

Students and parents,

Below is information that covers most questions directed our way for the Guatemala Mission Trip. If there is something that you do not see, please send Aaron or Ellyn an email and ask. We want you to have all the information necessary, so you feel at ease supporting your student on this endeavor.

Included here is information about location, price, pricing schedule, due dates, passports, shots/vaccinations, food & food prep, fundraising, expectations, and more.

PLEASE pay particular attention to the (4) Pre-Trip meetings we require.

Who are we working with?

- CCCG (Centro Christiano Cultural de Guatemala) is a local church in Guatemala City making a difference in the lives of people in their own country by taking care of their spiritual, physical, and emotional needs.
- Founded over 35 years ago by a group of young people who believed that change for their country comes when they invest in the next generation.
- Two Mission outposts covering 15 rural villages (Rio Dulce & Monterrico)
- Missional Church - members are active in serving
- CCCG has been hosting teams for over 20 years from North America and Europe
- One small group from the church attends one mission team the entire week they are in Guatemala (neat relationships happen that way).

Passports:

- \$165 (total for a new passport). 4-6 weeks.
- You can apply online through the State Department Website.
- Not a hard process, just thorough.
- If you have a passport, MUST BE CURRENT AT TIME OF TRIP!
- Passports need to be in hand by April. You need to have applied for your passport on or before February 1.

Shots/Vaccinations:

- Hep A and up to date on Tetanus
- Malaria medicine (optional and there is a variety)
- ** this varies, but some PCP's recommend typhoid.
- Covid Vaccine nor a negative Covid test is required to enter the country as of August 16, 2022

Safety:

We will ALWAYS be well-taken care of. Our hosts are very familiar with the responsibilities of hosting North American and European teams. We are never taken to places that we shouldn't be.

There are areas (or "zones") in Guatemala City where travelers should not go. We steer well-clear of these areas and only stay and travel in places our hosts know are safe. We don't travel much past 8:30 or 9pm in the city.

Food & Accommodations:

- Food is always prepared with our team in mind and hunger is never/has never been a problem for teams.
- Our hosts know how to prepare food safely and with clean water. Ice is made from clean water.
- We typically eat at a fast food restaurant once or twice that is very safe.
- We will probably eat at least one meal at the Church in Guatemala City.
- Accommodations are very adequate. We are comfortable, safe and in an area where we can relax. There's a pool, hammocks, and areas to play games and hang out.
- We will be in bunk-style rooms.
 - o One big room with bunk beds for girls.

- o One similar for guys.
- o Bathrooms and showers attached to each bunk room.
- o Showers are probably cold. :)

Communication :

- For our trip, AT THE VERY LEAST - Aaron will have an international cell phone plan.

Typically, we have access to wifi at some point every day. For multiple reasons, we will safely stow student's cell phones away upon arrival in country. When we have available wifi and when it's appropriate in our schedule, students may video / call home & friends. Students sometimes do not understand international phone plans/charges. It's important that students spend time with one another, and not be on devices). Aaron (and likely another adult) will always be reachable.

Dates:

- June 13-22 Friday - Saturday. Our plane tickets are already purchased.
 - o Departing Flight in Atlanta @ 9:21am (Connection in Miami) Arrival in Guatemala @6:15pm
 - o Returning Flight in Guatemala City @ 2:39pm (Connection in Miami) Arrival in ATL @11:05pm

Cost:

January 8: **ONE DAY PRICE OF \$1299**

January 9 until full: **REGULAR PRICE: \$1399**

- o Down Payment: \$150 One day/\$250 Regular
- o 2nd payment due 3/1: \$575
- o Final Payment due 5/1: \$575

Fundraisers:

- Students can work the Fall and Spring Yard sale to earn money
- Students can individually write support letters
- Ask for support as Christmas Gifts from family
- We will be doing a Souper Bowl fundraiser

Schedule for the week:

Thursday June 13

- Meet at Wesley @ 9pm* all times subject and likely to change
- Short Prayer Service for Students/Families
- Pack up buses
- Get a short nap before we wake up early to get to the airport

Friday June 14

- Departing Flight AA1046 9:21am in Atlanta (Connection in Dallas AA 0845) Arrival 6:15pm in Guatemala
- Travel 15 min by bus to hostel in Guatemala City (gated community)

Saturday June 15

- Breakfast in hostel
- Trip to Antigua (25 mile drive)
- Lunch at McDonalds
- Tour Coffee Museum
- Return to Guatemala City
- Final Dinner at CCCG Church
- Sleep in Hostel

Sunday Jun 16

- Breakfast in hostel
- Attend church services

- Lunch at church
- Bus ride to Rio Dolce (6 hours)
- Dinner at Retreat Center

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday June 17-20

- Breakfast at retreat center
- Work/lunch/VBS/medical clinic in villages
- Dinner at retreat center
- Nightly devo's teaching/worship

Friday June 21

- Serve breakfast in a village
- Bus ride back to Guatemala City (6 hours)
- Lunch on the way
- Dinner at church or hostel

Saturday June 22

- Returning Flight AA1774 2:39pm in Guatemala City (Connection in MIA AA2290) Arrival 11:05pm in ATL

Arrive back at Wesley really late

A Hat & Sunglasses. I would encourage you not to bring expensive sunglasses.

Toiletries. Deodorant, shampoo, soap etc. Items must be travel-sized. (> 4oz),

A Towel. This is your bath towel & your beach towel (we'll go to a waterfall one afternoon).

Water Bottle. This item is a MUST! Our hosts will have large containers of purified water for us, but you will need your own water bottle in order to fill it up. This will also be what you will use to brush your teeth.

Snack Foods. You may want to pack a few snack foods for a night once we are in the hostel. Granola bars, trail mix etc. Nothing chocolate/nothing that will melt.

Spending Money. This is not required but there will most likely be opportunities to stop and go to things like the Guatemala City market or similar places that will have souvenirs. All meals are covered so this money is not necessary but maybe an option. Around \$50 is a good amount to have.

Any Medicines you personally need (an adult can help with this if necessary).

Small Flashlight

Bible. ** PLEASE DO NOT FORGET THIS **

Optional - A cheap watch (remember, minimal access to phones).

Optional - a drawstring bag or small backpack to carry while we are traveling in Guatemala/to villages

*Everyone will be packing in a carry-on & personal bag. Groups of three/four will share a checked bag (for toiletries, snacks, and items that will not fit in carry-ons. This will allow us to pack games, medical supplies, and other items for villages and health clinics.

*Aaron will be providing bug repellent and hand sanitizers for every student

*Bed linens are provided.

* Please remember this as you set aside things to pack: **Don't pack anything you'd be upset about not bringing home or if it got ruined.**