

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Mission Trip to
Mexico



July 24-31, 2011

MEXICO 2011

July 24-31, 2011

Registration & Youth Agreement Form

Please Print:

FULL NAME _____ GRADE _____
ADDRESS _____ GENDER M or F
E-MAIL _____
DATE OF BIRTH _____ YOUR HOME PHONE _____
MOTHER'S NAME & DAYTIME PHONE _____ ()
FATHER'S NAME & DAYTIME PHONE _____ ()
GUARDIAN'S NAME & DAYTIME PHONE _____ ()

Item 1:

I agree to fully participate in the entire program of Mexico: (meeting deadlines, raising support, attending required meetings, working, eating meals, sleeping, playing – all of it) and to fully participate with Jesus to love God and to love my neighbor as myself (remembering that love does no wrong to a neighbor).

Item 2:

With regard to the requirements set forth by this agreement, I understand and agree that failure to meet the requirements of this trip means that I forfeit my trip to Mexico. I agree to pay in advance the \$700.00, which I committed to raise if I forfeit my trip or cancel after June 1st.

Item 3:

I agree NOT TO BRING, PURCHASE, NOR HAVE IN MY POSSESSION **ANY FORM OF ALCOHOL, DRUGS OR TOBACCO** AT ANY TIME, FOR ANY REASON.

I agree NOT TO BE INSIDE A TENT HOUSING MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITE SEX AT ANY TIME, FOR ANY REASON.

Item 4:

I understand that if I violate the terms of this agreement, I WILL BE REMOVED FROM CAMP AND SENT HOME **AT MY PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S)' EXPENSE** and I will forfeit the money that I have invested in Mexico.

I understand this agreement and hereby sign:

Date and signature of attending youth

I/we, the parent(s)/guardian(s) of _____ have read the agreement that he/she has made and agree to the consequences for violation of that agreement:

Date and signature of parent(s)/guardian(s)

**MEXICO 2011
MEDICAL RELEASE**

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

Insurance Co _____
Policy # _____ Phone # _____
DOB _____ Height _____ Weight _____

Immunization Date against Tetanus- if you haven't had a shot within the last 5 years, please plan on getting one at least one week prior to the trip date.

TETANUS _____

Afflictions (List appropriate date for affliction(s) that apply)

Asthma _____	Poison Oak _____
Ear Infections _____	Rheumatic Fever _____
Convulsions _____	Measles _____
Chicken Pox _____	German Measles _____
Hay Fever _____	Mumps _____
Insect Bite/Sting _____	

Operations or serious illnesses (list dates) None

Chronic or recurring illnesses None

Other medical concerns or details we need to know about None

Medicines taking None

Allergies to food(s) or drugs None Known

This health history is correct as far as I know. I give my consent for the above named youth to participate fully in Mexico 2011 programs unless noted above. During the period of Mexico 2011, I hereby give my permission to the medical personnel to secure proper medical treatment (including hospitalization, anesthesia, ordering of injections and surgery) in the event that I cannot be immediately reached for my permission. Any exceptions to this consent and/or currently known medical condition(s) of the youth as noted above and/or attached sheet.

Signature of legal guardian/self Date Other emergency phone # for guardian

If I am not available in an emergency please notify:

**Name and Relationship Home Phone _____
Work Phone _____**

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What to Bring?

In general, bring as **LITTLE AS POSSIBLE!!!** Don't get carried away. This is a work camp, not a Hawaiian vacation. Flexible! Durable! Versatile! Make it fit in **ONE** suitcase (50 lbs. or less) and **ONE** small backpack.

- ___ Tent (you and your tentmates work it out)
- ___ Flashlight
- ___ **Photo ID (Very important-you should have it with you at all times)**
- ___ Bible and pen
- ___ Camera and film
- ___ Sleeping bag/ foam mattress
- ___ Pillow
- ___ Towel & Washcloth
- ___ First Aid/Prescription Medicine
- ___ Sunglasses
- ___ Sunscreen
- ___ Bathing suit- one piece for girls
- ___ Rain gear (poncho, rain coat or rain suit)

Tools:

Each person should bring:

- ___ Sturdy work gloves
- ___ Hammer
- ___ Nail pouch
- ___ Utility knife with extra blades
- ___ Wire cutters
- ___ Tape measure
- ___ Work pencil

Make sure your bags/tents/etc are clearly marked with your name. We suggest you invest in duct tape and a large permanent marker. Place in a conspicuous place.

