

Guatemala 2026 - Trip Expectations

Hello! Please review this document BEFORE applying so you are fully aware of what is expected of you for this trip. If you have any questions, please reach out directly to Rebekah Arcilla (734-957-6619, rebekah@connectionchurch.info).

Purpose

The purpose of this trip is to love and serve the people of Guatemala. We are here to pour out and be the hands and feet of Jesus. The heartbeat of this mission is in the people we meet. Hope of Life creates a beautiful opportunity to meet people and bring the love of Jesus to them.

Trip Dates

Week 1: July 25-August 1, 2026

Week 2: August 1-8, 2026

In the application process, please apply to the trip dates that work best in your schedule. Adults and youth are welcome to participate in either trip.

Application Process

All applicants must be reviewed by the team leads. A formal acceptance to participate in the trip will be communicated directly with the applicant.

Leader references are expected for the application. References should come from ministry leaders within Connection Church. For any questions on acceptable references, please reach out to Rebekah (rebekah@connectionchurch.info)

Personal Trip Cost

\$2,500

The cost of the trip covers all ministry and travel expenses such as airline tickets, food, and housing.

Everyone will be trained to imitate full time ministries by reaching out to their community to raise the support they need. Examples of outreach include mailing out personalized letters, phone calls, texts, and other forms of communication to invite people to partner with them in fulfilling the mission. Through this process, we are seeking to build relationships with those that are choosing to steward their financial resources in making our trip possible.

Regular check-ins, coaching, and resources will be provided to keep everyone on track of reaching their fundraising goal. In the event that the full amount is not raised by the time of the trip, the remaining balance will need to be paid out of pocket. It is expected that any amount fundraised over the goal will be put towards project funding for the village of La Jigua.

Travel Expectations

A U.S. passport is required in order to travel internationally. Passports must not expire within the date of **August 16, 2027** in order to travel. Any passports that expire before that date must be renewed. The cost of obtaining a new passport or renewing a passport is **not** included in the cost to fundraiser.

Housing Details

Hope of Life International generously houses us for the duration of the trip at their compound. There is running water, air conditioning, wifi, and 24/7 security at the compound. HOL staff is very accommodating to any dietary restrictions or food allergies for all meals.

Projects and Outreach

HOL requires that at least 1 project contributes to their compound. This project typically consists of various labor intensive initiatives such as building a home. Expect to be working in hot, humid weather conditions with temperatures ranging between 90-100 degrees. The projects require very physical labor and the ability to carry or lift heavy equipment. More details will be provided on the specific project assigned closer to the trip, but are subject to change based on HOL's needs.

Fluency in Spanish is not a prerequisite for participation in this trip. We will be hosting language workshops to get familiar with the basics and have the ability to warmly greet those we are meeting in the villages. Translators will be present all throughout the trip to assist us in our outreach. However, please be ready to initiate conversations and have familiarity with sharing the gospel on the trip. There will be opportunities leading up to the trip to practice evangelism.

Cultural Expectations

Guatemala has a beautiful, rich culture. We expect the team to embrace the culture with an open mind and a posture of respect. The sharing of private information (home address, contact information, etc.) is not permitted. There will be multiple opportunities to learn more about the history of Guatemala and tour the HOL compound.

Ability to Participate

All applications will be reviewed by the mission team leads. Formal acceptance to participate in the trip will be communicated directly.

Please be advised that HOL requires that all trip participants are minimum age of 14. Students under this age requirement will be accepted on a case by case basis. For students not accepted to participate on the trip, a follow up meeting will be conducted to review growth opportunities for participation in future trips.

In the event of a moral failure leading up to the trip, the team leads have the discretion to remove you from the team.