

El Salvador Collide Mission Trip 2018 (Travel Packet)

July 28th- August 4th, 2018

*** ALL OF THE FINANCIAL EXPECTATIONS ARE PENDING CHURCH BOARD APPROVAL ***

Mission Trip Student Expectations

1. Students must attend their church at least 75% of the time (if they drop below this total for more than 2 months they will be removed from the trip and **MUST** pay all fees up to that point. This means if plane tickets have already been purchased, the student will be responsible for paying for that ticket.
2. Students will be expected to attend either Collide Youth Group or Sunday school at least 50% of the time. If they cannot commit to this, they can't go on the trip.
3. The \$150 dollar deposit is non-refundable. Half must be paid at the time of registration to secure a spot. The other half of the registration is due by Jan 1st, 2018.
4. Students and adults must attend the mission trip fundraiser on April 8th, 2018 from 3:30-8:30pm. We will have our monthly mission trip meeting before our fundraiser at 3:30pm. Exceptions will only be made for those who have previous obligations they cannot get out of and a conversation must be had with Heather well in advance (at least two weeks in advance). If a student misses the fundraiser, for any reason, they will be asked to pay another \$150 dollars out of pocket for the mission trip.
5. Registration will open on Saturday, Oct. 22nd, 2017 at 9am. Registration may only be completed online. Registration will remain open until all spots are full or until Sunday, Nov. 26th, 2017.
6. There are 18 spots available, but a minimum of three must be filled by an adult (two more including Heather) with a maximum of 8 adults.
7. The remaining obligation of \$150 dollars of the deposit is owed by July 1st, 2018.

Mission Trip Details

1. Estimated cost per person= \$1,550 (includes airline ticket, travel insurance, hotel, food and all other in country costs) Does not include cost for vaccinations or passports (price will be confirmed in Oct of 2017, but will not change much from the estimated cost. At the most it would be \$200 dollars more.
2. Each individual is responsible for \$300 of mission trip costs. This means after the \$150 dollar deposit, individuals owe another \$150 dollars (totalling \$300). The remaining \$150 dollars, after the deposit, may be paid in installments, or at one time. **All funds are due by July 1st, 2018.** The remaining costs (around \$1,250 dollars) will be covered through the mission trip budget and mission trip fundraiser. Any student/adult may opt out of having their trip costs covered through the mission trip budget and may pay the full amount of \$1,550. However, they are still required to meet all mission trip expectations as listed above.
3. Instead of doing lots of fundraisers, time and attention will be given to mission trip preparation. Therefore, **students and adults are expected to attend all 5 mission trip preparation meetings**, and may miss only one meeting, if they miss more than one, for any reason other than an emergency, sickness, or unavoidable circumstances they will be removed from the trip and must pay all costs up to that point for the trip. Meetings will be the first Sunday of the month (except in April the meeting will be on the 8th starting at 3:30pm with the fundraiser to follow) starting in January and going until May at 6:30pm. (Jan 7th, Feb 4th, March 4th, April 8th, and May 6th)
4. What do you mean when you say I must pay all those costs up to that point if I drop out or am removed from the trip?
 - a. The \$150 dollar deposit is non-refundable
 - b. Once airline tickets have been purchased, if you are removed from the trip, you will owe the ticket cost (minus the \$150 dollars). Heather will alert the group well in advance for when the purchase of the tickets will be made.

- c. Any other purchases made, like group travel insurance, or other in-country costs that must be paid prior to our arrival. Most, if not all of these will be paid out in the late spring or 2018.

TSA

The Transportation Security Administration is the U.S. government agency that protects the nation's transportation system. It mandates that all adult passengers, 18 and over, must show a valid U.S. federal- or state-issued photo ID at security checkpoints. IDs must contain the name, date of birth, gender and an expiration date such as a driver's license. However, it does not require an ID for minors under 18; children only need a boarding pass to pass through security.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVELER

The TSA also states that all passengers, including minors, need a valid passport when traveling on international flights. This document not only identifies the holder but shows that he or she is a citizen of the U.S.A. The U.S. Department of State dictates that all passport applications generally require a Form DS-11, Application for a U.S. Passport; evidence of U.S. citizenship; a government-issued photo ID with photocopy; a passport photo; and any applicable fees. Minors under 16 also need evidence of relationship between child and parent or guardian, and parental consent. Minors ages 16 and 17 only need parental consent.

