

Gesu Summer Honduras Immersion Program

Participant Information & Policies

Mission Statement

Through an immersion experience, it is intended that participants will demonstrate the mentality of “Gesu Together,” by expanding the Gesu Community internationally. During this immersion experience, participants will work alongside those who are confronted by poverty, encounter the face of Christ through community and solidarity, and be given the tools to share their experience of God. While service projects are a component of the experience, the purpose of the immersion is to come to understand and grow in relationship with our brothers and sisters in Honduras.

Passport

- A valid passport is needed to travel internationally.
- You can apply for a passport at the post office or at some local libraries. Always check <http://travel.state.gov/> for the most up-to-date information.
- Important: If your passport will expire within 6 months of your travel dates, you **MUST** renew your passport.

Trip Safety

- **Safety is our number one priority during the trip.**
- The U.S. Department of State currently states the following advisories for travelling to Honduras: “The Department of State warns U.S. citizens to carefully consider the risks of travel to the Department of Gracias a Dios in Honduras. In addition, the greater urban areas of San Pedro Sula, Tegucigalpa, and La Ceiba have notably high crime and violence rates. This replaces the Honduras Travel Warning dated August 5, 2016.”
- During our trip, we work alongside our partner, SAN, whose facilitators are aware of the laws and safety of the country. While we fly into Tegucigalpa, our home base is located in Nuevo Paraiso. Any outings outside of our Home Base are done to areas previously approved by SAN facilitators.
- During our trip, we will be accompanied by an armed security guard. This is an added precaution, although we have never encountered a situation of concern.
- Precautionary safety measures for participants are the same that you would exercise daily, whether home or abroad: do not go off on your own, listen to trip leaders at all time, keep valuables you bring with you to a minimum, and be aware of your surroundings.

Living Conditions

- Housing: During our stay in Honduras, our Home Base is located in Nuevo Paraiso. Rooms are comfortable and include beds with linens and pillows, there is a shared bathroom and you will room together “dorm room style.”
- Food: The Dining Hall is located on our Home Base. You will be provided with three meals a day, prepared by an incredible staff of cooks. We will have one shared meal in a nearby town on our “free day.” (This is included in the cost of your trip). There is also a small pulperia (snack store) at our Home Base where you can purchase pop and Honduran snacks. (If you have unique dietary needs, we will work with you in advance to be sure that you have adequate nutrition).

- Showers and Toilets:
 - You will have a communal bathroom with your fellow roommates.
 - There are showers available to use.
 - Toilet tissue: due to weakened plumbing systems, toilet paper is not flushed down the toilet, but is instead deposited in the waste bin next to the toilet.
 - There are sinks and soap available, but it is always helpful to bring hand sanitizer with you.
- Weather: The temperature is likely to be in the 90s in the heat of the day. Dehydration can easily occur under these conditions. Drinking plenty of water is a must; a water bottle is a must so that participants can obtain clean water from the Home Base. We will often be in Honduras during the rainy season, which can increase the number of mosquitoes present.

Clothing & Laundering

It is important, out of respect for our community and for Hondurans, that we use discretion and common sense, keeping modesty in mind with our clothing. Cool, comfortable clothing is recommended (i.e. cotton). Hospital scrubs are ideal for both the Home Base and the work sites.

- Male Attire: Lightweight work pants, slacks, and jeans are appropriate. Shorts may only be worn at the Home Base, not to the work area or off-site. T-shirts and tank tops may be worn, however, they should be appropriate in nature (no images of beer, cigarettes, etc.). For church, a collared shirt and casual pants are recommended. Tennis shoes and boots are recommended footwear. Sandals/flip-flops can be used at the Home Base and are excellent for showering.
- Female Attire: Jeans, slacks and dresses/skirts may be worn. Shorts and tank tops are only be worn at the Home Base, not to the work area or off-site. Skin revealing attire is not appropriate. For church, a dress/skirt or casual slacks and a blouse are recommended. Tennis shoes and boots are recommended footwear. Sandals/flip-flops can be used at the Home Base and are excellent for showering.
- Laundering: During the week, employees at the Home Base will wash your clothing (this service is included as part of your trip cost).
- Make-up and Jewelry: Keep make-up to a minimum. Leave expensive jewelry at home. Inexpensive watches are recommended for everyone.

