**Third Church Summer 2024 Mission Trip**

**MEXICO**

**Building Hope in the Desert**

**June 30-July 6, 2024**

**Due Date: November 19, 2023**

**Deposit: $250 due with application**

**Total Cost: $950**



**Background**

Since 2007 Third Student Ministry has made regular trips to Mexico (2007, 2008, 2011, 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2023) and more recently there has been great interest from the larger Third community. We believe that God is leading not just our students, **but people from ages 10 years old and older to go to Tijuana, Mexico with Amor Ministries.** This trip is for those 10 years old and older. (www.amor.org).

This “all-ages” team will be separate from the high school trip while being in Mexico with Amor at the same time as our students. While there will be some overlap with our students, we will camp (we’ll be sleeping in tents!) as our own group, eat as our own group, debrief each day as our own group, and build for a family or families as our own group.

As you think about joining us on this trip, we ask that you consider two things. 1) “Is God calling me to do this?” 2) “Am I committed to making this trip a top priority in my life as I prepare for it?” Prayerfully ponder these two questions before applying for this trip.

**Amor Ministries**

**Amor Ministries** is committed to be like Christ as we:

* Provide educational and mission experiences that radically change people
* Eradicate spiritual and physical poverty
* Impact the future of the Church

**Amor Believes**

* that God, as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, are one
* that God guides, inspires, and strengthens us through His Holy Spirit and Word
* that as Christians, we live by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and that we consider this the Good News to the world
* in His commandments to love God above all, and our neighbors as ourselves
* that God impels us to make a difference in our world
* that we should always act out of love, considering all men and women as our brothers and sisters

**Amor’s History**

* Amor Ministries is founded in 1980.
* A Board of Directors is founded the same year for accountability.
* Work projects from 1980-1984 consist of refurbishing orphanages in Tijuana.
* The Intern and E2 Programs are started in 1982.
* The first Amor home is built in 1985.
* The Mexico Ministry Planning Board is formed in 1988.
* 5,295 participants attend Amor mission trips in 1992.
* Amor joins the ECFA in 1993.
* 10,594 participants attend Amor mission trips in 1997.
* 499 homes are built the same year.
* A food bank is started in 1998 at the request of the Planning Board.
* 15,856 participants attend Amor mission trips in 2000.
* 760 homes are built the same year.

**Payment Information**

**Application Due Date**

**November 17, 2023**

**$250 DEPOSIT due with the application.**

**Total Trip Cost:**

**$950 paid in full by March3, 2024**

**Payment Options:**

* Cash
* Checks. Made payable to Third Church, memo: “All-ages Mission Trip.” To designate further, (for ex: All-ages Mission Trip payment for “Sarah Smith”) please write “All-ages Mission Trip-Sarah Smith on the Memo line. *This will not be deductible*.
* Online: thirdrva.org, Give, Secure online giving, “other”, Mexico mission trip
* *This is a non-refundable trip*

**Please speak to Rick about payment options if you are unable to pay for the trip in full by March 3, 2024.**

If the cost of the trip is preventing you from coming with us to Mexico, **scholarships are available**. ***We never want money to be the reason for not coming on a mission trip!*** Please contact Rick Hutton (rickh@thirdrva.org or 282-4645 or in person) if you are interested in a scholarship for this trip.

**Tentative Trip Schedule**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Sunday, June 30 AM**  | Depart Richmond EARLYFly to San Diego, CA |
| **Sunday, June 30 PM** | Arrive San Diego, CACross the Border with Amor RepresentativesSet up base campDinnerSleep |
| **Monday –Thursday** | Work on building a home and a new life for a Mexican Family |
| **Friday, July 5th**  | Break down base camp/departArrive CAArrive at our overnight housing at University of San Diego Enjoy some down time in San Diego |
| **Saturday, July 6th** | Head to San Diego AirportArrive back in Richmond |

