



1MISSION

PARTICIPANT PACKET





ABOUT THE TRIP TO MEXICO

THANK YOU!

Thank you for considering partnering with 1Mission for this short-term mission trip to Mexico!

The purpose of this packet is to provide all of the information that you'll need to make this a safe, fun and rewarding trip. After reviewing this packet, if you have any additional questions your group leader should be able to answer them.

From the time you arrive at our base camp our team will take care of all of your needs and will be happy to assist you in any way we can. We are confident that this will be an awesome experience for you and you'll be helping to make a difference for a family in need.

WHAT WILL WE BE DOING ON THE TRIP?

You will spend 3 days building a home for a family that has already served 200 hours on community service projects. A few weeks before the trip your group leader will receive a biography of the family that you'll be working with while together you build them a new home.

WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE?

Most people who serve on our projects don't have any construction experience and many have never been on a trip before. The house is a very simple design and is intended to be constructed by a volunteer work force. There will be plenty of work that you will be able to do. There are plenty of other activities to do, such as doing crafts with kids, helping local women with cleaning and laundry, playing with the local kids, etc.

WHERE IN MEXICO WILL WE BE GOING?

Puerto Peñasco, also known as Rocky Point is a fishing and tourist town of 60,000 people located on the Sea of Cortez. Puerto Peñasco is 60 miles (100 km) inside Mexico and is about 240 miles (400 km) from Phoenix, or a 4.5 hour drive on good highways.

WHERE IS THE 1MISSION BASE CAMP LOCATED?

The base camp is 6 miles (10 km) north of Puerto Peñasco, right along the main highway.

WHAT TYPES OF FACILITIES ARE AT THE BASE CAMP?

The base camp is an RV park that has a kitchen/dining room building, swimming pool, showers, a bunk house and tent and RV camping.

WHAT WILL WE EAT?

All meals are provided by 1Mission and there will be a variety of food you are familiar with as well as local, Mexican food prepared by local volunteers.

WHERE WILL WE SLEEP?

1Mission provides the option to RV, tent or sleep in a bunkhouse depending on what your group leader has arranged. Reservations are required for RVs or bunkhouse since space is limited.



IS THERE AN AGE LIMIT FOR THE TRIP?

Unless your group leader sets an age limit, there is no age limit, but generally we recommend children be at least 7 years old. Younger children are welcome but may distract from their parent's experience due to the long hours and challenging conditions.

SHOULD I BE CONCERNED ABOUT SAFETY?

Mexico has been subject to a lot of bad publicity in the past few years but 1Mission volunteers have not had any negative experiences.

DO I NEED A PASSPORT?

Anyone over the age of 18 travelling by car in to Mexico requires a passport. Travelers under 19 may use a copy of their birth certificate but you will need to let your group leader know. No additional travel documents are required.

WHAT IS THE COST FOR THE TRIP?

Check with your group leader to determine the fee for your trip.

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING ON THE TRIP?

Please see the attached list for items to bring.

WHAT TO BRING

General

- Something to sleep in (RV, Tent) reservations are needed for RVs.
- Sleeping bag or blanket and pillow if you are staying in the bunkhouse (reservation in the bunkhouse must be confirmed with your leader)
- Personal toiletries: soap, shampoo, towel, etc.
- Flashlight
- Personal water bottle
- Sunscreen
- Camera
- Folding chair for the jobsite is a plus

Clothing

- Base camp casual clothes (Shorts OK)
- Appropriate swim suit for swimming pool and showers (private showers are limited)
- Appropriate work clothes (NO shorts, capris or tank tops)
- Work shoes/boots – no open toe shoes on worksites
- Work gloves
- Warm clothes – evenings & mornings are cool

Identification

- Passport
- Travelers under 19 may use a birth certificate
- Prescription medication for duration of the trip including a copy of prescription

Insurance

- 1Mission provides medical insurance
- You MUST purchase Mexico Car insurance for your vehicle before you cross the border. This is the law in Mexico and your US insurance is not valid in Mexico. You can purchase online or at several locations along the road before entering Mexico.
- One option: Kirk Borg – Allstate Insurance Company
623-680-8909
kirkborg@allstate.com

1Mission Store

1Mission has a store at base camp where you can purchase items such as t-shirts, hats and hoodies. All proceeds benefit people in the community in need.

As well we often have products made by local community artisans. All proceeds go directly to the artist.

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ABOUT... 1MISSION

1Mission is community development organization giving people living in poverty the opportunity to earn a house by serving in their community. We *serve* all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

1Mission believes it is *vital* that community members become *active participants*, not passive recipients, in the development of their communities.

