

MEXICO MISSION TRIP **ADVISOR PACKET**

Mexico mission statement

*The purpose of the Mexico mission trip for **STUDENTS** is to have a unique encounter with Jesus Christ by serving the people of Mexico and working together as a team. The purpose of the Mexico mission trip for **ADVISORS** is slightly different from that of the students. While the students are focused on serving the indigenous people and building unity as a team, the advisor's role is to focus on the students.*

Welcome to the Mexico mission trip!

This advisor packet includes the dates of Mexico events, information about what we're looking for in an advisor, and registration details.

There are **two big changes this year**, so please carefully read about these in the packet:

- Instead of our usual Sat-Fri schedule, we are switching to Thu-Wed to accommodate spring breaks of different school districts.
- Most of our registration process is online.

Please also print and bring in a **signed copy of the permission form** (last page of this packet) by February 4.

New advisors will need to have a background check performed; Trinity will contact you to coordinate that.

Happy reading, and thank you for being a part of this trip! ☺



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Some basics

Why should I participate?

The Mexico mission trip is a rewarding experience! Just ask the people who have been on this trip for many years, and they will be sure to tell you of the worthwhile work and team building that takes place. As an advisor you will facilitate an encounter with God that students may not have had before. You will have the opportunity to be a part of a team that has the chance to give something back and build homes for those who would not otherwise be able to have them. In this week, lives are changed, memories are made, and hearts are brought closer to Christ. It truly is an incredible week.

What's an advisor?

All adults who come on the trip are considered advisors. Some may be site leaders, some may coordinate particular aspects, some may be speakers, but all adults on the trip have equal duties as an advisor.

What does an advisor do?

As advisors we are the leaders of the trip. You will be attending advisor meetings to discuss the planning of the trip and basically providing leadership to the kids. In Mexico and before we go, you will also be asked to participate in **ALL** the activities. You will be expected to play games at Mandatory Mexico Meetings (MMMs), learn the students' names, and be at group gatherings at the campsite, meals, small group, and content times. Advisors are needed at these times to model good listening and participation as well as to keep tabs on the students. They will look to advisors as examples, and we need you to model respectful behavior.

What kind of advisors are we looking for?

An advisor is an adult who loves the Lord, enjoys interaction with teenagers, can set firm boundaries, and knows how to be a friend. Teens need adults who will mentor them, teach them, befriend them, and walk beside them. We don't need bossy, controlling, or judgmental people as advisors. We call an advisor a "friendly parent."

Christian role modeling

In order to help develop the lives of students, advisors are charged to develop their own relationships with Christ through personal prayer and Bible study, as well as regular attendance at worship. In addition, advisors are expected to do their best in exhibiting Christian conduct, whenever possible. This includes refraining from cussing, slander, and disrespectful behavior towards youth or other advisors. No use of alcohol or drugs by adults is permitted on this trip.

Team players

It takes a great deal of planning to make this trip a success. We need adults who will work together to support the mission trip and who are able to follow direction of the group's leader. If you have a problem or disagreement, bring it up at an advisor meeting or talk to a Mexico Leadership Team Member directly about it. It is inappropriate to discuss any disagreements you may have about the trip with the kids or

in front of them. We also need people who are interested in facilitating this experience for the *youth*. **While we get lots out of this trip, the trip is primarily for the students.** We need to be on the same page about providing a good experience for them.

Safety

On this trip we will be in another country working with unskilled laborers around dangerous materials. Parents are expecting their kids to come back whole, mentally and physically. We need to make sure that all people are careful on the work site, especially when it gets late and we are tired. Drivers should not drive recklessly and should always stay with the group. We want all people to feel safe on this trip.

It is important for adult advisors to remember their roles as facilitators of positive experiences, and to refrain from contact with youth that might be considered aggressive, overly competitive, sexual, or not in the best interest of the youth. This includes romantic involvement. Don't become romantically involved with a student during the trip or date them after we return.

Challenges

You will be challenged physically as well as emotionally and spiritually. This trip is only one week, but those seven days are filled with long days of driving and labor accompanied with short nights. This trip is no picnic. In addition, we go for a week without many of our luxuries. We stay in a campground with no running water and minimal electricity, so this is a week of roughing it. These conditions are breeding grounds for stress and thin nerves, but we are still a large family living and working together. That comes with all the benefits and challenges.

Time commitment

This trip involves more than the week we are actually working. There are many dates ahead of the trip that require your presence for team building, planning and support. Before turning in this application, please prayerfully consider this commitment and check your calendar to ensure your availability on **ALL** these dates – both student and advisor-only events. (**MMM = Mandatory Mexico Meeting**)

January

21 (Sun) **Info Night** 7-8 PM – A night for students & parents. Bring your completed registration papers if they're ready!

February

4 (Sun) **Registration packets and payment due** 6-7:30 PM – Drop off your paperwork and join us for some pizza!

