

2019 YOUTH MISSION TRIP "THE CITY OF CHILDREN" Ensenada, Mexico July 6 – July 12, 2019

FIRST MEETING 1-27-2019

On July 6-12, 2019 a group of teenagers and adults will be going to the City of Children orphanage in Ensenada, Mexico. This will be the 30th consecutive year that a group from North Boulevard has gone to the City of Children! We will fly out of Nashville on Saturday, July 6th, and take a charter bus from San Diego, CA to Ensenada, Mexico. ***The guidelines of the City of Children state that you must have completed the 9th grade to be eligible to turn in an application for this trip. Since the nbyg team is limited to around 70-75 team members, FIRST PRIORITY is given to those who have completed the 10-12th grades with FIRST PRIORITY given to older students. IF space allows, we may open the trip to those who have completed the 9th grade. We may also have to limit the number of parents per family that are permitted to attend in order to allow this maximum number of teens to participate.***

During our week at The City of Children we plan to accomplish the following:

- 1) Teach Bible lessons using skits, songs, puppets, written materials and activities.
- 2) Complete our assigned work projects - such as (but not limited to) mixing and pouring concrete for sidewalks on the property, repairing existing sidewalks damaged by extensive rain and flooding AND we will be building another house this summer for a family in Maneadero. We may also assist in work outside the home in the town of Ensenada like we have done in previous years by painting at the school. We will also be doing some renovation in the TEEN GIRLS KITCHEN.
- 3) Prepare and serve meals and snacks to the Mexican children, teenagers, and staff.
- 4) Spend as much time as possible with the Mexican children and teenagers building and strengthening friendships. We will do this by playing games, sports, and just talking. The language difference is not as much of a barrier as you might think!

If you decide to go on this trip you must commit to:

- 1) Pray for God to guide us and help us as we prepare for and go on this trip. Each team member **MUST** select an **ADULT PRAYER PARTNER** of your same gender with whom you will meet briefly once a week (if at all possible) to pray for your preparation and trip. These meetings can be before or after church/TRUE NORTH or take place offsite. Teen team members will submit a name upon being selected for

the team and will be required to journal the times they meet with their prayer partner. We expect you to make this commitment and to take it seriously.

- 2) You must earn TEN **“SERVICE POINTS.”** The main purpose of these points is to insure YOUR commitment to the team and your commitment to be a servant . . . even in the small, every day business of life . . . not just during a week long trip to Mexico! Anybody can get excited about serving there! We want to make sure that you understand that service happens at home as well. You will receive a sheet with a DETAILED list of requirements and ways to earn these points. You can choose to serve in any category in ways that equals 10 POINTS. **Points DO NOT necessarily equate to “hours”**, but this will be explained in the sheet you are given.
- 3) Work to earn your money for the trip and turn in your deposits ON TIME. There will be a STRICTLY ENFORCED \$10.00 late fee for EACH payment that is more than ONE DAY LATE. This is to prevent office staff or interns from having to use valuable time calling and reminding you of your responsibility. You will be adequately reminded of all deadlines.
- 4) Write a ONE PAGE (typed 12 pt. font, double-spaced) essay explaining why you want to go on this trip AND explaining what skills YOU think you bring to this team.
- 5) Additional requirements are a possibility. Attendance at team meetings is important.

The deposit dates are:

Sunday, February 24th \$100.00 to secure your place

You CAN pay this ANY time UP TO 2/24 .

NO DEPOSITS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER February 24th.

Sunday, March 31st \$125.00

Sunday, April 28th \$125.00

Sunday, May 26th \$125.00

Sunday, June 30th Remaining balance due

After the plane tickets have been purchased and the charter buses have been reserved, we will not be able to refund your money. **NO OTHER MONEY WILL BE REFUNDED AFTER May 26th.**

We will have opportunities for you to earn money for your trip. We will evaluate several opportunities again this year. **Our SUNDAY AFTERNOON Mexican Meal and SILENT AUCTION is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, March 17th.** Those who serve at these events will receive a share of the proceeds. We also have several members at North Blvd. who may give teenagers odd jobs to help them earn money. You may also prepare “baskets” or other art items, etc. to be auctioned during the Mexico Meal. Information on these silent auction items will be made available to those who sign up for this trip. There are possibilities of other opportunities as well. We are open to ideas and we will depend on some of you to coordinate these efforts.

- 6) Attend meetings we hold to prepare for this trip as well as work sessions and skit

or puppet practice sessions. We will try not to have too many of these, but some are essential. Dates will be given in advance so that you can ask off of work, etc. If you cannot commit to MOST of these preparation activities, you do not need to go on the trip. In order to be fair to those who have to miss these meetings, additional service points may be assigned since there will always be behind the scene preparation to be done.

