

Missions to Mexico

Miscellaneous Expenses to consider

In addition to your group fees & registration fees, there are other costs you will want to be aware of:

Food Cost

Cost of food is not covered in your group fees. A furnished kitchen and dining hall is provided for you to prepare your meals. Meal prep can be very easy if you consider the following options:

1. Most groups have each person bring their favorite box of cold cereal for the week in Mexico. Milk and fruit can be brought with you, or purchased here in Mexico. This provides a quick, healthy breakfast with little costs or work.
2. We provide an option (highly recommended) to groups of eating the Sunday evening meal and the noon meals (Monday-Thursday) at the church you will be serving at. These meals are prepared and served by the women of the church. This is a wonderful way to save time, money, and get to know the people and culture of Mexico. It's a popular hit among all groups (you will be hard pressed to buy and cook a meal for less than the recommended donation and the cost even covers the meals so all the Mexicans who will be serving with you can eat with you as well). A charge \$3.50 per person per meal for this option please. And once again, this amount also includes enough money so the Mexicans who are ministering with you can eat with you as well.
3. The remainder of the meals can be prepared at the base or you can eat out at some local taco stands. The facilities are very accommodating (two stoves, refrigerator, freezer, large work areas, large serving bar & more). An option to consider if you don't have a cook, is to designate a kitchen and meal coordinator to oversee the meals and kitchen. Divide the group into food teams and allow them to plan the meals (with the oversight of the kitchen and meal coordinator). Meals can be pre-cooked in the States and then prepared in Mexico. Make sure you have healthy meals as you will be exerting extra energy while on your trip. Also, you can eat out at local taco stands if you'd like which cuts down on meal prep too.

Suggested shopping list for items other than food

Our hope is that while you're on the ministry base with us in Mexico, you feel at home. Our mindset is that, "Mi casa es tu casa" (My house is your house). We don't operate like a hotel service, we basically loan you the base during your time here. Taking this in mind, here's a suggested shopping list for your time while in Mexico. It is best to purchase main items in the States before crossing the border (costs are less and selection is better).

Please consult the website for a recommended shopping center close to the border.

<http://www.gomissionstomexico.com/food4lessshopping.html>. Items like fruit, bread, and milk can be purchased locally if you wish.

Cleaning Items

Several liquid hand soaps

1 small bottle dishwashing liquid

Scrubber pads for pots and pans

Paper & Plastic Items

Small bathroom trash bags (10 gallon)

Large trash bags (30 -40 gallon)

Toilet paper

Paper towels (bring plenty)

Napkins

Paper plates (we recommend using paper plates, bowls, cups & etc. this cuts down on work & time)

Paper bowls

Paper cups

Baby wipes for cleaning hands after V.B.S. and etc. (put in vans)

First Aid Kit & Medicines to carry with you in your vehicles (We also have first aid kits on the base for your use)

Hand lotion

Neosporin

Hydrogen peroxide

Tylenol

Imodium AD

What about purified drinking water in Mexico?

We have 5 gallon bottles for your use while in Mexico. These bottles can be filled with purified water at all grocery stores for about 80 cents each. It will be your group's privilege to purchase your own water. Be sure to involve your younger ones so they see how life is in a third world country. There is no need to bring purified water with you as the purified water is readily available and safe.

Work Projects

Part of group fees will be used for your construction projects, however, if your group wants to do a major construction project, we ask that you consider raising addition funds for this.

Vehicle Insurance

Although vehicle insurance is not required in Mexico, you might want to have it just in case. We strongly recommend that you purchase insurance prior to your trip. Purchasing insurance at the border can be costly and time consuming.

Bibles

We ask each group to bring two cases of Bibles (NIV complete Spanish Bibles- 24 per case) to be able to give to those who might receive Christ through your time in Mexico, and also, to be able to provide pastors and churches with Bibles. Many churches and pastors come to us asking for Bibles and it's nice to be able to provide them with this important resource. You will find an order form enclosed in this packet. We ask for the NIV version (NVI in Spanish). Please bring complete Bibles containing both the Old and New Testaments. These can be ordered from International Bible Society at: www.gospelcom.net/ibs

Tel: 1-800-237-7266

Evangelistic tracts

On Sunday, the day after your arrival, we start the week off by doing an evangelistic outreach in the community of the church you'll be serving at. We hand out invitations for the week's activities at the church, and tracts as well. We ask that you bring at least 600 tracts for this important activity. We have found that tracts by Chick Publishers or Atstracks work very well because they are in a cartoon format. Because many here in Mexico lack the ability to read, a cartoon format really grabs and holds their attention. Make sure you order all tracts in Spanish! Tracts can be ordered at: www.chick.com Tel: 1-909-941-8128, or at www.atstracks.org select international tracts, then select browse by category, then select Spanish and you'll find the Spanish tracts. **Make sure you order tracts that have a cartoon format and are in Spanish.**

Ideas for fund raising

1. Each month, set aside a regular amount to give toward your cost. Example: if you just put \$20 per month toward your trip cost, in six months you would have \$120 saved for your trip.
2. Consider having a garage sale to sell items you no longer need.
3. Cut down on part of your entertainment spending, and save it for your trip.
4. Pray and ask God to help you. Who knows what might happen?
5. Send out Fund Raising Letter to your friends and relatives, share the plans of your short mission trip and ask if they'd like to share in the cost.

Here's a link for help: <http://www.gomissionstomexico.com/manualfundraising.html>