

Guide to Short-Term Missions in Honduras

Introduction

We hope that this Guide will help you as you plan your trip. Some of the groups have been coming to Honduras for short-term missions for a long time. Some are coming for the first time. Hopefully, this will help all of you. Some of the information in this guide will not apply to every group. We have tried to think of things you might need or want to know. If there is something you think should be included, let us know, as we constantly update the Guide.

May God bless you richly as you work in His kingdom.

Contact Information

Phone Numbers

When calling from the U.S., 011 is required before the number.

Main Campus 504-246-0099

Campus Fax **504-246-0932**

President's Office Campus Extension 121

President's Office/Home **504-246-3425**

Clinic Supervisor Office 504-245-4323

Clinic Supervisor Campus Extension 102

Group Coordinator Extension 111 or E-mail *Oscar Chirinos*: oherrera2802@gmail.com

Mailing Address

Apdo. Postal #1726

Tegucigalpa, M.D.C.

Honduras, C.A.

Physical Address

Colonia San José de la Vega

Final del Blvd. Kuwait

Comayagüela, M.D.C.

Honduras, C.A.

Preparation

...he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work. II Cor. 2:21

Prayer

Pray for God to use you according to His will on this trip.

Pray for open hearts and minds for both the mission team and the people of Honduras.

Pray for the safety of the group.

Immunizations

Check with the Center of Disease Control (www.cdc.gov) or your local County Health Department to be sure which immunizations you need. You may need to begin immunizations 4-6 weeks before your trip.

The CDC website contains current information: www.cdc.gov/travel/.

Passport

A valid U.S. passport is required to enter and leave Honduras. Check with your local U.S. Post Office or visit the following Web site for information on applying for the first time, fees, expediting, renewals, etc.: <http://www.travel.state.gov/passport>. It usually takes about six weeks to receive your passport. We

recommend that you allow some extra time just to be on the safe side. To apply you will need the following documentation: proof of U.S. citizenship (birth certificate); proof of identity (driver's license); two photographs (passport size); required fees (you should verify current fees).

Costs for Services Provided by Baxter Institute

Campus Housing \$14.00 per night per person

Meals in Cafeteria:

Breakfast \$4.00

Lunch \$6.00

Dinner \$6.00

*If you want to have dinner in the cafeteria and invite our married students and their families, note that YOU will need to pay for their meals because they receive a food allowance which does not cover the cafeteria.

Vehicle Rental (without driver)

Blue Ford Pickup \$50.00 per day

School bus (fuel not included) \$120.00 per day in the city, \$200 outside the city

Dump Truck (for luggage) \$80.00 per day

Baxter Personnel Assistance:

Timoteo Estrada \$25.00 per day plus meals if working on the weekends

Marco Antonio \$25.00 per day plus meals if working on the weekends

House Construction Costs

Wood House – \$1,400 per house (The cost depends on the materials used, the cost of materials, and whether you purchase cement for the floor. Cement costs an additional \$400.)

Lot Prices (estimate) -- \$1,000 each

Food Distribution to Church Members

Contact us if you are interested in ordering food to bag for church members where you are working. Cost is not included here, as it increases often.

What to Bring

- Long pants or modest shorts in which to work (You'll get really dirty if doing construction projects!)
- Long pants/jeans for church on Sunday morning worship (or skirts for the women if you prefer)
- Old tennis shoes/work boots for working
- Umbrella or rain poncho (Rainy season is from May to December.)
- A long sleeve shirt or light jacket for night or when it rains, especially if you are cold natured.
- Wash cloth(s) are not provided, but a towel is. You might want to bring an additional towel(s).
- Your own pillow if you're attached to yours... Bedding is provided.
- A journal or notebook to record your thoughts
- Snacks if you want them, but you'll find there's plenty of good food here.
- A bottle or two for water (Water can be purchased cheaply at any store or gas station. There are filtered water faucets on campus where you can refill your bottles. Otherwise, don't drink the water!)
- Sunscreen – the temperature probably won't get above about 90°, but the sun is strong!
- Insect Repellent with DEET – and USE IT!

