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International Mission Overview

PUEBLA, MEXICO

1. Basic information 1
2. Organizing your trip 1
3. Mission staff and other roles 3
4. Packing list 3
5. Code of conduct 4
6. FAQs 4
7. Core values 4

1. BASIC INFORMATION

Flight times:

- Arrival Airport: Mexico City, Mexico
- Arrival Time: Missionaries must arrive before 3:00pm on the day of arrival. Any early arrivals will be required to wait in the airport until all participants in the group have arrived.
- Departure Time: Missionaries must depart on the set departure date no earlier than 2:00pm.

Where we serve:

- The group will be lodging and working in a small village on the outskirts of the Town of Ahuazotepec, in the state of Puebla (two hours east of Mexico City).
- The core project for this trip is building a house which allows our missionaries to be part of the local community, answer an urgent need within the community and share the faith.

What does a typical mission day include?

- Morning: Prayers, breakfast and project work
- Lunch break, on site followed by nap/shower time
- Afternoon: Activities with the children and towns people
- Evening: Mass with the villagers followed by dinner
- Night: Bonfire, night activity and prayers

(This is just to give you an idea of the schedule, it will vary depending on the group and situation.)

2. ORGANIZING YOUR TRIP

Ground Transportation:

- Transportation to Ahuazotepec is provided by a professional coach bus company.
- Be advised that local transportation at the mission site may include such risks as being transported to more remote outreach projects in an open vehicle (E.g. the back of a pickup truck). The drivers are directed to drive slowly and safely.

Lodging:

- Accommodations are quite austere. Participants will be sleeping in local auditoriums on concrete floors.

- Sleeping bags and a pillow are required, a yoga mat or air mattress is also recommended.
- Some auditoriums have toilets and an outdoor faucet and/or shower head, however showers and toilets are not always accessible. In these situations, baby wipes and antibacterial gel (brought from the US) are very handy and must be brought by all missionaries.

Meals:

- One meal is cooked by the villagers, with ingredients bought by Mission Youth Staff at a grocery store in the city (similar to Costco).
- The other meals are prepared by the missionaries with food purchased from the same grocery store. Hygiene in the food preparation is duly supervised.
- Missionaries are advised to bring their own snacks (protein or power bars, granola bars, peanut butter, trail mix, almonds, dried fruit, etc.).
- Purified water will be provided throughout the week. Powdered Gatorade is always helpful to prevent dehydration.

Weather Conditions:

- Ahuazotepec has an extremely variable climate, and will most likely be hot during the day, however nights and mornings can be quite cold.
- Missionaries should consider weather conditions when packing. A sweatshirt or windbreaker is advised as well as warm pajamas.

Medications:

- Due to the change in environment and types of food eaten or water, please bring medicine that can soothe stomach discomfort (ie, pepto bismal, immodium, or equivalents).
- There are no special vaccinations required, although all participants should be up-to-date on routine immunizations and tetanus shot.
- If you have any prescription medicines please make sure you have enough for the trip.
- Some missionaries with asthma have been affected by the high elevation, please make sure all inhalers are full.
- Feel free to check out what the CDC recommends (https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel)

Spiritual life: Please keep in mind that a mission is primarily a spiritual event. Mission Youth seeks to bring its participants into a deeper relationship with Christ and to foster a love for his Church. Mission activities will include daily Mass, talks, access to the sacraments and spiritual direction.

Dress code:

- Due to the poverty where the mission is held, missionaries are expected to be simple and presentable in their clothing and manner.
- We ask that all Mission Youth participants respect our dress code: pants (many missionaries choose to use scrubs), Mission Youth t-shirt and closed-toed shoes (shoes must be adequate for construction).
- Mission uniform should be in a presentable condition throughout the course of the mission.
- Clothes to relax in at the end of the day are permitted, keeping in mind that missionaries are on mission during the entire trip.

- Missionaries should be aware that if a Mission Youth staff member asks them to change their clothing, they must comply. Missionaries might be asked to change for reasons of safety or cultural sensitivity.

Physical conditions to be aware of:

- Missionaries will be working in a construction project – usually the building of a house. Tasks can include climbing a ladder, hammering nails, lifting concrete blocks, mixing cement, painting etc.
- Missionaries should expect mild to rigorous walking.
- Due to the nature of the mission environment, the mission schedule may experience unpredictable changes. Missionaries should be flexible.

Communication during the mission:

- There is limited phone and wifi coverage in Ahuazotepec; our staff has a local phone number for emergencies. We communicate this number to all missionaries prior to the trip.
- Family and friends will have the option to receive updates from Mission Youth.

Supplemental travel insurance policy:

- Mission Youth obtains supplemental accident/injury/illness insurance for each missionary (available for US citizens and permanent residents only) with proof of primary insurance provider information.
- For more information about the policy and provider contact the Mission Youth office.

Mission Youth management standard:

All staff members and adults over 21 are required to undergo training and background checks if minors are participating on the trip.

3. MISSION STAFF AND OTHER ROLES

Everyone comes on the trip as a missionary. Here are some specific roles to be aware of:

- ***Mission Coordinator:*** The person in your local area who is organizing the mission and who will be participating in the actual mission trip.
- ***Mission Director:*** A designated member of the Mission Youth national staff that works with the Mission Coordinator to organize the mission. The Mission Director is responsible for hosting the group in the organizational daily activities, formation, projects, transportation, meals and lodging throughout the actual mission trip. The mission director is responsible for the mission leadership team and for the Missionaries.
- ***Chaplain:*** A Catholic priest who will accompany the group.
- ***Customer service:*** Please contact Anna Kulway for any questions about payments, background checks, administrative support (1-855-556-6278).

4. PACKING LIST

Necessary:

- Passport and photocopy in separate location
- 3 to 4 pairs of pants (see missionary dress code)
- 5-6 T-shirts or undershirts (tank tops, camisoles) to be worn under the missionary t-shirt

- Sweatshirt / hoodie for the evenings (a hoodie is provided as part of your mission kit)
- Appropriate clothing for downtime at the end of the day
- Pajamas (nights are cold)
- Hat or head covering to block the sun
- Closed toe shoes (for construction projects sneakers or construction shoes)
- Flip flops for the shower
- Hand sanitizer and/or antibacterial hand wipes
- Mosquito repellant
- Sunscreen
- Toiletries (Shampoo, soap, conditioner, toothbrush, toothpaste)
- One-piece swimsuit (for showering outside)
- Towel
- Work gloves
- Flashlight
- Snacks
- Water Bottle (you will receive a Mission Youth Water bottle, but it is always good to have another as a backup)

Optional:

- Extra spending money (Keep in mind that this is a third world country; you will not need excessive money for souvenirs)
- Rosary and other personal prayer items
- Laundry detergent to hand wash clothes
- Miraculous medals or other religious items to give away
- Extra Mission Youth t-shirts (https://store.missionnetwork.com/mission-youth.html)

Leave at Home:

- Alcohol, drugs, or cigarettes (see code of conduct)
- Electronics and valuables such as jewelry, watches, iPods, iPads, lap tops, etc.
- Candy that will melt easily
- Hair dryers, flat irons, electric razors, other electrical apparatus (electricity is very limited)

5. CODE OF CONDUCT

https://www.missionyouth.com/code-of-conduct

6. FAQS

https://www.missionyouth.com/faqs

7. CORE VALUES

https://www.missionyouth.com/about-us