exceed 15 mph in the communities you are building.

Each person should drink around 2 gallons each day. If you have a dehydrated group member, have them drink small amounts of water slowly, put them in the shade and contact an Amor rep. The first signs of dehydration are normally headaches and nausea.

Be aware of yourself and those around you while working with tools and lumber. Take your time and work smart.

Wear gloves when handling cement. Protect your skin from chemical burns.

You must wear long pants on the worksite. If you are not, you will be asked to return to camp to put long pants on.

**LOCK YOUR VEHICLES AT ALL TIMES.** Park as close to your worksite as possible. Do not leave bags or valuables lying in plain view.

Utilize the buddy system on the worksite. Notify your group leader if you want to leave the site to go to the store.

**VISITORS:** All visitors must be approved by your Amor Trip Coordinator or Amor Field Rep. Prior to coming onto the build site, all visitors must fill out a participation form. Do not invite community members to join on the worksite.

**AMOR'S EMERGENCY LINE: 001-619-662-1200 X 2**