

2012 Central American Service Projects: Honduras and Guatemala



General Information and Registration Forms

The Sierra Service Project offers challenging service-learning experiences for youth and young adults each summer in Guatemala and Honduras. These programs offer participants an opportunity to grow their Christian faith by putting it into action learning about and serving with the poor in Central America. These projects are designed for mature, self-motivated and very responsible young people.

All teams depart from Los Angeles on the start date listed. Interested participants (or their parents) are encouraged to call the SSP office to learn more about these opportunities.

Study-And-Serve Project in Guatemala. This is the second year that SSP will send volunteers to Guatemala. This project is intended to provide a variety of experiences in several different locations in central Guatemala. Participants will travel by bus and stay in small hotels and hostels. Time will be divided equally between hands-on service activities and other experiences.

Project Dates: Saturday, June 2, 2012 – Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Information and the registration form for this project can be found on pages 2 - 6 in this document.

Two-Week Homebuilding Projects in Honduras.

This is SSP's longest-running program in Central America and is run in close cooperation with the United Methodist Church in Honduras. Since its beginning in 2003, SSP has built 40 houses with and for Honduran families living in extreme poverty. We have scheduled two different sessions of this project in the summer of 2012. Both sessions will take place in the small village of Potrerillos, located about 30 minutes from the city of Siguatepeque, north of Tegucigalpa.

Session 1: Tuesday, June 19, 2012 – Tuesday, July 3, 2012

Session 2: Saturday, July 7, 2012 – Saturday, July 21, 2012

Information and the registration form for this project can be found on pages 7 – 12 in this document.



Rebuilding a washed-out trail at La Atitlàn.



Completed house in Potrerillos, Honduras

Study-And-Serve Project Information Sheet: Guatemala

Sierra Service Project will once again be taking a team of youth and young adults to study and serve in Guatemala. This nine-day session will involve visiting different parts of the country and will have a particular focus on understanding issues of social and economic justice in Guatemala. Your time will be evenly split between working and serving alongside community members, and visiting and talking with people engaged in community development in these countries.

Supervision

This project will be led by Ruth Garrido, who led last year's very successful SSP project in Guatemala. Ruth, a fully bilingual Guatemalan, is a professional education tour leader and organizer. With over 10 years of experience, she specializes in leading church and educational teams. Ruth will be joined by a bilingual co-leader.

Who Should Attend

This project is designed for high school and college students seeking a broad introduction to the country, culture and social conditions in Guatemala. The project is shorter and less expensive than our home building projects, so if your time is limited, this is a good option for you. The team will travel in-country by minibus. Meals will be served in restaurants and in local homes. Rather than spending time in a single, longer service activity, participants will spend several days in two different communities and will have brief visits to Guatemala City and Quetzaltenango, Guatemala's largest cities.

Cost: \$1,600 including airfare from Los Angeles, meals, transportation, emergency medical insurance and lodging.

Dates: Saturday, June 2 – Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Group Size

Teams will be limited to 12 participants.

Passports and Shots

All team members must have a passport to travel, but a visa is not required. Participants must also consult with their medical provider to determine any immunizations you may need prior to traveling.

Do I need a recommendation from my youth leader to go on this project?

If you are in high school, you need a recommendation from your youth leader or pastor. We do this to make sure that all participants are mature and committed enough for this challenging experience.

Can I fly directly to Central America rather than go through LA?

Unfortunately, no. You will fly with the other members of your team to Guatemala. The team will gather prior to departure for a brief orientation session near the airport in Los Angeles.

What will our living conditions be like?

Lodging will be in basic hotels and hostels. Rooms and bathrooms will be shared. You will be served local Guatemalan food.

Registration Deadline: April 15, 2012

These sessions fill up fast and registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

When is the money due?

A \$700 nonrefundable deposit is required with your application to reserve your space and the balance of \$900 is due on April 15. SSP has limited scholarship assistance available; please let us know when you register if you intend to request assistance. Most participants pay for this trip with money they have earned and saved, help from parents, and fundraising through their churches.

Preliminary Itinerary: Guatemala Study-and-Serve Project

<u>Day</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Lodging</u>
Saturday, June 2	Gather in Los Angeles in afternoon for orientation. Depart LAX on overnight flight to Guatemala.	
Sunday, June 3	Arrival. Tour of Guatemala City. Arrive in San Juan La Laguna in late afternoon	Hotel in San Juan La Laguna.
Monday, June 4	Work project. Education visits.	Hotel in San Juan La Laguna.
Tuesday, June 5	Work project. Education visits.	Hotel in San Juan La Laguna.
Wednesday, June 6	Work project. sightseeing.	Hotel in San Juan La Laguna
Thursday, June 7	Bus to Quetzaltenango. Educational visits.	Hotel in Quetzaltenano.
Friday, June 8	Bus to Fatima. Visit to Mountain School. Volunteer work. Lunch with families in Fatima. Bus in afternoon to Santa Anita La Union.	Hostel at Santa Anita La Union.
Saturday, June 9	Work projects.	Hostel at Santa Anita La Union.
Sunday, June 10	Church service. Educational activities. Hike.	Hostel at Santa Anita La Union.
Monday, June 11	Depart by bus for Antigua. sightseeing. Continue by bus to Guatemala City	Dos Lunas Guest House near Guatemala City airport.
Tuesday, June 12	Depart for US	



