

Event FAQs

Where do we stay in Mexico?

Housing consists of a “tent city” in the camp, which is built by participants. Each group is responsible for providing their own camping gear. Event size ranges from 500 people to 2,500 people, so some tent cities can be very large. This tent city is representative of many different denominations and regions. Please respect one another.

What happens when we arrive at our base camp?

Arrival at camp can be an overwhelming experience. You will likely be met at the entrance by a staff member who will guide you into camp and where you will be encouraged to set up your tents. Please be patient with this process.

What is tent set-up?

At every site, there is a similar tent city pattern that allows you to drop off your tents and gear near where you will set up. An event staff person will designate the area for you based on the number of tents and people in your group.

- We typically will give you a tent set-up in the form of a circle with a common meeting area in the middle for your group to have some limited privacy.
- First, layout all tents in a circle without staking them down.
- Next, get approval from the event staff person to stake down.
- Gear can then be unloaded from vehicles and tents staked down.
- All vehicles used for sleeping can remain in your circle but cannot be moved until the end of the event.
- All other vehicles must be moved after unloading all gear to give room for the next team to set up.

Set-up is usually a fast paced process, and event staff will hurry you on to complete your unloading of gear, especially if there is a long line of teams waiting to set up.

When do we report to the Info Booth?

After your area has been set up, make sure to report to the Info Booth where any final payment can be settled, and you can exchange shirts and receive your armbands, which will allow you to eat. You will also receive your immigration status, which will let you know if you need to go to the border to verify citizenships of any members of your team. See the Registration Manual for more information.

Will there be dinner and chapel on the arrival day?

When you have finalized your registration, your group has free time until dinner, which is usually served about 7 p.m.. After dinner, chapel usually starts at about 8 or 8:30 p.m. Ask the Info Booth for the exact times at your site.

What restroom facilities are available? The restroom facilities are primitive. We have port-a-potties at our sites, but no running water. Make sure to bring your own hand-washing supplies (e.g., wet wipes, hand sanitizer, etc.).

Are there shower facilities available?

Showers are up to you. Ask your pastor or nationals about the location of the nearest public showers.

Keep in mind that you will most likely have to pay for your showers (\$2–5 per person).

What quality of meals are provided?

We submitted our menu to a registered dietitian and we are happy to report that our menu is in compliance with the recommended daily allowances of all the major food groups. We offer balanced meals, which will keep you energized. Breakfast and dinner are served in camp. We also provide a lunch that you will take to your ministry site. **The food in camp is the only food that we can guarantee was prepared to U.S. health standards.**

Why do we need lunch ice chests?

You must bring an ice chest large enough to hold your team's lunch every day. You also need to provide a water jug to fill with purified water at or near your ministry site.

What about vegetarians or those with special dietary needs?

It is very important that any participants who are vegetarians or have special dietary needs or allergies bring with them any foods needed to supplement their diet while on the trip. Contact us if you'd like to see our menu for the event to determine what options are available.

Can we drink tap water in Mexico?

Never drink non-bottled water, even in the showers. Even local Mexicans don't drink from the tap. Be sure to use bottled water to brush your teeth. Fill up all available water containers before crossing the border so you will have plenty of water to last from arrival day until your first opportunity to buy water near your ministry site.

Is dehydration an issue in the heat of Mexico?

YOU CAN'T DRINK TOO MUCH WATER!!! Dehydration is one of the main issues at our camps.

Encourage your team to take water breaks and to drink more water than soda.

It is very important that each team bring their own water or purchase it in town. It is your responsibility to make sure you have enough fresh water for your team. Thanks for your cooperation!

What is chapel in camp like?

Chapel is a central time for community and worship. It is important for spiritual formation during the event. Many times, team members will re-dedicate themselves to Jesus. Almost every day you will see some team members stand to accept Jesus into their hearts. In the process of serving, they realize that they didn't understand fully what it is to follow Jesus as Lord. Maybe they accepted Jesus as Savior but weren't letting Jesus be the Lord and Master of their lives. Over the years we have seen it all! Jesus does indeed live!

What is the typical event schedule?

This schedule is subject to change. Each camp may be different.

6:30 a.m.	Wake up
6:30 a.m.	KP reports to kitchen
7–8 a.m.	Breakfast served
7 a.m.	Interpreter's meeting
7 a.m.	Leader's meeting
7 a.m.	Prayer coordinator's meeting
8 a.m.	Morning chapel

9:30 a.m.	Teams gather and leave for sites
10 a.m.–6:30 p.m.	Ministry time at community site
12–12:30 p.m.	Lunch at community site
6:30 p.m.	KP reports to kitchen
7 p.m.	Dinner served
8 p.m.	Afterglow chapel
9:15 p.m.	Late dinner served
9:15 p.m.	Group time
10:30 p.m.	Lights out and quiet time

What should an individual participant pack and bring to Mexico?

Here is a typical packing list:

- Passport (see Registration Manual)
- Clothes for 5-8 days
- Dress clothes (Minimum 1 set. Pack separately to avoid wrinkles.)
- Bible
- Paper, pen/pencil
- Warm sleeping bag
- Warm jacket
- Pillow
- Flashlight
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.
- Toilet paper
- Wet wipes
- Washcloth and towel
- Personal medication
- Personal water bottle
- Comfortable shoes
- Rubber flip-flops
- Beach chair
- Musical instruments
- Hand sanitizer

What should a group pack and bring to Mexico?

