

Mexico Team Supply List

It is important that we each pack as tightly as possible! Sleeping bags should be compressed. Please don't bring more clothing than you need.

Spending money

Bring enough spending money for meals out, popsicles, sodas and souvenirs. Between \$50 and \$100 should suffice.

Sleeping gear

- Sleeping bag (it can be chilly at night) or sheets and blankets
- Pillow

Clothing for seven days including:

- Hat – for shade
- Sturdy shoes for work
- Lighter shoes for relaxing
- Grubby long pants for working
- Travel clothes
- Long sleeved shirt
- Sweater
- Light jacket
- Bandana
- Short sleeved shirts
- *Modest* shorts

Other items

- An *unbreakable* drinking cup
- Personal toiletries
- Two thin weight towels for showers
- Flashlight
- Sunscreen
- I.D. – Driver's license or passport
- Personal first aid and medications
- Pocketknife
- Water bottle for use at work site

Tools

- Bible
- Pencil or pen and notepad
- Nail pouch
- Hammer
- 12' tape measure

Optional items

- Camera
- Books
- Sunglasses
- Snacks
- Bug spray
- Postcards or pictures to give or show to the children
- Playing cards

Please don't bring

- Radios
- Walkmans, iPods, Zunes or other MP3/Music Players
- Alcohol or controlled substances
- Gameboy or other electronic games
- Hair dryers or curling irons

Please bring an attitude of joy and great expectations, the faith that Jesus will be with us and the heart of a servant and learner. It is important to bring a large supply of patience and flexibility and an eagerness to learn and be renewed.

Mexico Awareness

Before anything else comes “attitude”. A good attitude is critical. Remember, you are a guest in Mexico and an ambassador for Christ. It is important that you see yourself as a servant. In Mexico they do things differently. They speak another language and they have ways that are different from ours. Different doesn’t mean wrong! These differences will become a beautiful learning experience if you come with a Christ-like attitude. Let’s learn from our Mexican brothers and sisters.

Please don’t ever make negative remarks about conditions like dirt, runny noses, strong smells, food, being slow or late, etc. Many Mexicans understand some English and could be hurt by your comments. Also watch your teasing of other teammates, it can easily go too far.

Please don’t waste water. When you clean up after work, remember that water is in short supply. For your health, drink only water that is approved. Don’t use ice in your drink unless you are sure it is OK. Bottled drinks are OK, popsicles are better than ours; milk and ice cream are fine. Fruit should be washed in good water or peeled. Bread and tortillas are fantastic.

Proper dress is important, very important. You are working with people who are Mexican Christians or who know that Christians are very conservative. Modesty is required in many churches. We don’t want to give a wrong or confusing impression. Women don’t bare shoulders or legs above the knee. Jeans are OK, short shorts and tank tops are not. Men don’t wear shorts or take off their shirts. Always wear some kind of shoes. People will be watching us and they will know that we represent Christ and His Church. We have a marvelous opportunity to build up the Body of Christ and to bear witness to the King and His Kingdom. Please don’t wear clothing that advertises things like beer that might tempt or offend someone else.

Because we don’t know who may have a problem with alcohol, we don’t drink on our mission trips.

Smiling at the people, eating with them, playing with the children, singing, and laughing may be as important as the work we will do. Don’t give away money or gifts without checking with a team leader first. You may not know the implications for the Pastor or the community if one person is favored. We will try to provide opportunities for giving. We try not to do anything for the people that has not been cleared with their pastors. Please don’t leave valuables in sight.

Be prepared for lots of changes in our plans. We certainly hope to accomplish a lot on the building but in Mexico the clock and calendar don’t work the same as they do in the U.S. Pray that we will learn patience and that our visit will be a blessing no matter how many boards we put together. Even when we were deported on one trip it turned into a blessing! Flexibility is a key concept!

We will take plenty of time for team building, Bible study, and worship. Look forward to it! Somehow it is more powerful when you are on a mission.

Be open to the fact that God may give you a new calling when you leave Mexico. Many lives have been changed on our trips! Of the 444+ that we have taken into Mexico many have given at least three months to mission work, and several have become full time workers. Whole churches have been changed by this experience!

Seek the face of the Master and He will touch your life!