

Who goes to Mexico

- Middle & high school students (incoming 7th graders and older)
- Young adults who help lead house construction
- Adults who serve as directors, cooks, construction leaders and drivers Adult sponsors are in charge, but youth and adults work together to accomplish the mission of the trip.

This trip changes lives

Young people rarely have the opportunity to make a real difference in others' lives while changing their own at the same time. This mission trip provides that opportunity as lives are transformed on both sides of the border. The results are always incredible.

Families in Mexico receive a new home with concrete floors so they no longer have to live in the dirt. They gain a sense of security and hope, while our young people learn to love and serve others. As much as we have tried, we cannot put into words the impact that this trip can have on a young person's life. The SMLC Youth have been making this trip since 2010, and nothing has affected the faith journey of our young people as much as serving among the wonderful people of Mexico.



Note to the Adults on the Trip

At its core, this is a youth trip.

We encourage adults to join us for safety and to enhance the overall experience. Our goal is to meet the needs of adults without losing sight of our primary goal: Ministering to the needs of our youth!

Please note that all adults (ages 18 and older) will be subject to background checks to ensure everyone's safety.

Safety is our top priority

We are very aware of the reports of increased violence in Mexico, particularly in some of the border cities. Please know that we are very diligent about staying informed of the circumstances there. We communicate regularly with our AMOR Ministries representatives who know firsthand the conditions at their work sites in Mexico.

AMOR representatives meet us at the border and escort us to AMOR's secure campgrounds. We would not take this trip unless we were certain that it is safe. Our highest priority is to ensure the physical, emotional and spiritual safety of all participants.

If you have questions, please call me at 707.422.4741 or email me at ron@stmarksfairfield.org

Yours In Christ,

Ronald S. Armenta Jr.
Director of Youth & Children's Ministries
St Mark's Lutheran Church & Preschool



mexico
mission

2018

July 22th - 29th



Sponsored by the



Fairfield California

In humility value others above yourselves not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. –Philippians2:3-4

What is Mexico Mission

- A mission trip to build homes for families living in poverty near Tijuana or Rosarito
- A chance to experience life in a Third World country
- A week of work and fellowship with high school youth, college students and adults from St Mark's Lutheran Church in Fairfield and others from Northern California.

Why Build in Mexico

The need is great. Limited or nonexistent resources are the root of many problems in Mexico, especially in border cities such as Tijuana.

- Studies show there is a shortage of nearly 4.5 million housing units
- Unemployment is nearly 50 percent

Thousands of families migrate to border cities looking for hope. Instead they find the dark realities of overcrowding and few remedies for their desperate needs.

More about

AMOR Ministries

AMOR Ministries is a non-denominational, non-profit organization that works with Mexican churches to improve conditions of low-income families through spiritual and physical assistance. AMOR organizes short-term mission trips to Mexico to build homes, churches, schools and medical clinics. You can find out more about AMOR by visiting

www.amor.org.



This is a WORK TRIP

Bring tools, a good attitude, and a willingness to make a positive difference in this world in the name of Christ.

We have a structured schedule so we can meet our daily construction goals, and we close each evening around the campfire.

We use hand tools (no power tools) — no prior experience is necessary. We work in the sun, so extreme care is taken ensure all participants' wellbeing.

While in Mexico, we stay at one of AMOR Ministries secure campgrounds.

After the homes are complete, we break camp and travel to Southern California. There we play and celebrate our accomplishments.

General Information

Trip Dates

Sunday, July 22 - Sunday, July 29

Trip Fees

\$700 (if registered by April 17)
\$750 (by May 22)

Fees include deposit, all transportation from Fairfield to Mexico and back, and lodging, building supplies, and meals in Mexico. The fee **does not include** 6 meals 'on the road' when we travel to and from Mexico.

Contact Ron Armenta for more information at ron@stmarksfairfield.org

Key dates

April 17: Early bird registration forms and \$100 deposit (nonrefundable).

May 22: Late registration forms and \$150 deposit due (nonrefundable). *Note: this is the LAST day to register for the trip!*

July 10: Mandatory Participant & Parent Meeting. *Trip fee balance is due at this meeting.*

Passports

We require valid passports or passport cards for everyone going on this trip, regardless of age (no exceptions.) Please note that it takes up to six weeks to process a passport application, so plan accordingly.

Transportation

We travel in a caravan of rental vehicles from Concord to Mexico. Only licensed and insured adults age 25 and older operate vehicles.

AMOR representatives meet us at the border and guide us to the camp.

Paying for Your Trip

We want you to join us on this mission! We have fundraising materials to help you pay for your trip, and you should contact your pastor to see if church support is possible. Fundraisers and individual requests for donations have been very successful for past participants.

If financial aid is needed, please talk to your pastor and the trip directors. Also, please ask the trip directors about special payment schedules if needed.