Here is a typical packing list:

- Ice chests (enough for all lunches and snacks)
- Igloos (drinks for each team and VBS snack time)
- Tents (10x17 will house 6 with luggage)
- Folding table (brushing teeth area)
- Canopy (EZ-up or other)
- First aid kit
- Tarps (for in front of tent doorways and general areas)

Who are the administrators of Mexico Outreach?

There are full time employees of Azusa Pacific University who represent Mexico Outreach in various areas. Most of the time you won't see them, but they are usually involved in every area of the event.

Who is the camp director?

Camp directors report to Azusa Pacific University full-time staff and often times are full-time employees of the university.

Who is the camp dean?

Deans are responsible for camp and will deal with any internal conflicts. They are often times pastors or employees of the university.

Who are the camp speaker and worship leaders?

Chapel staff are usually volunteers, and for the joy of serving, they give their time to lead us in worship and evangelism.

What is Team Nehemiah?

Team Nehemiah includes all event staff who serve in first aid stations, food service, registration, Info Booth, and camp operations. This team makes up the largest group of volunteers who provide the infrastructure of camp.

What is Team Ezra?

Team Ezra is the security team. They will often times provide 24 hour shifts of walking the border of tent city to make sure you and your stuff are safe.

What is Team Barnabas?

Team Barnabas is the encouragement prayer team. They are there to pray for you and encourage you with their energy. They will lead the prayer coordinator's meeting in the mornings.

What is Team Luke?

Team Luke is a medical team that provides a medical clinic free to the community. Note that not every event will have a Team Luke. Easter 1 is primarily the week that has Team Luke clinics.

What is Team Stephen?

Team Stephen coordinates and runs the Mano Hermana community service program for the Mexicali area.

How should we deal with church customs in Mexico?

Our goal is to unite with our Mexican brothers and sisters and work together as a team of believers to reach out to a community that needs to know Jesus as their personal Savior and Lord. We are representing Jesus to them. Avoid confusing stereotypes that may offend others and hinder others from seeing Jesus in you. Respect the local church. If customs are different than what you expect, then modify your behavior.

Why is the dress code so important?

A hug can so easily be changed from saying "I love you in Jesus' name" to "I love you in my name" sometimes by attitude and sometimes just by a simple thing like your appearance. The dress code is in place to avoid any offensive stereotypes and to guard your purpose for going to Mexico—"Loving others in Jesus' name."

What is the men's dress code?

- Showing "skin" in public is not appropriate. Keep shirts on in public at all times, even while doing work projects.

- No shorts in public, **including camp**.
- Wear jeans without holes, and don't show your underwear.
- No plain white t-shirts, offensive t-shirts, tank tops, beer t-shirts, etc.
- No gang-related clothing.
- No colored hair or eccentric hairstyles (i.e., spikes, mohawks, etc.)
- Try to keep tattoos hidden.
- Take out body piercings, including earrings, if possible.
- No open-toe shoes (health reasons)
- Wear nice clothes in church (wrinkle free).

What is the women's dress code?

- Showing "skin" in public is not appropriate. Shoulders, midriffs, and thighs must be covered in public, **including at camp**. (A good test is this: if you raise your hands above your head and anyone can see your midriff, don't wear that shirt.)
- No shorts in public, **including camp**.
- Wear pants while playing, and a tasteful dress at church services.
- No plain white t-shirts, inappropriate t-shirts, tank tops, spaghetti straps, etc.
- Wear clothes with a modest neckline.
- Wear **light** makeup, if any.
- Try to keep tattoos hidden.
- Take out body piercings, including earrings, if possible.
- No colored hair or eccentric hairstyles (i.e., spikes, mohawks, etc.)
- No open-toe shoes (health reasons)

What are the safety guidelines while in Mexico?

We have established some safety guidelines to protect you from incidents or injury while in our camps and in Mexico. Note that each camp has camp nurses and/or doctors who run a camp first aid station. Please consult your team's first aid person before going to the camp first aid station.

HEALTH:

- **Wash your hands often**, especially as you work and play throughout the day.
- **Drink lots of water**. For every soda you drink, drink two more cups of water, or you may get dehydrated. Our camp doctors and nurses give treatment every year to team members who wouldn't drink enough water. Drink enough water to make you have to **go to the bathroom several times each day**.
- **Drink only purified water**. Stay away from Mexican tap water, swimming, and "street" food. Our camps cook with and use only bottled water or water that is confirmed safe.
- **Wear a hat** in the sun to avoid dehydration and sunburn.

CAMP AND MEXICO SAFETY:

- **No flames are allowed in camp**, especially in the tenting area. Tents are flammable. No lanterns with flame. No fireworks. No matches. Smoking is strictly prohibited.
- **Please cooperate with event staff**, who are in place at each camp for your safety.
- **Wear your "Mexico Outreach" wristband** to get meals and for security purposes.
- **Keep passports with you** at all times. You can carry a copy and keep the original with your team leader or in a secure place.
- **Alcohol, drugs, tobacco, etc. are prohibited**. The Mexican law is much harsher than the United

States if you are caught with drugs. If caught, you may jeopardize your whole team.

- **“Mexico Outreach” reserves the right to send home any participant or team due to misconduct.**