

VENTURE STUDENTS + HIS EYES

HONDURAS MISSION TRIP



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 last 1990s. Please visit hiseyeshonduras.com for more info.

Where will we be?

Tegucigalpa, 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?

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 Registration & \$50 Deposit
- Parental Consent Forms (we keep these on file for a year)
- Affidavit consenting to exit the US and enter given country
- His Eyes Covenant & Policy Form
- His Eyes COVID-19 Release Form

Who can participate?

2023-2024 High School Students and 2023 graduated seniors

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. There will also be a team building activity in May.

Does Venture provide trip insurance?

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 delayed luggage, medical and evacuation assistance, and trip cancellation due to weather or health.

Are there any health concerns I should think about?

Like most developing countries, it is not safe to drink unpurified water in Honduras. We will have plenty of purified drinking water and food that is cooked in purified water. We will also have access to medical personnel and 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. We recommend checking the CDC website for direction.

Are there special skills and abilities participants should have?

Nope! Normal activities include things like: construction, food distribution, clothing distribution, VBS activities, hospital visits, etc.

Is a passport necessary to travel to Honduras?

Yes! Please check the expiration date on your passport as soon as possible.

Will we be able to purchase snacks and souvenirs once we get to Honduras?

Yes! His Eyes will try to give us access to a grocery store within the first few days of the trip for snacks. Souvenir shopping will happen during the trip, depending on the timeline of your specific trip.

Will families be able to contact the participants while in Honduras?

We try to limit communication to emergencies only. Adult leaders will be able to email back and forth using His Eyes wifi. Adult leaders will also be able to call using His Eyes wifi. We will also communicate through Venture Students social media and email while in Honduras.

Are we expected to help with meals?

Absolutely. Kitchen duty includes helping with serving meals, washing dishes, and cleaning up. All food is prepared and provided by His Eyes staff.

What snacks should we bring from the states?

Granola bars, fruit bars, and non-perishable items that are packaged tightly and sealed

**Packing space will be limited*

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 at worksites, lunch, work again, dinner, debrief, and sleep.

Is the electrical 110 or 220?

110 is the norm, although in rural areas, it is best to ask before plugging in. At His Eyes, normal plugs are used and no converters will be needed.

What are the housing arrangements?

The His Eyes mission house (Home Base) is located on the same property at the clinic in Tegucigalpa. It has a fully functioning kitchen, dining area, and living room, which is all connected by a gathering room with couches and chairs. There are 2 bathrooms and 3 bedrooms. Boys and girls will have separate open bunk 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 should not be put in your checked luggage. They will need to be in your carry on. We will always have a medical kit on hand with basic first aid resources. Parents should complete our medication form before the trip, which gives us permission to administer OTC medicine to students.

Financial Information

Fees, Due Dates, and Policy Procedures

\$50 Registration Fee by January 8, 2023

\$850 – Due by February 12, 2023*

\$850 – Due by March 12, 2023*

\$750 – Due by May 1, 2023*

If fees are not able to be turned in by the due date, arrangements must be made with Jake Smith. A 10% late fee may be added to the fee amount for each week late if arrangements have not been made prior to the due date.

The first two payment deadlines are crucial in order to keep your flight reservation.

Students will not be allowed to attend the trip if fees are still due by departure date.

*Feel free to make smaller incremented payments at any time using the payment form. These amounts are what we need to have by these dates in order to keep your trip reservation.

All fees should be turned in online or handed to Jake Smith or Shaylee Redmon. All checks are made payable to Venture Christian Church (memo: Participant's Name – Honduras)

All contributions are considered donations to Venture and are non-refundable. Use of contributions is at the discretion of Venture, but we will do our best to honor the donor's intentions!

No scholarships will be awarded for the mission trip.

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

1. Cancellation due to a tragic situation
2. If Venture does not accrue financial loss
3. If deposits/registrations have not already been paid.

Jake Smith will give final permission for all refunds and reserves the right to deny that request.

Transfer of fees is allowed if 4 conditions are met:

1. Cancellation due to a tragic situation
2. If Venture does not accrue a financial loss
3. If deposits/registrations have not already been paid.
4. If funds are transferred to another student participating in this trip.

Jake Smith will give final permission to all deposit and registration fee transfers and reserves the right to deny that request.

Total trip cost is \$2500.

This includes: airfare, food, lodging, supplies, administrative fees, and transportation to the 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, snacks, and souvenirs.

Jake will communicate the best way to bring extra money closer to the departure date.