Community Center at Santa Anita La Union



2011 Team in San Juan La Laguna

2012 Study-And-Serve Project

Registration Form: Guatemala



Your name, exactly as it appears on your passport:

First Middle Last

Date of Birth _____ Gender _____ T-Shirt Size _____

I am in (check one): High School College Not in school Year in school _____

Mailing Address _____

City State Zip

Passport Number: _____ Date of Expiration: _____

(If you do not have a passport, leave this blank, but apply for a passport **now**.)

Communication:

Participant Contact Information

E-Mail* _____ Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Parent or Guardian (Required for minors and high school students)

First and Last Name _____

Email* _____ Cell Phone _____

Additional Parent or Guardian (Optional)

First and Last Name _____

Email* _____ Cell Phone _____

**Most communication will be done via email. If you are a minor or are still in high school, all email correspondence will be sent to your email and to your parent's email.*

Recommendation: You must discuss this application with your pastor or youth leader and have that person's recommendation prior to submitting it. (This is required for high school youth.)

Pastor or Youth Leader's Name _____

Church _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Youth Leader or Pastor: Please sign below to show that you have discussed this project with the applicant and believe that the applicant has the maturity and judgment to successfully take part in it.

Pastor or Youth Leader's Signature _____

Personal Information:

Description and date(s) of prior service experience: _____

If you want to be on the same team as a friend, please list your friend's name: _____

Medical condition(s) requiring special attention: _____

Covenant between You and Sierra Service Project

- A **nonrefundable** and **nontransferable** deposit of **\$700** is enclosed. (Payment may also be made via credit card; please call the office if you want to pay in this manner.)
- I understand that if the session is cancelled due to low enrollment, my deposit will be returned.
- I understand that a second payment of \$900 (payment in full) is required by April 15, 2012
- I agree that as part of the preparation for this trip I will read the Trip Handbook and all other information which will be sent to me by Sierra Service Project.
- I have read and understand the SSP Study-And-Serve Project Information Sheet.
- I understand that I must provide my own transportation to and from Los Angeles (LAX).
- I understand that volunteers are not covered by Workers' Compensation.

Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (if under 18) _____

Please complete the application, make a copy for your records, attach your deposit, and mail or fax it to:

Sierra Service Project
PO Box 992
Carmichael, CA 95609

Phone: (916) 488-6441
Fax: (916) 484-0917

SSP Honduras Homebuilding Project Information Sheet

Each summer since 2003, Sierra Service Project has sent teams of youth and young adults to learn and serve with the poor in Honduras. Our program is run in cooperation with the United Methodist Church of Honduras and is supervised by bilingual North American and Honduran staff members. Participants work alongside community members to build small, secure houses with and for families living in extreme poverty.

Supervision

SSP's Honduras project is directed by Luis Rios, a Honduran with many years of experience working with foreign mission teams in Honduras. This will be Luis' third summer working for Sierra Service Project. Luis is joined by a North American co-director, as well as a third Honduran. All of SSP's staff in Honduras is bilingual. In addition, each session will be headed up by an experienced North American youth leader who will be with the team from the time they gather in Los Angeles until they return two weeks later.

Who Should Attend

This project is challenging - it involves primitive living conditions, unfamiliar foods and hard physical labor – and is designed for mature young people only. It is intended for high school juniors and seniors as well as college age young adults. Knowledge of Spanish is helpful but not required.

Cost: \$2,550, including airfare from Los Angeles, all meals, lodging, transportation and emergency medical insurance.

Dates: Session 1: Tuesday, June 19 – Tuesday, July 3, 2012

Session 2: Saturday, July 7 – Saturday, July 21, 2012

Participants will gather in Los Angeles on the afternoon of departure for an orientation session before taking an overnight flight to Honduras.

Location

Both sessions will take place in the small rural community of Potrerillos. Potrerillos is located about 30 minutes outside of Siguatepeque, a mid-size city located about 4 hours north of Tegucigalpa, Honduras' capital. The area is green and forested, and because of the natural beauty, it is emerging as an eco-tourism center in Honduras. Farming and forestry are the area's major business activities. [Note: There are several small communities in Honduras named Potrerillos! "Our" Potrerillos is in the department of Comayagua near the town of Siguatepeque.]

