



# GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP

## **GENERAL**

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Dates: March 7-15, 2019

Location: Guatemala

## **PARENT NOTES**

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We are so excited your student is considering joining us for this life changing opportunity! This trip will not only make an impact on the community, families, and missionaries we are serving, but on your student as well.

We know this kind of a trip is not only a leap of faith for your student, but for you as well. We want you to know that your students' safety is our top priority. We will have numerous adults and staff from our partner mission organization with us at all times.

Guatemala is extremely safe and is generally free of the many issues that plague other parts of Central America. However, as with any trip, there is always a safety risk involved going to an unknown place. We will be taking every security measure possible to ensure your students' safety. Matt will go through a pre-trip walk before we go on this trip. Pictures from that trip will be accessible to you.

## **STUDENT NOTES**

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We are excited that you are considering this trip. We know you will be greatly impacted by your experience. However, we want you to fully understand this trip prior to going. This trip will be a lot of work and will not always be easy. We will be doing physical labor during the day, and then spending time with kids in the evening. We will be out in the heat working. Your participation, at all times, will be expected and required.

There will be pre-trip service requirements, meeting requirements, and other requirements for you to go with us. All of this is very attainable, but please see the requirements sections below!

While this will be a busy and hard trip at times, we know that you will not regret choosing to go on it!

## **COST**

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This trip will be a more expensive trip. That is why we are starting planning so early! We want to provide you as much time to make payments and for us to fundraise some money. That being said, here is a breakdown of what the trip costs and then what you will pay:

<b>Praying Pelican (supplies, food, etc.)</b>	\$595
<b>Airline (round trip)</b>	\$650
<b>Excursion Day (special activity)</b>	~\$100
<b>Mission Devotion book</b>	\$12
<b>Pre-trip training</b>	\$20
<b>Hotel stay</b>	~\$70
<b>Total cost (Church)</b>	~\$1,447
<b>Student cost</b>	<b>~\$1,300</b>

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Bottom line, the trip will cost you **no more** than **\$1,300 per student**. Please do NOT stop at this point. We have plenty of scholarship and fundraising opportunities for you that will drastically change this cost.

## **FUNDRAISING**

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We know \$1,300 is a lot for a family to come up with, especially if you are sending multiple students. We will provide you with numerous fundraising opportunities that go directly towards your trip. You could, logistically, pay for a very large portion of the trip through fundraising. If your child attends fundraisers, they will be guaranteed at least \$300 knocked off their trip.

Some of the fundraising opportunities we may provide for you include letters that you can send to family and friends, parents night out events, dinners, and much more! We want this to be possible for your student without you having to break the bank, so please understand that we will provide you with many opportunities to do this!

As already stated, we will provide multiple fundraising opportunities for you to raise money that goes directly towards the \$1,300 that you owe. Some of these dates have already been determined are at the end of this packet. Others have not been determined yet, but we will try to give you more than a 1 month notice about them!

We know that it is a big commitment for you, so please do not hesitate to talk with us before ruling out the possibility of your student going due to cost.

## **AIRLINE SCHEDULE (subject to change)**

We will be providing flight information at a later time. However students can expect to fly out late Friday and return late the following Sunday very early in the morning. We will constantly look to lower cost of airfare and update your price accordingly!

## **DRESS CODE**

Out of respect for Christ and each other and for the country we are visiting, we need to make sure to dress appropriately at all times. Please keep the following guidelines in mind when shopping and/or packing for the week. Adult sponsors will instruct student to change if they are wearing anything our hosts deem inappropriate.

**The dress code can be summarized pretty simply with several key points:**

- All shirts MUST have sleeves
- Absolutely no bellybuttons or cleavage revealed at any time
- All shorts must be knee length
- No tank tops
- When visiting churches, you must wear pants, jeans, capri's, knee length skirts, knee length shorts or knee length dresses

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR TRIP**

There will be multiple requirements for this trip. Let me start off by saying that we will work with you to an extent. We understand you have many things pulling you different ways. Most of our students are already meeting these requirements on a consistent basis. However, we fully believe that you need to be active in ministry through service, Bible study, and fellowship in the community you live in before going and serving internationally. All of that being said, here are the requirements for this trip:

**Each student will be required to:**

- Be an active member of the FBC Saginaw Student Ministry (Sunday Mornings, Wednesday evenings, etc.)\*\*
- 15 hours of approved community service. FBC Saginaw will provide opportunities for all 15 hours, although you may get some approved outside of that!
- Attend multiple training sessions prior to the trip
- Represent Christ well through actions, social media, words, etc.
- Medical release form

\*\*Please note that this does NOT mean you need to be at every event. We just ask that you are active in our student ministry

**Each adult sponsor will be required to:**

- Be a recent/current active member and participant of FBC Saginaw (Attendance and Ministries)
- Attend multiple training sessions/leader meetings prior to the trip
- Medical release form

**\*\*We reserve the right to add to these requirements. You will be notified if that happens\*\***

## WHAT WE WILL DO

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We will be doing a few different things on this trip! This trip will include a construction and evangelism aspect.