Work Clothes:

- ___ Boots or hard soled shoes (tennis will do, not new ones)
- ___ Jeans, overalls or work pants (NO shorts for work)
- ___ Old T-shirts or sweat shirts (NO tank tops for work)
- ___ Sweatband or bandannas

Good Clothes (for travel and civilization):

- ___ Comfortable walking shoes
- ___ Clean jeans/pants/shorts
- ___ Nice sweater or jacket
- ___ Clean Undies & socks

Shoes:

- ___ Tennies
- ___ Work shoes
- ___ Shower/Beach shoes (flip-flops)

Toilet Articles:

- ___ Soap
- ___ Shampoo & conditioner
- ___ Toothbrush and toothpaste
- ___ Deodorant (please!)
- ___ Canteen or water bottle (A sturdy one with your name on it!)
- ___ Spray bottle (for cooling off)
- ___ Baby wipes (it is better than no bath at all...)
- ___ Solar shower (for all you who need to have a hot shower!)

!!!LISTEN UP FOLKS!!! YOU ARE LIMITED TO ONE DUFFEL BAG (50 lbs. or less) AND ONE SMALL BACKPACK, PERIOD. **NO EXCEPTIONS!!!**

Money:

- ___ Spending money: \$ 20? (up to you, don't go crazy)
- ___ Fast food money (for approximately 9 meals) \$ 50? (depends on how much you eat)

We recommend you keep your money on you at all times. Pouches in hidden places are good.

Do Not Bring:

- ___ Personal music players. (Any music you choose to bring should be for the entire van. If you want to bring your iPod, bring an adaptor for it!)
- ___ Your dog...any illegal drugs...any booze... too much money!

Safety with Amor

We want you to know that Amor Ministries has always been proactive about safety matters.

For the past 30 years, Amor Ministries has worked hard to provide the best security and safety for all individuals involved in our Ministry. Amor Ministries considers the safety of our groups and Team Members its' first priority. Each policy, practice, and the like that we do regarding security and safety is preventative and proactive.

Amor has built a strong presence in Mexico over these past 30 years through excellent relations with the local government, the police, and the communities we serve. Because of these relationships, we are equipped to deal with any and all safety issues that might arise. As Amor has continued to add Amor Mission Trips in new locations in Delmas, South Africa and San Carlos, Arizona, we have carried this very same practice of working with the government, police, and the communities to make sure we are abreast on all possible safety issues.

Recent news stories about personal safety in the regions we serve have made the headlines and may be a source of concern for parents and leaders of future Amor Mission Trip participants. We are convinced more than ever, that there is work to do in the poorest communities worldwide and that God still desires us to serve these people. We continue to have faith in God to direct our steps into the areas in which we serve. We ask that you continue to pray for the families living throughout the world who are struggling without hope.

Amor Ministries' preventative security measures include:

- Amor works hard to coordinate with governmental agencies in Mexico in order to make an international mission trip safe and smooth.
- Amor has communication plans in place with local police as to when and where our groups are working, resulting in increased police patrols in the areas Amor works in.
- Amor team members, along with the Mexican police and fire departments, are constantly monitoring the safety of Amor groups.
- Amor requires groups to stop working during the day to ensure that there is enough time for them to return to camp before sundown. We recommend that the groups remain in camp overnight and that all travel be limited between camp and the worksite. Reported areas of violence are avoided, as they would be in any American city or urban area.
- Amor groups are led into the community by an Amor Team Member and Amor Field Specialists are available around the clock in case of an emergency.
- Amor is warmly welcomed into the community. The Mexican communities we work in know or vehicles because we have built homes in the area before. Our local Mexican Pastors pay close attention to what is going on in their own neighborhoods, and notify us when they feel we should avoid a particular area.
- Amor's campgrounds are gated and patrolled with camp caretakers. We have camp identification tags for each car traveling into Mexico and all only vehicles with these tags into our camps.
- Amor camps have the capacity to be reached via radio or mobile phone if there is an emergency. We maintain a 24 hour emergency line at Amor's office should anyone need to get a hold of a group for extreme emergencies.
- Amor has a border evacuation plan in place at all times should the need arise to leave the field quickly. This evacuation plan also includes medical emergencies.