Fundraising

Venture does not host fundraisers. Trip participants 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. 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 supports if they are unable to go on the trip after receiving donations. If participants raise more than \$2500, the extra funds will be used for trip expenses and then to the host missionary.

Asking Venture Students leaders for support

We ask that students do not ask Venture leaders for support. The reason behind this is because leaders often get asked by multiple students and feel the obligation to say yes to all of them! This can be hard on our leaders. Instead, we will invite our leaders to give to the trip financially and split the money between all students.

Why we raise support

1. People will begin praying for our trip!
2. Your faith will grow by leaning on God to provide for you.
3. It will help others to see the importance of international ministry.

How to raise support

- Pray that God will lead you to look for the resources you need to go on this trip.
- Challenge yourself to be creative! God will provide in multiple ways... sometimes through an unexpected refund check, garage sale money, or even a Christmas gift!
- Look outside the church for support. Ask your friends, relatives, co-workers and neighbors if they are interested in supporting you... (Hint: non-Christians usually still want to support good work being done around the world!)
- Ask inside the church as well! You can ask your small group, people you serve with, your parent's small group, etc. (Hint: It's usually best to ask people you already have a connection with!)

Travel tips and packing guidelines

Each 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, backpack, draw-string bag, etc. For all liquids, gels, aerosols, and pastes, limit each container to a maximum of 3.4 oz. Place all liquids in a single quart-size clear plastic zip-top bag. Remove the bag from your carry-on and place it in the provided bin at the security check-in. Liquids include: beverages, creams, hair gel, hair spray, shampoo, lotion, toothpaste, etc.

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 have an extra charge for overweight or oversized pieces.

Please keep your passport on your person at all times during travel.

Remember to pack all medications in your carry-on.

Dress code & clothing

His Eyes would prefer that you wear the following clothing as you represent their ministry:

Outside of His Eyes campus: t-shirts, jeans, maxi dresses and maxi skirts, scrubs, durable shoes

Inside of His Eyes campus (work-hours): t-shirts, jeans, maxi dresses and skirts, scrubs, durable shoes

Inside of His Eyes campus (after-hours): athletic shorts, bike shorts, leggings, t-shirts, thick-strap tank tops (please make sure all pajamas fit within these guidelines)

Swimming: swim trunks, one-piece swimsuit

Church on Sunday: Guys: jeans, nice slacks, and dress shirt – Girls: maxi dresses or maxi skirts with t-shirt

Please do not pack cut-off t-shirts, crop tops, low cut tops, spaghetti strap tank tops, or bikinis.

*Please make sure your clothing does not have any inappropriate messages, images, or political slogans.

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 snapshot and easy to remember principles to follow. It is easy to remember them 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.

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 outlined in the MARS acronym. You should be willing to give, take, and maintain the spirit of unity and harmony in the group. You should extend politeness and courtesy to those we encounter.
- Drugs, alcohol, smoking, and vaping are not permitted.
- You will be expected to acclimate to the host culture. Complaining about or constantly comparing differences from US culture is not appropriate.
- 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.

- Males are not allowed in female rooms, and females are not allowed in male rooms. Due to cultural considerations, public displays of affection are not permitted.
- 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 it will also impact the way local people perceive *both* you and His Eyes.
- Due to cultural considerations, pranks and 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 handles, address, or phone number to *anyone*. You can blame this on us if a local should ask. Say, "Sorry, I'm not allowed!"
- 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.
- Submit to the direction of your trip leaders and the host missionaries.
- Read additional mission trip details in this packet and educate yourself on Honduras before departing on this trip.

Team Dynamics

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:** Choose to trust God is working in your life and your team members lives. Give him control of the situation.
- **REMOVE YOURSELF:** You have permission to leave the situation as long as it aligns with the trip covenant. Go to a different room, join a different group (inside Venture Students), participate in a different activity... All of these are options to remove yourself from a tough situation.
- **REMEMBER** that international trips often bring up stress that you may not otherwise experience. Different cultures, different languages, different sleeping arrangements, and different food can all effect someone's stress level. Be patient and gracious toward one another. Choose to forgive and move on as quickly as possible.
- **TALK** directly with the person you are having issues with. Use phrases like "When you said ___, it made me feel ___." Do not use words like "always" or "never". It may be easier to talk your frustrations through with a leader before confronting the person.
- **RELY** on your leaders when things seem too much to handle. They are there for you. They want to make sure you have a meaningful trip! Use them when you need them.