



VENTURE
STUDENTS

Honduras Mission Trip

June 17, 2023 – June 26, 2023



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Mission Trip Facts

Who is the host missionary?

His Eyes is an organization that began to serve God and do His work in and around Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Felipe and Valerie Colby have been serving with His Eyes in Honduras since the late 1990s. Please visit hiseyeshonduras.blogspot.com for more info.

Where will we be?

Tegucigalpa, Honduras (Tegus, as it is commonly referred to, is the capital of Honduras) is where the host missionary's clinic and lodging is located. Villages that we may visit are San Juancito, Sampedrana, Cantaranas, and Talanga.

What is the cost?

\$2500

What Are The Dates?

Honduras: June 17 – June 26, 2023

What forms or documents need to be turned in?

(All forms and documents will be discussed and given at pre-trip meetings)

- Mission Trip Application and \$50 Deposit
- Forms/Documents (Provided After Application & Deposit)
- Parental Consent Forms
 - Affidavit consenting to exit the US and enter given country
- Venture Release & Liability Form
- His Eyes Covenant and Policy Form

Who Can Participate?

2023-2024 High School Students

Are There Pre-Trip Meetings?

Yes, all students must be committed to attend the training meetings on the second Monday of January, February, March, and April. Dates are listed later in document.

There will also be a team building activity in May.

Do You Provide Trip Insurance And Why?

Trip insurance is included in the trip fees. Each student will be covered on an overseas trip insurance coverage plan to protect against lost or delay of luggage, medical and evacuation assistance, and trip cancelation due to weather or health.

Are There Any Health Issues?

We will have plenty of purified drinking water, healthy food cooked, medical personnel available, and access to Red Cross emergency care if a crisis arises.

Are There Recommended Vaccines And Medicines?

You should be up to date on routine vaccinations while traveling out of the country. You may check the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) web site for recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Tetanus, Hepatitis A (food/water borne). Please see a doctor about vaccines 3months before travel.

Are There Special Skills & Abilities People Need To Have? (What Will We Do?)

No, Venture mission trip normal activities include: construction, food distribution, clothing distribution, one day VBS activities, hospital visits, etc.

Is A Passport Necessary To Travel To Honduras?

Yes, a passport is required for out of the country travel.

Please be sure to check the expiration date on your passport which must be at least 3 months between date of departure and expiration date.

Will There Be Shopping (Snacks) And Souvenir Opportunities?

Yes, the mission will make an effort to give us access to a grocery store within the first few days of the trip for snacks. Souvenir shopping for more traditional country items will happen at some point on the trip.

Will There Be Contact With The Group While In Honduras?

Yes and No. It is possible, the mission have the means, however, communication with the States while in country is difficult, since the groups will be busy working and spending time with the team, time for computer work is limited. It is possible, but not probable, so we cannot promise contact every day while in Honduras. We will communicate through Venture Students social media and email our travel while in the states.

What About Email: Yes and No. No for student use. Yes for adults.

What About Phone: Yes and No. No for student use. Yes, for adults. If you talk to your cell phone provider, it may be possible to use your cell phone.

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Do We Require Help With Meals/Kitchen Duty Each Day & Food?

Yes, kitchen duty is helping with serving, washing dishes, and cleaning up. All food is prepared and provided by the host missionaries.

Can We Bring Food (Snacks) From The States To Honduras?

Yes and No. No, you cannot bring items like fruit or perishables. Yes, you can bring items like granola bars, fruit bars, or non-perishables that are packaged tight and sealed. Please remember that you will have the opportunity to purchase snacks in Honduras. Packing will be limited so be mindful of taking up packing space with food. More packing information on the "Travel Tips and Packing Guidelines" page.

What Is The Schedule Like?

A detailed schedule will be given to the team before travel. But in short each day is the same; wake up, breakfast, morning devotions, prepare lunch, work sites, lunch, work some more, dinner, family time (talk about morning devotions, download the day, communicate tomorrow's plan), sleep.

What Is The Electrical 110 or 220?

110 is the norm, although in rural areas, it is best to ask first before plugging in. In the city, and at the mission house, most everything is 110. Normal plugs are used, not always three pronged, but mostly. No converters should be needed at any time. Electricity is readily available. There are somewhat frequent outages, but most do not last long.

Please remember that students should not bring any electronic devices besides a camera or clock. More information on packing in the "Travel Tips and Packing Guideline" page.

Can You Tell Me About The Mission House?

The Honduras mission house (Home Base: where we eat/sleep) is located on the same property as the clinic in Tegucigalpa. It has a fully functioning kitchen, dining area, living room, which is all connected by a great room with couches and chairs, with 2 bathrooms, and 3 bedrooms.

