

# Grace Chapel

## Mexico Missions Trip 2024

Registration: [www.gclancaster.com/mexico2024](http://www.gclancaster.com/mexico2024) (QR Code Below)



Thank you for considering our Mexico missions trip this year! This trip is one that may change the course of your spiritual life. The exposure to a broken world, away from the comforts of home, tends to have a tremendous impact on our worldview. Students are able to feel and truly understand Jesus' compassion for people. Please know that a trip like this does not go without an incredible amount of planning, coordination, and safety considerations. Your child's safety is our utmost concern. Please contact either of us with any questions you have. Again, thank you for considering and we hope to see your child on this trip.

*Pastor Westen & Pastor Jordan*

### WHAT IS A MEXICO TRIP?

The itinerary is simple: Day 1 – Travel, Day 2 – Build a House, Day 3 – Travel. This is a fast-paced service trip. We will depart Grace Chapel in the morning on the 12<sup>th</sup> and stop for lunch in San Diego. Once across the border, we travel around 20 minutes into Tijuana to the Mexico Caravan Ministries (MCM) site. This is a safe area where we'll sleep and will serve as a hub for the weekend (address below). That night we'll have orientation and a session. After the session, we'll travel as a group to a local taco restaurant (it's Mexico, we only eat tacos). Once back we'll prep for the build, play games, and hang out as a group. Students sleep in large dorms at MCM that hold around 20 students per room (separate guys and girls rooms). On Saturday, we'll have a morning session and depart to our build site for the day. From around 9:30-5pm we'll be building an entire house for a family. We will have 3 teams and build 3 houses – each at a separate location. The family who we are building the house for will serve us lunch. Once back at MCM, we'll have another session and go to dinner – yup, eating out at tacos again. Usually this night we also stop for ice cream place on the corner. The rest of the night is spent playing games as a group and enjoying time together. On Sunday we'll wake up and depart around 6:30am. Crossing the border can be more time consuming coming back to USA. We'll drive to a fun location for lunch and walk around Sunday afternoon (location TBD). Then we should be back at Grace Chapel sometime that late afternoon, Sunday. It's a great trip.

### WHERE

- Mexico Caravan Ministries (<https://www.mexicocaravanministries.com/>)
- East of Tijuana, Mexico
  - Address: Ruta Morelos 9219 Matamoros Norte-Centro-Sur, 22234 Tijuana, BC, Mexico

## WHEN

- April 12-14, 2024
- Must be willing to take April 12<sup>th</sup> off from School
- Check-in at Grace Chapel at 8:00 am

## WHO

- High School (9-12<sup>th</sup> grade) & College Students (18-22 years old)
- Adults for each group. There will be two guys and two girl leaders at each build site.
- We have limited spaces for each group but will manage how many guys and girls go.

## COST

- \$200 (Cost does not include passport)
- You can also reserve a spot for non-refundable \$100 deposit
- Full price must be paid by 4/10/24

## FOOD

- All food will be provided except while traveling
  - We'll stop for food on the way there and back that students will purchase on their own (fast food)
- We'll eat out each night and breakfast on Saturday will be basic continental breakfast (muffins, cereal, fruit, snacks, etc.)
- Students with food allergies are encouraged to bring their own non-perishable food

## WHAT YOU NEED TO DO – ALL BY April 3rd

- Sign up online – <http://www.gclancaster.com/mexico2024>
  - o Sign up ASAP (limited spots)
- Fill out Medical Release/Liability forms
  - o You will be emailed a link once you register if we do not already have one on file for you
- Turn in Copy of Birth Certificate (18 & Under) OR Passport for us to copy (required for 19 & older)
  - o Highly recommended you get a passport regardless of age
- Turn in Copy of photo ID to accompany Birth Certificate (19 & Under)(N/A with Passport)
  - o Must be an official photo: ie school ID, license, etc.
- Turn in Signed Parent Authorization Form
  - o Will be emailed to you once you sign up if under 19

## PARENT QUESTIONS

- All staff and parents attending will have to fill out all forms too
- Please contact Pastor Westen for any questions
  - (661) 948-0855, Ext. 103 | [wpursley@gclancaster.com](mailto:wpursley@gclancaster.com)

## WHAT TO BRING

- Limit of 1 small piece of Luggage (excluding sleeping bag) (please be conservative)
  - i.e. – backpack, small duffle bag. Something you can carry on your lap if needed.

- A Passport or copy of Birth Certificate (Passports are required for people 19 or older. Children under the age of 19 traveling with a school group, religious group, social or cultural organization, or sports team accompanied by an adult chaperon can use their birth certificates, naturalization certificates or certificates of citizenship.)
- \$20-40 for lunch on the road to and from Mexico
- Sleeping bag and pillow
- Clothes (Pants only (no leggings), t-shirts, work shoes/tennis shoes, sweatshirt, work gloves)
- A Bible and pen
- Sunscreen, bug repellent (not necessary but recommended)
- Toiletries (toothbrush, tooth paste, deodorant, etc)
  - We will not be taking showers while we're down there 😊

## **CELL PHONES**

- Cell phones are allowed
- If you activate your phone or even leave it on, and do not have an international plan, your phone bill will be very high.
  - My advice is to put your phone in airplane mode with data roaming off and use it like that for the entire weekend (pictures only)

## **WHAT NOT TO BRING**

- Inappropriate clothing: tank tops, shirts exposing stomach or cleavage, sleeveless t-shirts, inappropriate logos, yoga pants, skinny jeans, shorts, open-toed shoes.
- electronics, expensive items, weapons of any kind

## **TRAVELING INTERNATIONALLY**

- According to the current U.S. Customs and Border Protection regulations, children 19 years and younger do not require passports to travel internationally when they accompany a religious group. (<https://www.cbp.gov/travel/us-citizens/know-before-you-go/your-trip>)
- Children are required to have a 1) birth certificate (or copy of), 2) photo ID (government issued is preferred but school ID is ok), and 3) a written letter granting permission for your child to travel with the church (included in registration packet).
- Passports are required for anyone 19 and older (no exceptions)
  - Students with a passport should bring their passports as well as the written letter from parents