**Packing List (some items subject to change)**

* **PASSPORT (must not expire earlier than January 6, 2025)**
* Pack in an [large-to-extra-large LLBean](https://www.llbean.com/llb/shop/63914?feat=extra%20large%20duffle-SR0&page=adventure-duffle-extra-large&csp=a) (or similar) duffle bag. Please note – **EVERYTHING** you pack must fit in your duffle and/or backpack.
* Backpack/day pack
* Sleeping Bag ([REI Sleeping Bag](https://www.rei.com/product/894998/rei-co-op-helio-sack-55-sleeping-bag) suggested)
* Sleeping pad ([Therm-a-rests](http://www.rei.com/search?query=sleeping+pads) suggested)
* Pillow ([compressible camping pillow](https://www.amazon.com/Therm-Rest-Compressible-Backpacking-Airplanes/dp/B01KXU5C86?th=1&psc=1) suggested)
* **PASSPORT** – seriously – it is important!
* 2 Towels – (one for base camp, one for San Diego.)
* shower shoes
* bathing suit (for showering. 2 pieces are ok – as long as covered up between tent & showers)
* bathing suit for swimming in San Diego
* Solar Sun Shower (not a necessity – can find online or at Walmart/REI anywhere from $10-$30)
* Soap and shampoo (travel size)
* Deodorant
* Toothbrush, tooth paste and any other needed toiletries
* Pants (no shorts) for the works sites. Jeans, cargo pants, or scrubs. (can wear shorts on base camp/to sleep in)
* Sturdy, closed-toed shoes
* Can pack flip flops (or other comfortable shoes for base camp at night)
* 2 pairs of work gloves (cheap ones found at home depot/walmart)
* Head covering (hat, bandanas, etc.)
* Sun screen
* Chapstick/lip balm
* Insect repellent
* Sun glasses
* Sweat shirt (for base camp/night)
* Handy wipes/towelettes – several packs
* Toilet paper (at least 2 rolls) – packed in ziploc bags to keep dust/dirt out
* Hand sanitizer – a few travel size bottles
* **PASSPORT – are you catching on? – it is important!**
* 4 Work t-shirts for each day on work site.
* Water bottle with a **twist top**, not a pop/snap top or one with a pop out straw. View [link](https://www.amazon.com/Nalgene-Tritan-BPA-Free-Bottle-32-Ounces/dp/B001OTPBPK/ref%3Dsr_1_3?s=sporting-goods&ie=UTF8&qid=1523906823&sr=1-3&keywords=nalgene+water+bottle) to view recommended water bottle.)
* Rain jacket
* 2 sets clean clothes (for San Diego AND Flight home, packed in large ziplocs to keep dirt out)
* Bible
* Notebook
* Pen
* Flashlight (I recommend a “lantern” like flashlight. I have [this model](https://www.amazon.com/Coleman-Kids-Adventure-Mini-Lantern/dp/B01MSK8JLG/ref%3Dsr_1_25?s=sporting-goods&ie=UTF8&qid=1523906913&sr=1-25&keywords=coleman+camping+lantern) and it works well)
* Watch or Alarm Clock
* Extra batteries
* $$ for 4 meals and miscellaneous items (store on base camp)
* Camera (if you would like)
* **Annnnnnnnddddd…..your passport**

**SAVE THESE PAGES FOR YOUR RECORDS**

**SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION PAGES TO RICK HUTTON**

**Mexico Application**

**Due Date: November 17, 2023**

**If you are applying to this trip, know that you are committing yourself to a lot of prayer, planning and continuing involvement in the Third Church community.**

**Please answer the following questions honestly:**

1.Why are you applying for this trip?

Click or tap here to enter text.

2. Describe your relationship with Christ right now (use words like hot, cold, growing, stagnant…etc.)

Click or tap here to enter text.

3. How have you been involved at Third this year? How has this involvement helped you grow closer to Christ?

Click or tap here to enter text.

4. What is the most significant thing that has happened to you this past year? Why?

Click or tap here to enter text.

5. What other mission projects have you been a part of? Please describe your experience.

Click or tap here to enter text.

6. What are your fears/concerns about this trip?

Click or tap here to enter text.

7. What are you looking forward to about this trip?

Click or tap here to enter text.

8. What strengths can you bring to this trip? (Are you enthusiastic, energetic, good with your hands, creative, ect).

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Third Mexico Mission Trip Covenant**

**Initial**

 **As a member of this team, I agree to:**

Remember that I am representing Jesus Christ as well as Third Church. **I will model Jesus in my conduct, speech, and attitude**. I will be positive and encouraging, and refrain from complaining, negative talk, or gossip.

**I will pray regularly** for the trip, the mission team, our hosts, and the people we will serve.

The trip leader(s) and Amor representatives are the recognized authorities on the trip. **I will respect these authorities and their decisions**, being supportive and trusting positive intentions.

I will not go as an expert or with a "fix them" mentality. Instead, **I will go as a learner and humble servant**, open to other cultures and methods, as well as be open to what God might want to teach me. I will not have an attitude that suggests that our ways or we are superior.

**I will do my best to acclimate to the host culture**. I will respect the host’s cultural view of Christianity recognizing that Christianity has many faces throughout the world and is practiced in various cultural forms. I may also have to eat food that is unfamiliar or participate in foreign customs.

**I will follow the trip schedule and participate in all group functions**. I know that permission to deviate from scheduled activities or separate from the group for any reason must be obtained from the trip leader.

**I will follow the dress code guidelines and dress appropriately.** My appearance is important for both Amor’s reputation and in the way the local people perceive Christianity, Jesus, and me. I may have to submit to certain restrictions regarding appearance, and clothing that are different from what I normally wear. I want to honor the trip by avoiding attire that could possibly conflict with the cultural or organizational norms.

**I will be flexible in my attitude and actions**. I know that travel can present numerous unexpected and undesired circumstances, but the rewards of overcoming such circumstances are innumerable. Sometimes service stretches us beyond what we’re used to…and that’s OK! Mission trips are all about moving into new territory and experiencing something different.

**I will not to be exclusive in my relationships.** If my boyfriend/girlfriend or spouse is on the team, we will make every effort to interact with all the members of the team. I will refrain from any activity that could be give off the wrong impression. I am coming on this trip to serve.

**I will not engage in inappropriate activities** such as smoking (tobacco of any form), illegal drugs, or alcoholic beverages at all times during this trip.

**I will attend team meetings before the trip as well as any follow-up meetings.**

**I will participate in all of the fundraisers as I am able for the trip.**

**I will refrain from using my cell phone while on the trip.** I will turn my focus to Jesus, my teammates and the community we serve.

**I have read the Covenant above and agree to abide by the trip guidelines and expectations within**.

Participant Signature Click or tap here to enter text. Date Click or tap here to enter text.