LETTER OF CONSENT

Aside from a passport, some countries require a notarized Letter of Consent for travel with children who are not accompanied by both parents. The letter must state the name of the parent(s), the flight information and destination, the name of the adults accompanying the child, the dates of travel, and contact information for the parent(s). The parents must also sign the letter. Divorced parents may also need a copy of their custody agreement. Contact the embassy of the country to which you are traveling for more information.

MONEY

We highly recommend bringing cash in small bills as well as spending cash for snacks and souvenirs. If you would like to bring United States Currency (USD) small bills (10s & 20s) are suggested. Plan on not needing to bring more than \$50-75 in cash. All meals, water, etc will be covered.

INSURANCE

Please contact your insurance company to inform them that you will be traveling outside the United States. Nearly all carriers cover you outside the US, but if for some reason you are not covered, you must find short-term insurance to be covered while in EL SALVADOR. **Please bring a copy of your insurance card with you on the trip.**

You will be responsible for any medical treatment received while on the trip.

PASSPORTS

Make sure to have your passports and parent permission letter with you at all times. You can purchase something like a passport necklace or a passport belt that will keep your passport, letter and any money safely with you at all times.

You may also keep your documents in a backpack, if you take that with you to the worksite. However, it is best to take minimal things with you each day, because we might not have a place to store our bags and it isn't guaranteed that our bags will be safe at the worksites.

Medicine

Please bring any medication in its original bottle (if possible) and carry with you either in your personal item or your carry on bag while on the plane.

LUGGAGE

You may bring 1 checked bag that cannot total more than 50lbs and its measurements (height + weight + length) cannot be more than 62 inches

You can transport a piece of carry-on baggage with a maximum weight of 10 kg (22 lbs.), the sum of exterior dimensions (height + length + width) may not exceed 45 inches you may also bring ONE personal item (purse, backpack, etc)

We recommend you pack a complete change of clothes and travel-sized toiletries in your carry-on bag in case of lost or misplaced luggage. If you are taking any medications or have contact lenses, be sure to pack these inside your carry-on as well.

CELL PHONES

You may bring cell phones. However, once we land in El Salvador we will have restricted usage. The leaders of the trip will determine at what point of the day you may use your cell phone. You may not take your phone with you, but must leave it at the hotel. We will have two cell phones that parents may contact their children on that will be with the adult leaders throughout the trip. Heather will provide those phone numbers before we leave.

DRESS CODE

- No camouflaged scheme clothing (Some local people are sensitive to this image).
- Don't take or wear a bandana (no exceptions).
- Preferably one set of earrings at a time.
- No naval, toe or tongue jewelry.
- No sensational hair colors.
- Do not wear expensive or flashy jewelry.
- Existing tattoos should be covered up as much as possible (ACE bandages work great for this!)
- Comfortable shoes – you'll be standing on your feet a lot.

Ladies:

- No short shorts. **Shorts should extend at least to the knees.** Capri pants are also allowable.
- No bikini bathing suits.
- Ladies must dress modestly for church (sundresses or long skirts).
- No spaghetti strap shirts.
- Ladies must wear pants in detention centers.
- Mid-area (stomach) must be covered.
- No cut off shirts
- One nice outfit

Guys:

- No earrings on males.
- No sagging pants.
- It is preferable to wear pants. In El Salvador men usually only wear shorts for athletic wear. Shorts are never worn otherwise. We want to be respectful of their culture, so plan on wearing pants and only bringing a couple of pairs of shorts of leisure activities that extend at least to the knee.
- No cut off shirts. T-shirts only
- One nice outfit

A FEW GROUND RULES

- **No one goes anywhere alone!!!** If you need to go somewhere, take someone with you – even for a restroom break. Insure that other team members know where you and your companion are at all times.
- Don't wear expensive jewelry, sunglasses, or watches.
- Passport/money belts that can be concealed under your clothing are recommended.
- Don't carry a large amount of cash or any unnecessary credit cards. Don't flash large amounts of money in public.