What Are The Sleeping Arrangements?

Both boys and girls have identical bunk bed open rooms with private showers.

What Should I Do With My Prescriptions And Medications?

This will be discussed further with the team before travel. It is the participant's responsibility to bring prescriptions and medications that are taken on a regular basis. Please be mindful when packing that prescription and medications needed while traveling are not put in your checked luggage but rather packed in your carry on. Venture Students will have a medical kit on hand at all times with basic first aid resources. There is a medication form which parents need to complete in order for us to administer over the counter medicine to students.

Is Participation In Church Required?

Yes, students must maintain at least a commitment to attend church consistently.

Financial Information

Fees Due Date

\$50 Due with Application by January 8, 2023

\$750 - Due by February 12, 2023

\$750 - Due by March 12, 2023

\$650 - Due by May 14, 2023

- * If fees are not able to be turned in by the due date, arrangements must be made with the Venture Student Staff. A 10% late fee may be added to the fee amount for each week late if arrangements have not been made prior to the deposit's due date.
- * The first two deposits are crucial to be on time due to flight reservations.
- * Students will not be allowed to attend the mission trip if fees are still due by departure date.

Total Trip Cost

\$2,500

This includes: airfare, food, lodging, supplies, administrative fees, and transportation to airport. This does not include: souvenirs, meals purchased stateside while in airports, or other incidentals.

Suggested Cash To Bring

\$100 is usually sufficient to cover incidental expenses and any snacks or souvenirs. If you are budget driven, it is possible to get by on much less. This is ultimately a personal decision which sometimes depends on how much you snack, what you want to buy, how many you have to buy for, and how much space you have to transport purchases back home. Please remember that the suggested amount of cash to bring is a conservative number dependent upon your purchase habits and or needs.

If you decide to bring extra money, please bring only cash (other forms of payment are not suggested). The host missionary, will take your US dollars and exchange it on the first day while at the airport.

Fundraising

Venture Christian Church and Venture Students does not participate or host fundraisers. Students are expected to raise and fund 100% of their financial support for the mission trips. Venture Students will not communicate or facilitate individual fundraising needs. It is the student's responsibility to communicate their own individual fundraising. We would like trip participants not to ask Venture Student leaders for support. A letter will be sent to all the leaders requesting support and then evenly distributing the funds to each participant. This is out of respect for the leaders so that they are not asked multiple times for support. All students will be required to submit non-refundable fees on or by the due dates listed above. It is the student's responsibility to inform prayer and financial supporters of their inability to participate in the mission trip if they received support to attend but end up not being able to participate.

If any participant raises more than the requested support, the surplus funds will first be used for trip expenses and then any surplus will go to the host missionary.

SUPPORT-RAISING INFORMATION

God is our provider, not people. Trusting Him to supply for your trip is a spiritual adventure of faith. It is part of the growth process that God will take you through to prepare for the task ahead.

WHY WE RAISE SUPPORT

It will generate a prayer team.

When people are challenged to give financially, they are likely to pray for you.

Your faith will grow.

Supportraising is a faith journey. When days go by and your support level does not increase, you may be tempted to question your call to missions. But those are the days to be reminded that God has called you and that He will supply every need. Often the best faith lessons appear as we wait on God. That's when we learn that we are limited and God is limitless.

It broadens the missionary vision of our church.

You are the best recruiter for world missions. When you share your passion with others, you are able to communicate your vision and your call. Your enthusiasm and dedication stimulates and challenges interest and involvement in missions.

HOW TO RAISE SUPPORT

- Pray that God will lead you to look for the resources for this trip.
- Evaluate your contribution. Other people can tell you the surprising places God provided money: unexpected refund checks, garage sales, extra income opportunities. Challenge yourself to plan ahead and to evaluate what sacrifices you can make in the next few months to contribute toward the trip.
- Look outside of the church. Friends, relatives, co-workers, and neighbors (even unbelievers) will feel blessed to invest in you and God's leading in your life. Seek their support.
- Ask inside of the church. Ask your small group or ministry team friends to pray about God's leading to give prayer and/or financial help for this opportunity. Do not ask people, however, unless you have some kind of connection with them.

Fees Policy & Procedures

Fees are due on the dates listed in this packet.

All fees are to be turned into Venture staff (Jimmy Scott, Jake Smith, Shaylee Redmon).

All checks are made payable to Venture Christian Church or VCC (memo: Mission Trip to Country). Do not include a student/adult's name on the check.

A note (not written on the check) should be attached to the check indicating it is being given toward the Venture Students Mission Trip and student's name.