We provide the opportunity for local people to get involved and actually *be the change* that they want to see in their community.

100% of your trip fee goes toward our community development efforts. Our administrative expenses in the US are funded by private donors... you are welcome to become one of them.



ABOUT... OUR PROCESS



1Mission is strategic in our home qualification process. Each family is required to volunteer their time in community service to *earn* their house.

We empower people through training in environmental, economic, social and spiritual (holistic) transformation. In this way a 1Mission house serves as a catalyst for community transformation, mobilizing individuals, families and whole communities into action.

ABOUT... YOUR FAMILY

Your family has already volunteered over 200 hours to *their* community. These hours have included building houses for their neighbors, volunteering with local organizations and participating in community development programs. Some applicants have been trained to serve as Community Health Educators (CHEs), helping teach their neighbors about physical and spiritual health.

Your family owns, or is in the process of purchasing, the land that you will build the house on.

A few weeks before your trip you will receive a family biography which will include some additional information about your family so can get to know them before your arrival. Your family is eagerly awaiting your arrival to *partner* with them in improving their living conditions.



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ABOUT... THE CONSTRUCTION PROCESS

Currently your family likely lives in a temporary structure constructed from whatever materials they are able to salvage from the area or the local land fill. These structures are typically made of cardboard, wooden pallets, car hoods, old boat hulls and discarded construction material. The house you build will have a life changing impact. Over the course of 2 ½ days you will construct an 11'X22' house that will provide basic shelter for your family. The house construction process consists of a hand-mixed concrete slab, wood framed walls and roof, and stucco on the exterior walls.



You will be working alongside local volunteers and community members who have come together in cooperation to improve their community.



We **don't** use any power tools! Why? The house construction is a community project involving inexperienced people of all ages. Our goal is to involve everyone in a fun and **safe** manner. Please leave your power tools at home. 1Mission will provide all tools and materials required for the house construction but you are welcome to bring your own hand tools as well.

ABOUT... BASE CAMP

The 1Mission base camp is an RV Park located approximately 8 miles north of Puerto Peñasco, complete with RV sites with full hookups, tent camping and two bunkhouses. There are showers, bathrooms and a laundry room. We have a kitchen and dining room along with a swimming pool and beach volleyball court. Our local directors, Pedro and Susana Tapia and their three children live at the base camp.



Bring your camping equipment, a sleeping bag or blankets and pillow along with your personal toiletries and work clothes. Check the *list of things to bring* for more information. Everything else will be provided.

ABOUT... YOUR WEEKEND

The typical weekend will be scheduled as follows:

First Evening Welcome meeting at base camp

Day One Eat breakfast, pack a sack lunch and drive to the job site (you will drive your own vehicle to the site).

You will meet your family for the first time. You will mix concrete in wheelbarrows, pour the concrete slab floor and frame the walls.

After returning to base camp you'll have dinner prepared by local volunteers and then your evening is free. You are welcome to go into Puerto Peñasco and explore the city provided that your group leader approves and you notify 1Mission staff of your intentions.

Day Two You will get up (a little slower than Day One) take some Advil or Tylenol and then eat breakfast, pack your lunch and head to the job site.

Today you will erect the walls and roof, wrap the house with tar paper and chicken wire and then complete the first coat of stucco on the exterior walls.

After returning to base camp you will prepare for Fiesta Night! This evening your family will join us to share our evening meal. This will be a time where you can get to know the family better and work on your Spanish language learning.

Fiesta Night will end around 8:00 and the rest of the evening you are free to do whatever you choose, which, after two days of hard labor, usually means going to bed.

Day Three You will get up even slower than Day Two, more Advil, eat breakfast, give thanks that you don't have to work like this everyday, and then leave for the jobsite.

Today is an easier day since you should only have to do the second coat of stucco and clean up the job site. You will do a house dedication ceremony with the family where you'll turn over the keys for the house.

And then comes the hard part...saying goodbye to the new friends that you've made.

After returning to base camp there will be lunch provided and then your weekend concludes.



ABOUT... CONTINUING THE RELATIONSHIP

We welcome you to follow up with us to see how your family is doing. If you are a regular visitor to the community we encourage you to check in with your family for a visit.

We also encourage you to support our ministry with your prayers and financial support. Donations are tax deductible and can be made by mail or on our website.

We've placed you on our email list to keep you informed about 1Mission. We hope you find these emails informative. If you wish to be removed from the list you can unsubscribe using the link in the email.

Thanks for partnering with us to transform the community of Puerto Peñasco one family at a time.

Check us out online at 1mission.org or *Like* us on Facebook at facebook.com/1Mission.