Health & Hygiene

Sanitary conditions throughout Honduras are poor. Parasites and microorganisms cause many health problems for the Honduran people. These can cause intestinal disorders, such as diarrhea, in foreigners. Carefully observe the directions below:

- Water: Drink only bottled water. Tap water is unsafe to drink. Do not even use it to brush your teeth. At homebase, you will have access to purified water to fill up your water bottles.
- Immunizations: The Center for Disease Control recommends the following for travel to Honduras:
 - Malaria preventative
 - Tetanus (should be updated every ten years)
 - Typhoid
 - Hepatitis A

Application Process and Withdrawing from the trip

- Applications can be found at <http://churchofthegesu.org/honduras-mission/>
- There is a separate application for youth and adults.
 - Youth - high school students entering the 11th grade in the 2018-19 school year through college students
 - Adult - College graduates or 23 years of age and older.
- Applications will be open until January 15, 2018.
- Applying for this trip DOES NOT guarantee a spot on the trip.

Payment Policy

- All trips must be paid in full prior to final ticketing of the trip.
- The cost of the July 2018 trip is \$2000 (this covers)
- The payment schedule for the July 2018 Trip will be as follows:
 - Application Fee (\$100): Due no later than registration deadline (January 15, 2018)
 - Payment #1 (\$650): Due at Pre-Trip Meeting #1 (February 7, 2018)
 - Payment #2 (\$650): Due at Pre-Trip Meeting #2 (April 25, 2018)
 - Payment #3 (\$650): Due at Pre-Trip Meeting #3 (June 20, 2018)
- If a participant has not paid in full by June 20, 2018, then they will not be issued a ticket until the balance is paid, or risk loss of participation in the trip.
- ALL payments, once due, are non-refundable as they go towards flights and other travel arrangements that must be paid for ahead of time.
- Payment Information
 - Checks should be made out to: Gesu Honduras
 - Checks should be sent to:
Church of the Gesu
Attn: Ashley Markiewicz
2470 Miramar Boulevard
University Heights, Ohio 44118

Costs Involved

- What is included in payments and group fundraising efforts?
 - Flights
 - Ground Transportation
 - Room & Board
 - Supplies for Construction Projects
 - Security
 - Group T-Shirt
 - One group meal on “off-day”
- What is not included:
 - Passport fees
 - Travel supplies – clothing, toiletries, etc.
 - Travel money
 - Medical expenses
 - Additional Travel Insurance
 - Luggage fees

Fundraising Expectations

- There will be several group fundraising activities throughout the year. These will be announced at pre-trip meeting #1.
- In order to receive the benefits from group fundraising efforts, all participants are expected to participate in 90% or miss no more than 1 of the group fundraising efforts.
- Group fundraising goes towards reducing the total cost of the trip and for any donations/supplies for projects we will do.

Misc. Details

- Currency: Upon arrival to the airport in Honduras, your trip leader will exchange US dollars for Lempira. Most participants spend less than \$100. Credit cards are accepted at most shops in the city.
- Giving money and gifts: Please do not give gifts or money to the children or adults you may encounter. If you would like to give a gift to someone, let your team leader know so that it can be arranged through SAN. There will also be an opportunity to donate items at the end of the trip.
- Being sent home: If you create a serious problem within the team, you may be required to be sent home at your own expense.
- Shopping: On one of your days in Honduras, you will have the opportunity to shop for souvenirs such as basket weavings, leather goods, pottery, hammocks, etc.
- Communication:
 - Spanish is the primary language spoken in Honduras.
 - At least one chaperone will have phone access.
 - There will be a phone number provided to parents/guardians in case of an emergency.