- Try not to stand out. This may sound a little silly for a group of U.S. citizens traveling around together, but the idea is NOT to act like tourists or easy marks.
- Take the usual precautions with purses and wallets that you would in any large city.
- No romantic, public displays of affection
- Please DO NOT exchange addresses or phone numbers with any locals once you enter El Salvador. This is for the safety of our team during our stay.
- Please do not bring or consume any alcohol or tobacco while on our mission trip
- Body piercings and tattoos are not accepted as they are in the United States. Earrings are fine, but please take out or cover other body piercings as well as tattoos
- Please be sure that any messages on T-Shirts or clothing are appropriate for the children

A GIFT TO BRING

- Toys: Soccer balls, nerf footballs, frisbees, jump ropes, bubbles
- School supplies: stickers, crayons, coloring books, paper

You may bring these to the village each day and use them to facilitate relationships with the kids. At the end of each week,

give them to our field staff to distribute (e.g., to local school, church, etc.)

- Spanish Bibles

PACKING LIST

- Soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, or small bottles of shampoo/ conditioner.
- Toiletries (toothbrush, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, etc.)
- Hairbrush
- Underwear and socks for 8 days
- Enough work clothes for 5 days of working
- Camera
- Personal medication
- Clothes for 8 days (pack one change of clothes in our carry on)
- Bug spray with DEET
- Deodorant
- Reusable water bottle
- Towel
- Passport
- Cash (no more than \$100 and in small bills)
- Bible
- Pens
- Notebook
- Travel package of Kleenex (many places will not have toilet paper)
- 3 color copies of passport picture page (one in carry on, one in checked bag, one on you)
- make copies of your US Passport to keep at home
- flip flops
- sunscreen
- bathing suit (no bikinis or speedos)
- sunglasses and hat
- pajamas
- health insurance card or copy
- work shoes
- comfortable tennis shoes
- cell phone charger
- a pair of athletic shorts (at least to the knee)
- snacks (something that won't spoil or melt easily)

- medication
- hand sanitizer
- light jacket
- bras

WHAT NOT TO BRING

- Short shorts
- Spaghetti strap shirts or cut offs
- Computers, iPads or other electronic devices you wouldn't want to lose
- A bad attitude
- Drugs or alcohol

VACCINATIONS

According to the CDC for travels to El Salvador

*****These are recommendations, you do not have to get these to go on the trip*****

All Travelers- Make sure you are up-to-date on routine vaccines before every trip. These vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, polio vaccine, and your yearly flu shot

Most Travelers- Hepatitis A- CDC recommends this vaccine because you can get hepatitis A through contaminated food or water in El Salvador, regardless of where you are eating or staying.

Typhoid- You can get typhoid through contaminated food or water in El Salvador. CDC recommends this vaccine for most travelers, especially if you are staying with friends or relatives, visiting smaller cities or rural areas, or if you are an adventurous eater.

Some Travelers-

Malaria- Although the risk of malaria is low in El Salvador, you should avoid mosquito bites to prevent malaria. Some travelers to certain areas who are at higher risk for complications from malaria (such as pregnant women) may need to take extra precautions, like antimalarial medicine. Talk to your doctor about how you can prevent malaria while traveling. For more information on malaria in El Salvador, see [malaria in El Salvador\(https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2018/infectious-diseases-related-to-travel/yellow-fever-malaria-information-by-country/el-salvador#seldyfm879\)](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2018/infectious-diseases-related-to-travel/yellow-fever-malaria-information-by-country/el-salvador#seldyfm879).

Hepatitis B- You can get hepatitis B through sexual contact, contaminated needles, and blood products, so CDC recommends this vaccine if you might have sex with a new partner, get a tattoo or piercing, or have any medical procedures.

Rabies- Rabies can be found in dogs, bats, and other mammals in El Salvador, so CDC recommends this vaccine for the following groups:

- Travelers involved in outdoor and other activities (such as camping, hiking, biking, adventure travel, and caving) that put them at risk for animal bites.
- People who will be working with or around animals (such as veterinarians, wildlife professionals, and researchers).
- People who are taking long trips or moving to El Salvador

Children, because they tend to play with animals, might not report bites, and are more likely to have animal bites on their head and neck.