Frequently Asked Safety Questions

Q: Do you have a formal statement regarding participants' safety?

A: Yes, please visit our [Safety with Amor](#) page to view Amor's official statement about our procedures in each of our ministry locations.

Q: What new things have you implemented to keep groups safe in Mexico?

A: In close partnership with local pastors, we've decided to discontinue serving in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, for the spring of 2010. Additionally, all Amor Mission Trip groups serving in Tijuana, Mexico, will be escorted across the border to the Amor camp (and back), along with will be able to "opt-in" to be escorted to and from the Amor worksites daily, but it is not mandatory at this time. Also, work days will end before dark (visit the [Safety with Amor](#) page to learn the specific times for each of Amor's ministry locations). Amor's vehicle check-in/check-out system is in effect to ensure every Amor Mission Trip participant and vehicle return to the Amor camp each night. There will always be at least two experienced Amor Team Members at every Amor camp each night and camp caretakers to monitor the Amor camp gate and patrol the area 24/7.

Q: What is your evacuation plan in Mexico?

A: In case of an emergency, the following steps will be taken:

1. An Amor representative will inform the trip leader for the reason of the evacuation. (e.g. severe weather)
2. An Amor representative will provide a timeline for the evacuation with specific instructions to remove the Amor Mission Trip group. (e.g. Please be off of the worksite in 15 minutes and head back to the Amor camp.)
3. Amor representatives will remain in the field until all Amor Mission Trip groups have been safely evacuated.
4. All Amor Mission Trip groups will be accounted for and checked into the Amor camp by an Amor representative.
5. All Amor Mission Trip groups will be escorted to the U.S. border, if necessary.

Q: What is the current U.S. State Department Advisory on travel in Mexico?

A: U.S. travel warning's definition has recently changed, please visit the [U.S. Department of State website](#) for specifics on travel warnings and other travel information in regards to Mexico.

Q: If Amor continues to feel comfortable in Mexico, why the added safety precautions?

A: Amor's recent safety updates and procedures are due, in part, to the concerns of Amor Mission Trip participants and parents rather than any directly negative experiences on Amor Mission Trips.

Q: What is our greatest risk of exposure while serving in Mexico?

A: According to reports from our Pastors and the government officials that Amor consults, the greatest risk of exposure to violence is due to personal involvement with illegal drug activities.

Q: Has Amor or its missionary groups seen any incidences of violence?

A: No, Amor has had no incidences of violence in its 30-year history beyond that which is typical for a large, metropolitan city. (e.g. vehicle break-ins)

Q: Is there a greater risk for children?

A: There is no increased risk for children than there is for any other individual.

Q: When will it be safe to work in Rosarito, Mexico again?

A: Amor's contacts in the city of Rosarito have indicated that the violence previously experienced has diminished greatly. Therefore, we find it safe to work in Rosarito, Mexico. In fact, Amor will resume work there in the summer of 2011.

Q: What is the minimum threshold to pull groups out of Mexico?

A: A safety committee comprised of Amor's Team Members, along with input from our local Mexican Pastors, and government officials review any intelligence received on a weekly basis. The safety committee discuss the current issues at hand and determine whether it is safe to remain in Mexico. They have been instrumental in creating many of Amor's recently implemented safety procedures. Because Amor's Team Members serve in Mexico on a daily basis, they are the first to determine whether their personal sense of security has been compromised. Until reports indicate that the violence in Mexico is beyond the control of its government, Amor will continue serve those most in

need—the poor and the local church.

Q: Where are the camp sites in Mexico?

A: In Tijuana, Mexico, Amor is using the main campsite located in Eastern Tijuana. In Puerto Peñasco, Amor is using the same campsite used in previous years. A map of each of the Amor campsites is located within the sidebar to the left.

Q: How have the Amor camps' security increased in Mexico?