Attendance at these meetings is an important part of this trip. Please add them to your calendar and make plans to attend. Additional meetings for various teams will be scheduled as needed.

7) All male team members will commit to learning the names of each BOY at the City of Children and all female team members will commit to learning the names of each GIRL at the City of Children. Team members will be given a directory WITH PICTURES of each child at one of the initial meetings.

8) Each student will commit to participating in **THREE STONES RIVER MANOR DEVOTIONALS** (held on the SECOND SUNDAY NIGHT of each month). Participation in these devotionals demonstrates commitment to being a part of the youth group in those outreaches that serve others. *We will count STONES RIVER MANORS held during this school year (beginning in August) but each team member must attend (at least) THREE.*

9) Follow the rules that are outlined on the following pages. Mission trips are acts of love and hard work and participation is a privilege, not a right. We have been asked by the City of Children to strictly adhere to their guidelines when selecting the mission team this year.

north boulevard rules for this trip

- 1) Follow all City of Children rules at all times.
- 2) Remember to be a light to the world - a good example for others with your speech and your behavior at all times. (Matt. 5:14-16 and I Tim. 4:12)
- 3) Remember that we are God's children - chosen by God to accomplish good things as we serve Him. We are representing God's family at North Boulevard and our own individual families on this trip.
- 4) Be patient, respectful and courteous to everyone we encounter. Be mannerly and considerate of others.
- 5) Be on time for meals, work and other activities.
- 6) In case of an accident, injury, illness, emergency, a serious problem or disagreement immediately notify the first chaperone you find and also notify David Skidmore. Teenagers, ask an adult to help you if you need medicine or first aid supplies.
- 7) NO ONE is allowed to go hiking up the hill alone. No one is allowed to leave the City of

Children grounds or hike up the hill without permission. If you want to hike up the hill, you must also sign the chart in the American kitchen and write down who is going on the hike, the date, and time, after you have notified an adult chaperone. No one may hike beyond the walls of the home. You **MAY NOT** go to the top of the mountain.

8) Teenagers show respect for and obey the adults who are chaperones on this trip.

9) All adults are responsible for the discipline of the teenagers on this trip. If you see a rule being broken, please handle it immediately. If a problem persists, notify an adult chaperone. Our future visits depend on our behavior when we are there.

10) Teenagers, in the airports, in San Diego, and when we go shopping in Ensenada you must stay in groups of three or more that INCLUDES AT LEAST ONE ADULT at all times - NO EXCEPTIONS.

11) NEVER USE THE WORDS "GUN", "BOMB", "HIJACK", "HOSTAGE", ETC. WHILE IN THE AIRPORT, ON THE PLANE, ON THE BUS, OR AT THE BORDER.

Do not horse around at the border - they take their jobs seriously!

12) Boys are not allowed to go into the girls' dorm. Girls are not allowed to go into the boys' dorm. NO EXCEPTIONS. Teenagers must not leave their dorms after 10:30 p.m.

city of children rules

1) You are living examples of your Lord and Savior. Act in a way that honors Him.

2) We are a team. Help each other. Forgive each other. Love each other. Stick together.

3) We are guests in a foreign country. Respect their customs and their laws.

4) Do NOT leave the City of Children without the directors' permission for ANY reason.

5) We expect youth leaders and all adults to be responsible for the proper conduct of the group. Teens must be entering the 9th grade and above to visit. All adults are to help maintain control and supervise the behavior of the youth. All activities must be planned, organized and coordinated with the office. Any problems are to be reported to the office for our daily report.

6) We require lights out in all visitor dorms and kitchen by 10:00 p.m. No loud music is allowed in any facilities after dark. Our kids go to bed early. No sports or noisy activities after 9:00 p.m. All visitors must return to the home by 9:00 p.m. The gates are closed and locked at 9:00 p.m.

7) During your visit none of the children at the home are allowed to leave for any reason without the Director's approval. We encourage you to invite our children to eat with you.

Please plan ahead. Our children need permission from the office to do this. You can invite individuals, age groups (dorms), or everyone. Please clear this through the office before extending an invitation.

8) Worship services are at 9:00 a.m. The Mexicans have a Bible class after worship. Please leave immediately and go to the American kitchen after worship so class can begin. A tour of the facilities will begin promptly at 10:30 beginning at the patio in front of the American kitchen so you can see the entire place. You are not allowed inside the dorms except for this tour. The only exception is the pre-school or baby dorm which can be visited from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. daily for organized activities with adult supervision. Other groups need to be visited on the playground or at the sports areas. Some groups have activities for the children in the American kitchen. The time you spend serving the children will bring you the greatest joy.

