

Estado 29 Orphanage Partnership Visit Friday, July 24th - Saturday, August 1st, 2020

The 2020 Estado 29 Orphanage Partnership Visit is an experience in which a group from Westminster will travel to Ensenada, Mexico. While in Ensenada, we will share in the life of the Estado 29 community. We'll work, play, practice faith, worship, laugh, and cry with the children living at Estado 29. This experience will transform you and change your life as you encounter Jesus in the lives of the Estado 29 children and youth as well as the adults who care for them.

Purpose:

1. To review and evaluate our partnership covenant.
2. To assess the state of past collaborative projects and cast vision for future ministry opportunities.
3. To expand the base of people within Westminster who can be advocates for the orphanage across various ministry areas.
4. To participate in projects to improve the facilities of the orphanage.
5. To participate in faith formation activities with the children
6. To engage in the spiritual practices of worship and prayer in a small community setting

Participant Criteria

1. Open to all Westminster members and friends who have completed 6th grade (at the time of the trip) and older.
2. Youth who have not yet completed 9th grade (at the time of the trip) must be accompanied by a parent or a guardian approved by both the parent(s) and Associate Pastor for Worship.
3. The trip is limited to 25 people.

Expectations

1. Desire to grow spiritually
2. Attendance at monthly trip preparation meetings and post-trip debriefing. The schedule for these meetings will be released after the roster is formed.
Excused absences (2) are permitted for irresolvable conflicts but will entail makeup projects equal to what was missed at the team meeting.
3. Competence in cross-cultural travel and interaction
4. Relational skills in being part of a group
5. Timely completion of all forms/materials for the trip
6. Participate in learning projects during preparation phase
7. Participate in any fundraising efforts for the trip that may be scheduled

TRIP COST

The cost to each participant will be between \$400 - \$500, dependent upon the cost of plane tickets. Final amount will be communicated as soon as possible. **Once deposits are made and money is paid out from the church, the church cannot refund individuals' deposits in the event of a participant cancellation. It is your responsibility to purchase travel insurance if desired.**

Deposit #1: 1/3rd of participant cost due upon acceptance to the roster

Deposit #2: 1/3rd of participant cost due at February meeting

Deposit #3: Remainder of participant cost due at March meeting

*Scholarship funds may be available. Please contact Jon Frost if needed.

ITINERARY

A specific itinerary will be made available closer to the trip. In general we leave early in the morning on the day of departure and return around 7am on the return date because of a redeye flight the night before. **All team members are responsible for transportation to and from the airport.** While in Mexico, we remain on the campus of the orphanage except for one or two outings with the children.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

There are 2 parts to the application:

1. An **online form** that includes general info as well as open-ended questions.
Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/X6VBRDP> and complete the questions.
Note that some questions only apply to 1st time applicants / returning applicants.
Please answer accordingly.
2. An **Agreement and Signature Form**. Please sign, date and return to Jon Frost.

Be aware that submitting an application does not guarantee your spot. We expect a full roster so consideration will be given to maintaining a balance of age, gender, and new/returning team members. Priority is also given to active Westminster members.

You will receive confirmation of your spot on the roster or the waitlist the week following the signup deadline.

In addition to the online form and Agreement and Signature form, participants may be required to fill out child clearance forms and/or parental consent forms. These will be distributed at a later date and are age dependent.

Signup deadline is Friday, January 31st .

Agreement and Signature Form

I have read and understand the expectations for participation in the Estado 29 Orphanage Partnership Visit. I realize that there will be no toleration of any behavior destructive to the community as part of the Mexico trip or any experience leading up to it, and that any such incident will forfeit my spot on this trip.

If I should be selected to serve as a member of this team, I agree to fulfill all of the requirements for participation, to include financial commitment. I realize that I will not be entitled to a refund, should I cancel my participation, for any money that has already been paid out by the church.

Participant Name _____

Participant Signature _____ Date _____

For youth participants:

I give my son/daughter permission to be considered for the Estado 29 Orphanage Partnership Visit team, acknowledging that this application alone does not guarantee his or her participation. We have read the requirements together and realize that failure to complete them will forfeit my son/daughter's spot on the trip. I realize that my son/daughter will not be entitled to a refund, should they cancel their participation, for any money that has already been paid out by the church.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I need a passport? **Yes!!!, everyone must have a passport!!!**

Where do we sleep? The orphanage has guest dorms that are divided by gender. There are bunk beds with a cover sheet. You do need to pack a sleeping bag in your suitcase.

Does it matter that I don't speak Spanish? No. It does help, but there are enough translators there to help you out. It will also be part of our preparation for the trip.

Is the water and food safe to drink and eat? Absolutely. All the water for drinking is purified and all the food is bought from SMART AND FINAL, a California super-store.

Is the orphanage safe? The orphanage is a gated community in a very safe rural area, about 20 minutes from the city of Ensenada.

Do I need shots? While we do not require shots, we do recommend that you contact your family doctor or a travel health clinic for more information if you are concerned about medical issues.