All contributions are considered donations to Venture Christian Church and are non-refundable. Use of contributions is at the discretion of Venture Christian Church, but donor intentions will be honored.

No scholarships will be awarded for the mission trip.

Refunds are paid out if the following 3 conditions are met:

- 1) Due to a tragic situation
- 2) If Venture Students does not accrue a financial loss
- 3) If fees have not been already paid out. The Student Minister will give final permission to all refunds and reserves the right to deny that request.

Transfer of fees is allowed only if the following 4 conditions are met:

- 1) Due to a tragic situation
- 2) If Venture Students does not accrue a financial loss
- 3) If deposits/registrations have not been already paid out
- 4) If funds are transferred to another event or student. The student must meet all eligibility requirements of the event funds are being transferred to. The Student Minister will give final permission to all deposit/registration transfers and reserves the right to deny that request.

Raising Your Support

The most important thing in raising your finances for this trip is to understand that this mission is God's and not yours. Dedicate this to prayer. If this is God's will for your life and you do all that you can, God will provide a way. You must be convinced that this is what God wants you to do. In looking at the amount of money you may need to raise for your trip, it may seem mammoth and insurmountable. Remember that funds can come from a number of sources over a period of several months, which will make it seem much more attainable. You may want to get family, friends, neighbors, and people you may know in general involved. One crucial way to raise support is by sending support letters to people you know. Enlist them to number one pray for you and the mission. And ask them to use your birthday and other gift-giving occasions to ask for support, in lieu of a traditional gift. Also you could organize your own car wash, auction, garage sale, bake sale, craft fair, doing odd jobs for people, etc. Use your imagination and God will use His power.

Travel Tips and Packing Guidelines

Each ticketed passenger (trip participant) is allowed one checked bag and one bag as a carry-on. In addition to the carry-on bag, participants may bring one personal item, which includes a purse, briefcase, drawstring bag, fanny pack, etc.

Remember 3-1-1 for carry-ons = 3 ounce bottles or less; 1 quart sized, clear, plastic, zip-top bag; 1 bag per passenger placed in screening bin. One-quart bag per person limits the total liquid volume each traveler can bring. 3oz. container size is a security measure. Your preparation may help to prevent some real hassles at security check-in or even the frustration of having personal property confiscated.

Examples of liquids and gels included in these security measures are: beverages, creams, hair gel, hair spray, shampoo, suntan lotion, toothpaste, other items of similar consistency. You'll quickly pass through the security check-in in most countries by following these guidelines for your carry-on baggage.

- For all liquids, gels, aerosols, and pastes limit each container to a maximum size of 3.0 oz/100ml.
- Place all such items in a single quart-size, clear plastic, zip-top bag.
- Remove your quart-size bag from your carry-on and place in the provided bin at the security check-point.

Maximum weight, without charge, for each piece of checked baggage is 50 pounds per bag.

Maximum size, without charge, for each piece of checked baggage must not exceed 62" in overall dimensions (L+W+H). You may incur an extra charge for additional, overweight and/or oversized pieces.

You Will Need: Passport on your person during travel

Please do not forget any prescriptions, or medications you will need. Do not pack prescriptions or medication in checked bags rather keep them in your carry on.

Dress Code | Clothing (Specific country clothing will be shared at later pre-trip meetings)

- No: Low cut tops, midriffs, short shorts, spaghetti straps, tube tops, bikinis.
- No: inappropriate messages, images, or slogans.
- When in doubt; don't wear it.
- Church on Sunday: Long dress for ladies/ dress shirt for men and slacks/nice jeans

- Notice: there are not many opportunities to wear shorts so don't waste the packing room. We don't have any free days to wear shorts. Realistically the only time we can wear shorts is in the mission house at night.
- Tennis shoes are a must. Something that you can tie and give you good support. Remember it will be the rainy season so don't bring your brand new expensive tennis shoes. (Cheap sandals will not be appropriate, but walking or hiking sandals will be fine).
- Shower shoes.
- Remember to be modest in your clothing.
- Pajamas: remember to be modest.
- Work Day Clothes: Pants for boys and girls (or capris), t-shirts, scrubs are good.

Packing Reminder

Security

Think through how you will go through security with all your carry-on luggage and what needs to be checked. Think about your shoes, belt, change in your pocket; all of these things slow down the securitycheck process.

Packing/Check In Suggestions

These simple hints will usually help you to breeze right through security checkpoints; Travel light-minimal clutter will speed up the screening process, Leave your pocket-knives, scissors, and any other sharp objects at home or put them in your checked baggage, Be ready to take off your shoes and put belts, mobilephones, and metal objects in your carry-on.