9) This is not a trip for romance with our children or between yourselves! Don't get involved in any way except as friends. We are visited by the welfare department monthly. They talk with our employees and kids about your behavior. Your future visits and our license to operate can be ruined by one bad act.

10) A Bible class should be planned Sunday through Wednesday. The evening activities should be scheduled to begin 6:30 p.m. The middle age children must go back to their dorms at 8:00 p.m. and the teens by 9:00 p.m. The tradition is for the visitors to provide a snack for everyone. You are not allowed to follow the kids up to their dorm. Stay in the visitor's areas. You are not allowed in the Mexican dorms after dark.

11) Things we do not allow are beach trips, short shorts (modest shorts are okay), cut off shirts (T-shirts are okay but message shirts should be in good taste), tight clothing, bathing suits, sun bathing, bad language, bad behavior, smoking, walkmans, CD players, video games, boom boxes, or rough housing. You cannot buy or possess alcohol, drugs, knives, guns or fireworks at the home. Our children are not allowed to chew gum, so we ask that your group does not also.

12) Electricity and water are expensive here. Keep lights off when not in use. Please take only one short shower per day. Our sewer system is septic tanks. THIS REQUIRES TOILET PAPER TO BE PUT IN THE TRASH CANS NEXT TO THE TOILET. If you flush it, you will clog the system.

13) We provide 32 beds in each of two teen visitor dorms for youth groups. They have only beds, mattresses, toilets, showers and sinks. You must bring your own towels, sleeping bags, bedding and pillow. Our weather is much cooler than everyone expects. Nights require sweatshirts or jackets sometimes because we are only a short distance from the ocean and there is generally a cool breeze .

14) We have two other facilities we call the Motels. One has 6 bedrooms, 3 baths and a living area. The other has 5 bedrooms, 3 baths and a living area. Bed linens and towels are provided. These facilities are for adults. Youth groups are not permitted to use these facilities.

15) You are responsible for your food and preparation of all your meals. Our kitchen is equipped with a stove, oven, convection oven, grill, refrigerator, freezer, microwave, drink machine, coffee maker, pop corn popper, and ice machine. Please do not let the drink machine get lower than 3 inches and be sure to dissolve all powdered mixes thoroughly before putting them in the machine. We are proud of our kitchen facilities. Please assign a crew to clean them daily. This includes sweeping, mopping, and removing trash. Lunch times are at 1:00 p.m. and supper is 5:30 p.m. We have a Mexican meal prepared for the mission teams if they arrive during our standard arrival time. You are also responsible for cleaning all the bathrooms daily. This includes sweeping, mopping, and taking out the trash.

16) Report any damage to the facilities or equipment to your group leader who will notify Patty, Ricardo or Pilar.

17) Phone calls home are for emergency purposes only with the exception of one call to report safe arrival. Set up a phone tree at home to pass on the message.

18) Youth with wild colored hair are not allowed to visit.

19) Youth with body jewelry other than appropriate earrings are not permitted to visit. No visible tatoos are allowed. They must be covered at all times while at the home.

20) Youth who wear oversized clothing hanging low are not allowed to visit.

21) If you have a question about a team member's appearance, leave them at home.

22) Team members with special medical problems should be discouraged.

23) Failure to respect rules and decisions may result in being sent home early at your own expense.

24) Every team member should have read the rules at least three times before coming and agreed to abide by them. We will send team members home for serious violations.

things to do now!

1) SHOTS - The Center for Disease Control and most local physicians recommend that travelers should have the following shots for this trip:

Hepatitis A - This is a series of two shots which are given 6 months apart. Go on and have the first one now. It will give you about 96% protection. The second shot is a booster which will provide the remaining 4% and give you lifetime protection. If you have already had this series, you do not have to have it again. This is not the same as the 3 part Hepatitis B vaccine which is now mandatory for all school age children.

Tetanus - It is also recommended that you have had a tetanus booster within

the last 5 years.

NOTE: You are NOT required to have these shots for a trip to Mexico.

2) IDENTIFICATION - It IS NOW necessary to get a **U.S. Passport** to enter Mexico. You MUST keep this form of identification on your person (in your wallet or backpack) at the airport, on the airplane, at the Mexican border, at the United States border and when we go to shop in Ensenada.

3) NOTARIZED FORMS - Every teenager who is going on the trip must turn in a notarized medical release form and a notarized travel release form. Sam Bagwell will be available on several announced dates to notarize forms. Vicki Laws AND Connie Smith are may also notarize forms. Dr. Martinez is the attending physician for the City of Children and is located only minutes away. If someone from our group is injured, he will provide the necessary medical treatment. We will be taking a fully stocked medical kit. There is an adequate medical facility minutes away in Ensenada and, if necessary, an American hospital 80 miles away in San Diego.

