



Short Term Mission: Guatemala

Application

July 18 - 26, 2019



No one is so poor that they
have nothing to give and
No one is so rich that they
have nothing to receive





Sunday market outside of our hotel in Santa Cruz

What to expect:

You will meet some very interesting people
 You will see things that are both familiar and strange
 You will have a lot of questions
 You will never forget this experience.



Our Mission:

Christ Our Light has been going to Guatemala for thirteen years under the sponsorship of S.O.S (Sending out Servants), a group based in Houston, TX. Our mission is that of a ministry of presence. We do not go to build or repair homes or dig wells. We are there to build relationships. The major focus is on catechesis for the children (very much like Vacation Bible School) and faith-sharing for the adults.

You do not need to speak Spanish for this trip. We try to take four Spanish speaking translators. The local language is Quiche although the children learn Spanish in school and quite a few adults also speak Spanish.



Preparation:

We have four team formation meetings. These meetings usually last four hours each. The purpose of these meetings is to learn more about Guatemala (information) and to get comfortable with our team and with aspects of the experience like faith sharing (formation). Additionally, you will be on a team either for the adult or children's programs. You will have meetings outside of these formation meetings to plan. These planning meetings for your program are a commitment of approximately 8-10 hours. The team formation meetings are important and we try to schedule these so everyone can make all the meetings.

After the experience there is a team retreat and an event for sharing the experience with the parish.

Transportation:

We fly in and out of the Newark airport. We ask family members to help with transportation to and from the airport.

Our week:

We will be departing on Thursday and since our flight arrives late in Guatemala City, we will spend the night at a hotel in Guatemala City. Friday we will spend some time in Guatemala City before departing for Santa Cruz which is a 4-6 hour bus ride. Santa Cruz which is our home base for our work in LaPuerta. Saturday through Tuesday we will be in LaPuerta

Saturday through Tuesday our schedule is fairly similar

- Breakfast and Morning prayer
- LaPuerta 7:30 am—4 pm
- Dinner
- Evening reflection, prayer and preparation for the next day



Sunday— We head to LaPuerta where we have Mass or a service of the word with communion. Following our prayer, we eat lunch prepared by our Maya hosts, have community activities and then split into the children's and adults' program groups.

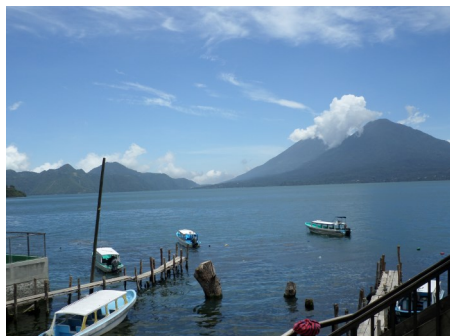
Monday and Tuesday— Our mornings we visit the homes of our Maya friends for faith sharing. In the afternoons we conduct the children's and adult programs. This day includes a meeting with the community, maybe Mass and general community time with the Maya.

Wednesday— We head to Antigua with a stop at Lake Atitlan on the way.



Thursday— In Antigua, we visit the church of San Francisco where a local saint, Hermano Pedro, is buried. It is also a time for prayer and reflection. You have the afternoon to visit the market and buy souvenirs or just take in some of the sites of the city. In the evening we have a final reflection and prayer time together. Our flight leaves from Guatemala in the evening.

Friday— We arrive back in Newark early morning.



Prayer and Reflection:

These are an integral part of the experience. The expectation is that everyone participate, although it is up to you as to what and how much you share.

Accommodations:

We stay in a hotel in Santa Cruz which is about 40 minutes outside of LaPuerta where we serve. This hotel, El Sitio, is a hotel that SOS groups have stayed in for years. We stay in another nice hotel in Antigua. Although the accommodations are simple, you will not be “roughing it.”

Safety

We do our best to ensure the safety of our group members. We work with companies, hotels and individuals who have known us for a long time and would alert us if there were any concerns for our safety. We also include a presentation on safety as part of our team formation. Part of the program cost includes travel insurance in case of any medical or political emergency. We also list our group with the State Department which sends out alerts if needed. There are no guarantees in life, but we do our best to protect our team.

**Meals:**

We have breakfast and dinner at a local restaurant in Santa Cruz. They also prepare our lunches for us. If you have special needs for your meals, let us know. The cost of all meals, except for food while in transit on the planes, lunch at Lake Atitlan and lunch in Antigua, are included in your fees.

Cost:

The cost of the trip is approximately \$1400. This includes your flight, all hotels (double occupancy), and all meals except for those indicated above. If you would like to request a private room for all hotels, there is a flat fee of an additional \$125. If you are unable to pay the entire amount for the trip, there is a space on the application form to indicate that you are requesting help with the program costs. Do not hesitate to ask if you need it. The money is collected in three payments.





SOS Trip Application

July 18– 26 2019

Submit this form to

Christ Our Light Church

Pat Slater

402 Kings Highway North

Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

E-mail: pslater@christourlight.net

Exact Name as printed on passport: _____

Passport Number: _____ Passport expiration date: _____

Name by which you like to go: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (C) _____

E-mail: _____

Date of birth: _____ Citizenship: _____ Marital Status: _____

Occupation: _____ If retired, previous occupation _____

Name of parish in which you are registered: _____

Are you able to serve as a Spanish translator: _____ Yes _____ No

Are you CPR certified? _____ Yes _____ No Year certified: _____

Have you taken the Diocesan Virtus/ CAP training _____ Yes _____ No

Do you play a musical instrument? _____ Yes _____ No Instrument: _____

Have you participated in missionary/service trips before? If yes, when and where?

Have you traveled outside the US before? _____ Yes _____ No
If yes, where?

If currently a student, please indicate name of school: _____

Current year in school: _____

Age group: () 16-23 () 24-30 () 31-40 () 41-50 () 51-60 () 61-70 () 70+

Why do you want to go on this trip? (if you have gone on this mission previously, you do not have to answer this question)

Some considerations for going on this trip. You must be able to do the following:

- Commit to four team formation meetings (usually on Sundays)
- Work with a group on creating either the adult or children's program outside of team formation times
- Walk at a higher altitude and various inclines (if this is not possible, we will find alternate activities)
- Lift 20 pounds (this is not a deal breaker)
- Abstain from smoking and alcohol for the duration of the trip
- Participate in faith sharing and other religious activities
- Be flexible
- Cope with a long day
- Have a current tetanus shot
- Experience good health in general
- Adapt to a different culture
- If any minors go on the trip, you must be willing to attend diocesan Virtus training and also be fingerprinted.
- Able to pay the \$1400 fee for this trip (in three increments)- some financial aid is available. If financial help is needed, please note below how much of the \$1400 you could pay.

If any of these seem like they may present a challenge, please explain.

If you are unable to pay the entire \$1400 fee, please indicate how much you are able to pay \$ _____

Please return pages 5 and 6 of his form to Christ our Light by March 1 along with a check for \$50 made out to Christ Our Light Mission.