Advisor meeting 7:30-8:30 PM

11 (Sun) **MMM** 7:30-9 PM (after Superbowl)

25 (Sun) **MMM** 7-9 PM

March

3 (Sun) **Advisor meeting** 6 PM + **MMM** 7-9 PM

9-15 **Garage sale prep** all week through Friday

16-17 **Garage Sale** Saturday and Sunday (after worship)

24 (Sun) **Advisor meeting** 6 PM + **MMM and Parent Meeting** 7-9 PM

31 (Sun) **Commissioning Service (Easter)** 10 AM in Worship

April

1 (Mon) **Advisor meeting** 7 PM

3 (Wed) **Pick up Mexico vans (advisors/parents)**

4 (Thu) **Depart for Mexico**; stay overnight in San Diego

5 (Fri) **Arrive in Mexico**

10 (Wed) **Return from Mexico** around 3 PM

20 (Sat) **Post-trip reunion** 6-9 PM – We will gather for fellowship and food. Location TBD.

21 (Sun) **Sharing Service** – 10 AM in Worship. Whether you are speaking in the service or not, please plan to come so we can support one another and share our experience with the church.

TBD **Advisor debrief meeting**

You obviously need to be available for the dates of the trip. Beyond that you are required to attend the advisor meetings, which are important for training, planning, and clarifying questions. The MMMs are necessary for you to learn the students' names, find out a bit about who they are, and meet your small group. The Garage Sale is a big part of what makes it possible for us to go on this trip. As an advisor you are asked only to cover your food costs, and it is necessary for you to be a part of the fundraising to show support for the students and lend a hand in the work. Plan on being at the Garage Sale all day, and please help with preparation the week before if at all possible. The church sends us off with the Commissioning service the week before we leave, and we report

back to them at the Sharing service after we return. These services are important in the life of the church because we are taking them with us in our hearts and they want to be a part of the experience. The church congregation also heavily supports all of the Mexico activities.

Registration

After you have checked your calendar and filled out the application, please complete the following steps by Sunday, February 4 to register.

1. **Advisor Online Registration:** <https://forms.gle/JYDjQBqCW9oGdUWc9>
 - This is a different form than the Student Registration.
 - Please read each question carefully and answer each one honestly. The only people who will be reading your answers are the Mexico Leadership Team, so please be honest.
2. **Permission Form – Print** and sign the last page of this packet and bring it to church.
3. **Payment** – Depending on our fundraising and budget status, we may charge a small advisor fee to cover your food costs. We will inform you later in the season.
4. **Amor Ministries Registration** – Every participant must complete this Amor participation form: <https://amor.org/participation-form/>
 - Search for our group's name *Trinity Presbyterian Church, San Carlos*.
 - Then select our name and trip dates, *Andrew 'Drew' Schulz, 4/5/2024-4/9/2024*.
- **Immigration (border crossing) form** – This will be provided to you prior to our departure.

Participation

We can guarantee a fulfilling experience if you can come with us to Mexico. In order to get the most out of this trip please mark your calendars now so you can involve yourself in all the pre-trip events. The saying is true that “you get out of it what you put into it.”

This is an amazingly rewarding trip. Please prayerfully consider your involvement in this endeavor after reading through this packet carefully. Where else can you sit by the campfire, look at the stars, sing songs, bond with some incredible people, build relationships that last a lifetime, impact the life of youth, grow closer to God, and experience the joy of helping someone all at the same time? Being an advisor on the Mexico mission trip is an excellent way to put your faith into action and disciple the next generation. Praise God for you and your willingness to be used for His service!

Blessings,
The Mexico Leadership Team

Advisor Permissions

Sign and return this sheet at our drop-off time on FEBRUARY 4 or to the Trinity church office before then,

Advisor Name: _____

Photo Release: I grant permission for Trinity Presbyterian Church to use pictures and/or videos taken of the ministry participant named above while engaging in church activities for promotional purposes.

Release of Liability: I hereby absolve and hold harmless Trinity Presbyterian Church, their respective employees, and volunteers from all injuries, claims, or liabilities that may result from my participation in church & trip activities. I am aware the activity may involve risk of injury and I assume all risks for injuries received. I also understand that health and accident insurance protection is my responsibility.

Consent for Emergency Medical Treatment: In the event I am unable to provide instructions for my care in an emergency during the trip dates of April 4-10, 2024, I hereby give permission to the physician or dentist selected by Trinity Presbyterian Church staff to hospitalize, to secure proper treatment and/or to order an injection, anesthesia, or surgery for me as deemed necessary. I further agree to be responsible for any and all costs not covered by my medical insurance carrier. In addition, I also grant my permission to receive non-prescription medication and first aid treatment (i.e. Tylenol, Sudafed, Advil or Band-Aids) from a Mexico Mission Trip advisor if necessary as submitted in my Online Registration form.

The information contained in the Online Registration is correct to the best of my knowledge. I, undersigned, give my authorization to Trinity Presbyterian Church or its representatives to release any and all information relating to working with minors. Trinity Presbyterian Church may contact appropriate government agencies as deemed necessary in order to verify my suitability as a youth worker. I understand that the personal information will be held confidential.

Advisor Signature _____ Date _____