

# Mexicali 101

Youth Mission Trip to Mexicali, Mexico

The Essential Basics...Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?

## Who...

### 1. Is going from your church?

- *Any current 8<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grader, they need not be a church member.*
  - *High school graduates - age 24 may go as an Adult-in Training.*
  - *Young Adults can go on a VBS team*
  - *Anyone out of high school can go on the building team*
  - *Translators*
  - *Medical professionals*
  - *One adult (25 and older) from your church.*
- (A team consists of 9 youth, 2 adult leaders, 1 translator.)*

### 2. Travels with us?

*Several other Lutheran churches in surrounding areas. We will give out a list of these churches as soon as the list is finalized!*

### 3. Goes from other churches in the area?

*Lutheran churches that send teams include (but is not limited to):*

*Faith-Troy, St. Peter-Macomb, Redeemer-Birmingham, Immanuel-Macomb, St. Luke-Ann Arbor*

## What,...

### 1. Is it?

*This is a youth mission trip offered to us through Azusa Pacific University (check out '[www.mexicooutreach.org](http://www.mexicooutreach.org)'). It is a Vacation Bible School (VBS) ministry. Our team will be assigned to a small church in a Mexican village and teach a VBS curriculum to the local children for 5 days. We will spend time in California before and after the VBS mission. We will also have a building team working on a house project.*

### 2. Will we be doing?

*In Mexico - A typical day: While in Mexicali, we will stay at a gated campsite where we will have breakfast and participate in morning worship with 2,000 other youth and adults. We pack our lunch in a cooler, then head out to our church site where we will play games, do crafts, sing songs, do dramas and play more games with the children until early afternoon. After our VBS day we stop at Walmart to shop, and cool down, then head back to camp. Here there is a market inside our camp where we can barter for the lowest price on blankets,*

*jewelry, clothes and more. Dinner is served around 6pm and then we participate in evening worship. After evening worship we have small group time to discuss our day then turn in. At midweek our team will perform an afternoon service project for the community.*

*In California - We will spend time at the beach and sightseeing. We want the youth to enjoy this time but come home talking about Mexicali, not California. On Good Friday we hold our own service near the beach, which is an awesome turning point for the youth to prepare for the mission ahead.*

3. Are our goals?

- Help the churches in Mexico grow!*
- Help our youth's faith grow and mature!*
- Have a life-changing experience!*
- Have fun!*

**Where...**

1. Are we going?

*Just over the US border to Mexicali, Mexico, via San Diego, California. We fly from Detroit Metro Airport into San Diego, CA. After spending a night in CA, we will sightsee the next day; spend another night in CA, and the next morning drive over the border into Mexicali, Mexico. After 6 days in Mexico, we will travel back over the border, arriving in San Diego once again. We will spend all day Friday there, then fly home Saturday (sometimes we fly home Friday, depending on airfare costs and availability)*

2. Do we stay?

*In Mexico - We will be staying at a camp, famously named Tent City with about 2,000 other campers from churches in Michigan, California and other states. This gated camp is fully staffed with Azusa University workers. There are porta potties (a.k.a. banos) that are our bathroom facilities. Yes, this means no running water, therefore no showers in Mexico. Baby wipes and spray deodorant are a must on the packing list as they accomplish much the same goal as a shower!*

*Due to Mexican culture, girls are required to wear ankle length skirts at the church site, but can wear pants at the camp. No shorts are allowed for boys or girls. (The girls like to plan a trip to Salvation Army for skirt shopping prior to the trip. We like to say it's not a fashion show, and usually have lots of fun with our mismatched clothing!)*

*In California - We stay at area hotels.*

### When...

1. Is the Trip?  
*Over Easter Break. The approximate travel dates are March 20-29<sup>th</sup>.  
(These dates are subject to change by a day or two depending on airfare costs and availability)*
2. Do you have to decide?  
*November 1<sup>st</sup> - see calendar.*
3. Are the weekly meetings?  
*Sunday 1:30-3:30 beginning January 6<sup>th</sup>. See Calendar.*
4. Are commitment monies due?  
*January - See Calendar*

### Why...

1. Should you go?  
*Just talk to anyone that has gone before! Not only does this give you the opportunity to share the Gospel and help others, but this is a life-changing event that will cause you to come home seeing the whole world differently!*

### How...

1. Much does it cost?  
*Cost per person is \$1000.00.  
This **IS NOT** your out of pocket expense (Refer to #2 below)*
2. What is our out-of-pocket expense?  
*Commitment Money, \$25 for food & chair, passport cost, spending money*
3. Do we prepare?  
*-Commit to youth attendance at 10 meetings to prepare for mission*  
  
*-Come to parent meeting held week prior to departure*  
  
*-Financial Commitment that will be your offering to the trip, plus food money for travel meals and spending money. (See Commitment Sheet)*  
  
*-Fund-raising:*
  - Writing a minimum of 20 letters to friends, family, doctor/dentist, etc
  - Writing a group letter with other youth to your church congregation
  - Participating in 1 Mexican Dinner/Silent Auction

3. Do we know our youth are safe?

*-We are staying in a 'gated' community campsite set up specifically for this mission trip by Azusa Pacific University (They have been doing this fabulous work for over 40 years and have wonderful relationships with the Mexican community and local government.)*

*-Refer to Adult Leader & Experience sheet*

*-There is an on-site infirmary if needed. There is also a US hospital is just across the border if needed.*

4. Do we know what to bring?

*We will provide you with a list, just in time for Christmas (example of items you will need: large rolling duffle bag, sleeping bag, baby wipes, deodorant, skirts)*

5. Do we get across the border?

*Passports are required for each youth to cross into Mexico (they cost about \$85.00 and take about 13 weeks to get)*