A: Full-time Amor camp caretakers patrol the area in and around camp and keep the gate secure 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Additionally, Amor's vehicle check-in/check-out system is being used to ensure every Amor participant and vehicle returns to the Amor camp each night. Lastly, there will always be two, experienced Amor Team Members at the Amor camp all night long.

Q: Is it still okay to play with kids in the communities in Mexico?

A: Absolutely! The bigger issue is that you ensure that your group participants do not wander away from the Amor worksite and from the watchful eye of your leaders while playing with kids.

Q: Is it still possible to travel by myself to pick up supplies like food and water while in Mexico?

A: Though Amor feels comfortable working in Mexico, we have decided to exercise caution in response to the concerns of our participants. Amor Mission Trip groups serving in Tijuana, Mexico, are allowed to travel in caravans to and from the Amor camp, or can "opt-in" to be escorted to and from the Amor camp. We ask that you please take extra care to plan ahead before crossing the border or take advantage of the pre-arranged runs to the store provided by Amor representatives. In the event that you still need to pick up additional supplies, your designated Amor Team Member may provide approval on a case-by-case basis. Prior approval, however, does not guarantee travel if an Amor representative is unavailable to accompany your group to and from the grocery store. All pre-approved travel will be held during daylight hours.

Q: May we visit our previous Amor worksite, attend a local church service, or stop at the pay showers while we are serving in Mexico?

A: Again, though Amor feels comfortable working in Mexico, we have decided to exercise caution in response to the concerns of our Amor Mission Trip participants. Until further notice, groups may not visit areas outside of currently designated Amor work zones. If the previous worksite, church, or showers are in an Amor work zone that has been deemed safe by Amor and your designated Amor Team Member has given prior approval and made arrangements for an Amor representative to accompany you, you may proceed provided that you travel during daylight hours and return to the Amor camp before dark. Once again, prior approval does not guarantee permission to travel if an Amor representative is unavailable to accompany your group.

Q: May we leave the Amor camp in the evenings to pick up tacos in Mexico?

A: Once more, though Amor feels comfortable working in Mexico, we have temporarily suspended such activities. Please see the responses to the previous questions in regard to prior approvals. Amor Mission Trip groups are not permitted to travel outside of the Amor camp after dark and must stay at the Amor camp in the evenings. In the case of an emergency, an Amor representative will arrange an escort. If your group is serving in Tijuana, Mexico, the new Mexican Village at the Amor camp will have tacos for purchase twice a week.

Q: May we go shopping or visit the beach in Rosarito, Mexico?

A: Amor has lifted its prior restriction for the city of Rosarito, Mexico, but continue to discourage Amor Mission Trip groups from traveling to Rosarito to shop or go to the beach. You will be able to purchase Mexican items at the Amor Store at the Amor camp or in the borderline. If your group would like to visit the beach, we recommend that you visit one in the U.S.

MEXICO 2011 FUNDRAISING

1. Every Mexico Participant may receive up to 20 stock certificates to sell. Each share will be sold for \$20. Selling all of them will pay \$400 toward the \$700 to go.
2. Sell them to your family, your friends, your neighbors, etc. Copy the letter above, or write a personal one of your own explaining the trip and your need to raise \$700. Send to family and friends who live out of town.
3. When someone agrees to buy a stock, put the buyer's name of the stock certificate, date it, and give to the buyer.
4. Record the buyer's name, address and phone number plus the number of shares sold and the total amount of money received. **THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!!!**
5. Checks are to be made out to St. Mark's Lutheran Church with a note made in the memo area – **"Mexico 2011" and your name.**
6. When selling the stock, make sure people know what the stock is all about. This is not a moneymaking venture! It is a service trip!
7. What do the buyers get for their money? They get the satisfaction and good feelings of supporting this trip. They get to have an active role in providing housing to some very poor human beings. They get to invest in the spiritual life and character of the young person they support (that's you). They also get to attend the Mexico 2011 Sponsor's Dessert, which we will have on August 19 after we return. There will be video, testimonials, dessert and whatever we can create. It's a hoot!
8. Keep all of your materials together.
9. Certain amounts of money will be due at certain times:

\$70 Due when you register

\$350 Due by May 1

\$280 more due by July 17

(Many of our trip expenses need to be paid before we leave, so it is important to be timely with your payments!)