Do's

Stay Together, keep a close eye on luggage, remember God is in control...not you, Answer TSA and airline personnel quickly and honestly, use the airplane toilet before landing, fill water bottle in the U.S. airport before boarding flights.

Don'ts

Give your passport or identification to anyone but TSA and airline personnel, leave your belongings unattended, make jokes or sarcastic comments that could endanger the trip or could be offensive.

Pre-Trip and Post-Trip Preparation

Learn as much as you can about the countries culture, schedule a time for rest/recuperation/relaxation/reflection upon our return, plan a time to reflect with your family about your experience, secure prayer partners before your trip and report to them upon your return.

Packing List:

Clothing for about 7 work days, clothing for casual occasions (mission house, dinner out, etc.), toiletries, non-perishable snacks, backpack, or something to carry to work site and day trips, flash light with extra batteries, large trash bag, work gloves, work shoes, Bible

Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct The code of conduct is a set of principles outlining the responsibilities of, or practices for Venture Students. While we have multiple policies and procedures that we will follow it is difficult to have all of them memorized and followed to the letter of the law. In the same way it is difficult to have a policy and procedure that will cover every situation and circumstance we come up against or across. The first rule of response to any situation is to think before you act. The Code of Conduct's purpose is to give a snap shot and easy to remember principles to follow. It is easy to remember by the acronym MARS.

MORAL: Moral pursuit so that in all things God can be glorified

ATTENDANCE: Attendance because it's imperative not to leave anyone behind

RESPECT: Respect yourself, others and nature/environment

SAFETY: Safety encompasses care, security, protection, well-being, danger, shelter, etc.

Venture Students Honduras Mission Trip Covenant

- All trip participants are required to follow the trip schedule and participate in all group functions. Permission to deviate from scheduled activities must be obtained from the trip leader.
- The trip leader and the host missionary are the recognized authorities on the trip. Any defiance toward trip leader or host missionary may result in immediate termination of your mission trip and you will be sent home at your expense.
- Conduct is to be that expected of a Christian person - willing to give and take and maintain the spirit of unity and harmony of the group, to extend politeness and courtesy to those with whom we come in contact (missionaries, nationals, team leaders, team members). A positive attitude is expected!
- No smoking or tobacco of any form, illegal drugs, or alcohol.
- You will be expected to acclimate to the host culture. This means eating food you are unfamiliar with and participating in foreign customs. Complaining about or constantly comparing the differences from U.S. culture is considered inappropriate.
- Pairing off is NOT permitted, as it tends to distract from the real purpose of the trip. Males are not allowed in females' rooms and females are not allowed in males' rooms. Due to cultural considerations, a public display of affection is not acceptable.
- Separation from the group is not allowed without prior approval by the team leader. Always let the team leader or host missionary know your whereabouts. NEVER wander off or go exploring by yourself.
- It is important that you dress in a neat, clean, and modest fashion. Your appearance is important not only for the missionary's reputation, but in the way the local people will perceive you. You may have to submit to certain restrictions regarding dress (not wearing shorts), body piercing (only acceptable piercing is small earrings on ladies) and hair restrictions (hair length for the guys).
- Due to cultural considerations, practical jokes are not permitted.
- Do not give gifts of any kind to nationals without consulting the host missionaries or trip leader. The preferred method of giving is through structured programs by the host mission. Do not give your social media, address or telephone number to anyone. Correspondence with nationals may be arranged through the missionaries or Venture Students.
- Come to Honduras with an attitude of humility and respect for the people of Honduras.
- Come to Honduras with a willingness to work and cooperate with others.
- Generate adequate support to cover designated trip costs.
- Submit to direction of Venture Students and the missionaries.
- Read additional mission trip details in this packet and educate yourself on your country before coming on your trip.
- Group Dynamics and Expectations: from time to time team members may have difficulty with one another. There are some simple things to remember that can help you cope with these times.
- Prayer...Give it to God and relax.
- Get away from the situation...go to a different room...participate in a different activity.
- Remember that this is a different culture and that people's behavior may be a reflection of stress.
- Talk directly with the person...remember to use "I" messages, not "you" messages.
- If you can't talk with them, talk with your team leader.

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- "3's Company" policy when students are with mixed genders. Mixed genders are not allowed to be in teams of two at any time for any reason. Mixed gender groups must be in groups of 3 or more at all times. Students may be immediately sent home for not following the "3's Company" policy.
- Group Safety: Students will generally be required to stay in teams of two or more in all public places. They must also be in the vicinity of a Youth Coach while in the team of two or more (i.e. in the same building, park or section of a street.).