3) RAISING FUNDS - Each person is responsible for working to earn their own money for this mission trip. We will have some group fund raisers, but you will also need to earn money independently by baby-sitting, washing cars, yard or house work, painting, etc.

packing list

NOTE: This list is subject to additions as we make plans.

YOU MAY ONLY BRING ONE SUITCASE AND ONE SMALL CARRY-ON! You will be responsible for your own luggage. Some of you will be required to carry a “team bag” as well. Everyone must unload and carry their own luggage through the border. Pack at least one complete change of clothes and some necessary toiletries in your carry-on bag in case your luggage gets lost. EVERY PIECE OF YOUR LUGGAGE MUST HAVE A LABEL ON IT THAT SHOWS YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS. Make sure these are attached before you leave home.

NOTE: We will LIKELY be flying SOUTHWEST which does NOT charge for bags. We may have SOME team members who will be on other airlines due to the size of the group. This is still being worked out.

In addition, you will need: Keep in mind that this list will be reviewed and revised as we make preparations.

—Bible

—Money for two-three meals and snacks while traveling (\$30.00 minimum?)

—Money for souvenirs (optional)

—Casual clothes that can be layered - (jeans, modest shorts, t-shirts, at least 1 sweatshirt and /or jacket) The weather is not as warm as you may think. Because of the current styles,

it is difficult to find long shorts, so we would prefer that girls wear capri length or full length pants while at the City of Children. This has been a problem in the past.

—A nice, casual outfit for Sunday morning worship such as a nice (modest) shirt and khaki pants or skirt and comfortable shoes.

—Work clothes - old t-shirts and modest shorts or pants, and old tennis shoes or work boots. The concrete may ruin these clothes.

—AT LEAST ONE PAIR OF THICK GLOVES!

—BEDDING - a pillow, pillowcase, twin sheets and a blanket or a sleeping bag. (Adults staying in the “Motel” within the walls of the home do not need to bring bedding or towels. Wash cloths are not provided in the “motel”).

—Towels and washcloth

—Any medication you take (must be properly labeled and in the original bottles). All prescription drugs MUST be in separate bottles and labeled.

—A clothes bag labeled with your name for dirty clothes

—A large plastic bag labeled with your name for wet clothes.

—Flashlight

—Camera

—Sunscreen - The cool breeze off the ocean can be deceptive, you can easily get sunburned.

—Insect repellent

—Personal items (hair dryer, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, soap, shampoo, brush, mirror, etc.) Aerosol cans that are put in suitcases and checked in at the airport may leak in flight and get on your clothes. Put them in plastic bags. They may not go in your carry-on. Ask Joy McCLain. ☺

—Snacks - you can bring pre-packaged snack food in small quantities. DO NOT bring any Produce (fruit) because it is not allowed. You DO NOT need to bring your own bottled water. Bottled water is supplied in each dorm.

You may want to bring some small gifts to share with the Mexican children or teenagers. Here are some suggestions: card games, travel size games, stickers, bubbles, jewelry. The teenagers appreciate ball caps, t-shirts, cologne, or bath and body products. *DO NOT bring gum, candy, chalk, or Barbies.*

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

We will provide these numbers as we make preparations.

projected cost of the trip

The breakdown of MOST expenses is listed below; HOWEVER, we have budgeted to supplement the difference, so YOUR COST for 2019 will be \$875.00.

\$590.00	Round trip air fare, taxes, and airport fees
\$ 5.00	Tip for charter bus driver (2 times)
\$75.00	VISITOR FEE (per person) charged by the City of Children. This covers the cost of lodging (water and electricity), bottled water used for cooking and brushing teeth, and the supplies needed for our work projects (concrete, paint, etc). This is an increase from the \$60.00 fee that has been charged for the past 15 years or more.
\$120.00	Cost of your meals, evening snacks and supplies and the cost of meals and snacks we feed to the Mexican children, teenagers, and staff.
\$ 30.00	Partial fee for teaching supplies for Bible classes, skits, puppet shows and activities for the Mexican children and teenagers. (This is supplemented by donations from North Blvd. members and from our Youth Missions Budegt)
\$ 35.00	Bus charter to and from Ensenada.
\$ 20.00	T-shirts for you and 1 t-shirt for the Mexican children (this is also supplemented by donations from North Blvd. members)

\$875.00

Keep in mind that this does not include the \$3,500 that it costs to build the house in Manedero NOR ANY of the money required for the ANTICIPATED RENOVATION PROJECT. That money comes from private donations and other sources.

In addition to this amount, each person will need to bring enough money for 2-3 meals and for any snacks you may want to buy while traveling (minimum \$30.00). Additional money for souvenirs is optional. We will go in to Ensenada to shop for about an hour and a half the day before we leave.