Miscellaneous Tips/Observations

- *Get to know our students as much as possible.* This is one of the greatest blessings you will receive on the trip! Many students enjoy practicing English or teaching Spanish words and phrases. Sit with the students in the cafeteria when possible.
- *Let Oscar Chirinos know what meals your group will be eating* in the cafeteria at least 24 hours in advance, so the cooks can buy and prepare enough food. Please observe regular cafeteria meal times unless other arrangements have been made previously.
- *Water, ice, and drinks made from water are safe* to drink in the Baxter cafeteria and in nice restaurants in Tegucigalpa. If in doubt, ask for soda or bottled water.
- *Toilet facilities* – You will have “modern” facilities most places you go. Please note that the septic/sewer systems are not like those in the U.S. and cannot handle paper products very well. ***Do not flush toilet paper (or anything else) down the toilets!*** (Discard items in the trash can provided.) Toilet paper is furnished in the dorms at Baxter. You may want to carry a partial roll with you just in case you find yourself without it somewhere.
- ***Please help us conserve energy*** – Please, please make a special effort to turn off all lights, fans, and electrical gadgets when not in use. Electricity and water bills are quite high on campus and we all need to be cautious of high usage.
- *Flexibility* – Bring a spirit of adventure with you. Flow with and enjoy the unexpected. A few negative things will probably happen because nobody is perfect, but... enjoy the experience!

Keys/Locking Doors

1. Keys to the men’s and women’s dorms or apartments will be given to the group leader at the time the group arrives on the Baxter campus.
2. Do not make copies of any keys you receive.
3. Please be aware at all times of who is handling the keys you have been given.
4. Keys to the dormitories and apartments are ONLY for the use of the group and are not to be given to anyone outside your group, including local visitors, students, etc.
5. Dormitory and apartment doors should be locked at all times when no one is present. Even if you leave for a short time, please lock your door!
6. At the end of your group’s stay, please lock all dormitory and apartment doors and return the keys to Oscar Chirinos, Armando Pacheco, or place in the wooden boxes marked “Keys.”
7. If a key is missing at the time the group is leaving Baxter, the costs (rekeying and new keys) will be charged to the group’s bill.

Visitors on Campus

1. Without exceptions, no local visitors should be invited in or allowed to enter the men’s or women’s dorms or the apartments. Meet friends outside of the dorm or apartment.
2. Please do not talk to or give items to the street children that show up at our entrance gates. They represent a security problem to us once you leave campus.
3. No students or Baxter personnel (except for maintenance/custodial staff) are authorized to enter the dormitories, rooms, or apartments at any time.
4. Group members are urged to report to the guards or maintenance personnel the presence of strangers or unauthorized persons on our premises.
5. Please do not bring strangers to our campus. Unless you know that the person is a member of the church where you are working, do not bring them to our campus. There are those who take advantage of our trust and love for poor people and who use this as an opportunity to steal or plan a future theft.
6. All visitors must leave their personal identification card with the guard at the front gate every time they enter our premises.

Keeping Items Safe and Secure

1. We assume that all our maintenance personnel are honest and trustworthy. Nonetheless, personal items should be kept in the apartments, in lockers installed in the dorms, or given to our assigned personnel to keep until it is time to leave.
2. Please do not leave personal items or tools out if someone from the group is not watching them.
3. Baxter has a safe at the Controller’s office in which you may keep cash, passports, and other valuables.
4. If you find that a personal or group item is missing, talk first to the maintenance person in charge of the dorm. If he/she does not understand or does not respond, report it for further search.

Gifts or Items Left at Baxter by Groups

1. Items left in rooms, dorms, or apartments will be available for claim at least one week after the group leaves. After one week, items will be discarded or used as appropriate.
2. We will recover and clean usable items left behind and distribute them to the poor.
3. Please do not tell Baxter employees or students that you have left clothing, shoes, or other items for them. They are instructed not to go through items left by the groups.
4. If you wish to give something to an employee or student, do so directly to that person.

***Oscar Chirinos is in charge of handling all the group members’ needs while staying at Baxter. He is in charge of handling keys and supervising the cafeteria and maintenance personnel with responsibilities in the men’s and women’s dorms and apartments.**

“I have read this Security Agreement and will adhere to its guidelines to the best of my ability.”

Congregation or Group Name

Signature of Group Leader

Date