**Construction:** We will be assisting on ground missionaries in the construction of a home for a family, painting the Sunday school building at the church, and tiling a bathroom for the Pastor's house.

**Evangelism:** This part of the trip will consist of providing different activities for local children at schools, churches, community centers and homes. Some of the activities can include crafts, singing, skits, face painting, playing games, etc. Basically, putting on a block party, sporting event, VBS, or something else for the local kids!

### A typical day will look like:

7:00am	Wake-up
7:30am	Prayer/Quiet time/Group devotion
8:00am	Breakfast
8:45am	Prepare/pack supplies
9:00am	Construction Projects/Time with local kids
4:00pm	Prepare for VBS
4:30pm	VBS
6:00pm	Dinner
8:00pm	Team Meeting
11:30pm	Lights out

As you can see, most our time will be spent on our mission work with this organization. However, we will experience the culture and have some fun while we are here as well! Dinner each night will be provided by locals that partner with the organization and they will prepare many foods specific to the culture. Everything prepared will be in clean, purified water and will be of no risk to your child.

On our 2<sup>nd</sup> day in Guatemala, we will attend a local church and will have the opportunity to lead in some way. Our team will discuss this as we get closer. We will also have one adventure day before our time ends. Students will likely enjoy a nice day on the beach as well as going to a national park and seeing local animals on a tour.

## **POST TRIP DEBRIEF**

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After we return from our trip, we will invite all of you to share your experience with our church. Prior to the trip, Matt will secure a Sunday morning worship service for our team to share their experience and let the church know the work done and how appreciative of their support we are.

## **A FINAL WORD**

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We believe this trip will not only be life changing for those we are serving, but for your student as well and I cannot express how excited that we are that you are considering partnering with us.

As has been made clear in this packet, while this trip will be a lot of fun, this is not a trip to go on for fun or goofing off. We are going with a clear purpose and expect students to take their mission very seriously. We do expect everyone who participates to respect our commitment to Christ and follow the guidelines.

As noted above, there are multiple requirements for our students who want to attend this trip. I want to stress that the statement about being an active member in our student ministry does NOT mean your student must be at everything. We know that is not possible nor fair of us to ask. What this means is that we do want to see your students consistently active throughout our ministry by being here for Sunday school, Bible study, and other events.

If at any point, you are worried about your students' consistency, please just ask Matt where they stand. However, I tell you that you will know if this will be an issue or not.

Attached is a list of parent meetings and trainings that you should know about:

We hope you will partner with us for this mission trip to Guatemala. This week has the potential to be a life-shaping event for each of us. Begin asking God now to prepare your heart for what He has for you. Expect God to do something miraculous in your life!

We realize that this is a lot of information to absorb, so let us know if something does not make sense or is not clear. We also know that this is a leap of faith for you parents and students, so please let us know what we can do to help you!

In Christ,  
Matt McCarroll  
Minister to Students  
[mmccarroll@fbcsaginaw.org](mailto:mmccarroll@fbcsaginaw.org)

### **Fundraiser dates to keep in mind:**

Friday, December 6 @6:30pm-10pm: Senior Adult Christmas Dinner  
Friday, December 13 @6pm: Parent's Night Out

**Immunization information:**

Many of the recommended immunizations suggested by the CDC your child have to have for school. The following immunizations are suggested for travel to Guatemala:

- Hepatitis A (Required for school in Texas)
- Hepatitis B (Required for school in Texas)
- Malaria (Transferred through Mosquitos)
- Measles (Required for school in Texas)
- Typhoid (Clean water will be provided and food will be cooked in purified water)
- Yellow Fever (you student will not need this since America is not at risk)
- Rabies (students will not be aloud to come in contact with any animals)

In regard to immunizations, none of these are required and only suggested. As you will see, some your student will have already had for school and won't need to get it. Others are totally up to you. I would highly suggest you make an appointment and consult with your doctor to get their suggestions on what they may suggest you get.