

College Mission Trip to Mexico

May 14 - 20, 2023

This year's College mission trip will take us to the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. We will be partnering with Accion Ministries and will be doing construction work (typically concrete work) and host Bible School in a Mayan village.

Travel Information:

May 14th – American Airlines Flight 895 CLT 9:05am → CUN 11:05am

May 20th – American Airlines Flight 1778 CUN 3:02pm → CLT 7:10pm

Trip Preparation:

- Vaccines (be sure routine vaccines are up to date; additional vaccines may include Hep A, Hep B, Malaria and Typhoid – ASK YOUR DOCTOR!)
- PASSPORT (U.S. passport processing time is 6 weeks, so go ahead and apply early if you plan to go on the trip! If you already have a passport, it must be valid for at least 6 months from date of departure)
- Prescriptions (copies of all prescriptions, including the generic names for medications, and a note from the prescribing physician on letterhead stationery for controlled substances and injectable medications should be carried)

Trip Cost:

- Early Bird Rate - **\$825*** per youth with **\$275 deposit due Friday, January 6th**
- Regular Rate - **\$875*** per youth with **\$325 deposit due Friday, January 27th**
- Remaining Payment Schedule: **\$275 due Friday, February 24th** and **\$275 due Friday, March 24th**

(Cost covers airfare & baggage fees, ground transportation in Mexico, lodging in the village and in Akumal, all meals but 2 and Accion's fee)

*For families with more than 1 youth on either (college or senior high) trip, the rate is reduced by 50% for the additional youth. For example, the early bird cost for two youth from the same family would be \$825 for the 1st youth and \$412.50 for the 2nd (\$1237.50 total).

Scholarships: If cost would prevent a youth from participating in this trip, full and partial scholarships are available. To receive more scholarship information contact Sue Shoffner sue@hickoryfpc.org.

About the Cost: Ever wonder how we can offer youth mission trips that are jam-packed with awesomeness at such a good rate? It's because 1st Pres pays half the trip cost of EVERY participant. This trip costs \$1650 per person, but 1st Pres pays \$825 to match your payment. Pretty Amazing, huh?

Cancellation Policy: Should a youth cancel their spot for the mission trip at any time and for any reason (other than extreme circumstances such as a death in the family) following the sign-up deadline, the youth will be responsible for all nonrefundable expenses incurred to date. Nonrefundable expenses may exceed the \$825 participant cost since the total trip cost per person is \$1650.

Registration:

- Open now! Sign up online @ <http://www.hickoryfpc.org> under the Resources tab! You can make your deposit by check or by Venmo @HICKORYFPC. For either method please note the participants name and that is for the College Mission Trip.

Sample Itinerary:

Day 1	Arrive in Cancun @ 11:05am. Do grocery shopping, eat lunch, travel to village.
Day 2	Work in the morning and church service that night.
Day 3	Work in the morning, VBS in the afternoon.
Day 4	Work in the morning, VBS in the afternoon.
Day 5	Work in the morning, VBS in the afternoon, travel to Akumal.
Day 6	R&R day (Akumal).
Day 7	Travel from hotel to airport (1 hour) for departure home at 3:02pm.

Work Day Schedule:

5:45am	Wake Up!
6:15am	Breakfast/Water & Snack Prep for Work Site
6:45am	Leave for Work Site
7:00am	Arrive at Work Site
12:30pm	Cleanup construction site/equipment
1:00pm	Lunch
2:00pm	Showers and VBS prep
5:00pm	VBS
7:00pm	Dinner
8:30pm	Devotions/Back Home Time
10:30pm	Lights Out!

Packing List:

- Work Shoes (boots or old sneakers – either will get ruined by the last day)
- Shower Shoes
- Sandals/casual shoes
- Sneakers
- Work clothes
 - Long pants (medical scrubs work well!)
 - Short sleeve t-shirts that can be left in Mexico
 - Hat

- Sunglasses
- 2 pairs of work gloves – (heavy duty---NOT gardening gloves)
- Bandana(s)
- Around town/R&R clothes (**please no revealing or tight fitting clothing**)
 - Pants/shorts/skirts (must be knee length in Mexican village!!)
 - Shirts
 - Light jacket/sweater
 - Bathing suit
 - 1 “nice” church outfit (long pants for men, skirt or dress for ladies—nothing too fancy)
 - Rain jacket or umbrella
- Prescription medication (DO NOT bring any other medication—we will have everything we need in our 1st Aid Kit). Copies of all prescriptions, including generic names for medications, and a note from the prescribing physician on letterhead stationery for controlled substances and injectable medications should be carried.
- Toiletries
- Travel packs of Kleenex/tissues
- Antibacterial gel or hand wipes
- Sunscreen
- Bug spray with DEET—MUST be non-aerosol bottle (ie - pump squirt bottle)
- Water bottle labeled with your name
- Wallet/purse
- Passport
- ATM card (optional) (call bank before you travel to let them know you will be traveling)
- Cash - @ \$100 in small bills (this will cover 2 meals in Akumal, market shopping, R&R activities, snacks/food in airport)
- Small Bible if you have one
- Eno Hammock (if you have one—FPC to provide if not)
- Flat bed sheet (for hammock)
- Bath towel & washcloth (small, quick dry towel recommended)
- Beach towel
- Flashlight
- Mosquito net (optional)
- Small “day” bag or backpack (for work site)
- Camera
- Large Ziploc bags (useful for packing clothes per day)
- Spanish-English dictionary (optional)

DO NOT BRING: expensive jewelry, valuable electronics, non-prescription medications

Hammocks 101

We will all sleep in hammocks. To sleep comfortably, lie diagonally in your hammock such that your body is parallel to the floor. It is proper hammock etiquette not to let your shoes touch the hammock. It is also polite to fold up your hammock and hang it on the wall to keep it out of

the way when not in use (and to keep bugs off!). Bring a sheet to wrap up in at night, and a mosquito net if you prefer. You may want to spray your hammock, sheet or yourself with insect repellent before sleeping.

Bathrooms

Accion may provide us with showers for our use while in the village. However, BE PREPARED that this does not always happen, and that it is possible we could be using buckets for bathing. In Mexico, most toilets do not have seats. Also, you must place your used toilet paper in a wastebasket rather than flushing.

Electricity

Most of the Yucatan has electrical service with American outlets. However, we will not be permitted to use electrical appliance (hair dryers, phone chargers, etc.) while in the village due to the cost of power being extremely high.

Medicine

You should bring any prescription medication that you take regularly with you to Mexico. DO NOT bring any other medication—we will have everything we need in our 1st Aid Kit. Copies of all prescriptions, including generic names for medications, and a note from the prescribing physician on letterhead stationery for controlled substances and injectable medications should be carried. We will be very close to doctors and major hospitals, even in the village, should we need medical care.

Health and Safety

While on the work site, we must all drink PLENTY OF WATER and take breaks when needed. Be prepared for hot weather and hard labor and know your own limits.

Regarding food, most of the food we eat will be prepared by our group. However, there will be several opportunities to eat out. **DO NOT** eat food that has potentially been washed in unpurified water (ie – lettuce, raw veggies and fruits, etc) and **DO NOT** drink beverages/ice that are not purified. **DO NOT** ever eat from street vendors.

Please come on this trip expecting the unexpected and with an open-minded, flexible attitude. We will ALL be out of our comfort zones at some point during the week!

Remember WHO you are and WHOSE you are!! We are representing each of our families, FPC Hickory, and the body of Christ everywhere that we go!!