Potrerillos has a few stores, a school, several churches and no paved roads. Most residents work seasonally picking coffee or with other farming activities. The weather in the summer is very wet and cool. The area's elevation is about 1100 meters, which puts it outside of the malaria risk zone.

Lodging and Meals

Lodging will be in the unused parsonage of the local United Methodist Church in Potrerillos. Participants will bring air mattresses and bedding. Meals will be provided by a local restaurant. We received great feedback about the quality of the Honduran food that was served last year. Living conditions are rustic, with very basic bathroom and shower facilities.

How large is each team?

Each team will consist of about 10-14 youth and young adults accompanied by one adult team leader.

SSP Honduras Homebuilding Project Information Sheet (Con't)

Work Activities

SSP's teams in Potrerillos will build three houses in 2012 and will also build several latrines and pilas (a pila is an outdoor tank used to store water as pictured below). The families who benefit from this work are selected by the local community.



Above: Newly constructed pila next to new latrine. Right: Team members lay blocks for house wall.

How do I register?

Registration will be by individual, not group. Each individual must complete and return the enclosed application with a \$700 **nonrefundable** deposit.

When is the money due?

A \$700 nonrefundable deposit is required with your application and the balance is due in two payments, one in March and one in June. SSP has limited scholarship assistance available. Most participants pay for this trip with money they have earned and saved, help from parents, and fundraising through their churches.

Do I need a recommendation from my youth leader to go on this project?

Yes. If you are still in high school, your youth leader or pastor must recommend you. We do this to make sure that all participants are mature and committed enough for this challenging experience.

Passports and Shots

All team members must have a passport to travel, but a visa is not required. Participants must also consult with their medical provider to determine any immunizations you may need prior to traveling. Potrerillos and the other areas that the team will be visiting are no in malaria risk zones.

Can I fly directly to Honduras rather than go through LA?

Unfortunately, no. You will fly with other members of your team to Honduras along with an adult team leader. On the return trip, the leader will make sure that you connect safely to your flight home or are picked up at the airport. The team will gather prior to departure for a brief orientation session near the airport.

Registration Deadline: April 15, 2012

These sessions fill up fast and registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Preliminary Itinerary: Honduras Homebuilding Project

Session 1		
Day 0	Tuesday, June 19	Gather in Los Angeles in late afternoon. Team dinner followed by orientation. Depart on red-eye flight to Honduras
Day 1	Wednesday, June 20	Arrive in Tegucigalpa. Visit Picacho overlook site and lunch at restaurant. Bus to Potrerillos
Day 2	Thursday, June 21	Full work day
Day 3	Friday, June 22	Work day
Day 4	Saturday, June 23	Half work day. Visit to coffee coop or other education visit.
Day 5	Sunday, June 24	Rest day. Visit local lake and caves. Attend church and play soccer game.
Day 6	Monday, June 25	Work day.
Day 7	Tuesday, June 26	Work day.
Day 8	Wednesday, June 27	Work day.
Day 9	Thursday, June 28	Work day.
Day 10	Friday, June 29	Work day.
Day 11	Saturday, June 30	Half work day. Despidida (going away party).
Day 12	Sunday, July 1	Travel to Tegucigalpa. Visit artisanal center. Church in Fuerzas Unidas. Spend night in hotel.
Day 13	Monday, July 2	Contextual visits in Tegucigalpa. Night in hotel.
Day 14	Tuesday, July 3	Depart Tegucigalpa. Participants will be met at LAX by an SSP staffer.

Session 2		
Day 0	Saturday, July 7	Gather in Los Angeles in late afternoon. Team dinner followed by orientation. Depart on red-eye flight to Honduras
Day 1	Sunday, July 8	Arrive in Tegucigalpa. Visit Picacho overlook site and lunch at restaurant. Bus to Potrerillos
Day 2	Monday, July 9	Full work day
Day 3	Tuesday, July 10	Work day.
Day 4	Wednesday, July 11	Work day.
Day 5	Thursday, July 12	Work day.
Day 6	Friday, July 13	Work day.
Day 7	Saturday, July 14	Half work day. Rest time. Education visit.
Day 8	Sunday, July 15	Visit local lake and caves. Church and soccer game. Rest time.
Day 9	Monday, July 16	Work day.
Day 10	Tuesday, July 17	Work day.
Day 11	Wednesday, July 18	Work day. Despidida (going away party).
Day 12	Thursday, July 19	Travel to Tegucigalpa. Visit artisanal center.
Day 13	Friday, July 20	Contextual visits in Tegucigalpa. Night in hotel.
Day 14	Saturday, July 21	Depart Tegucigalpa. Participants will be met at LAX by an SSP staffer.

2012 Honduras Home Building Service Project Registration Form



Check one:

Session 1: Tuesday, June 19 – Tuesday, July 3, 2012

Session 2: Saturday, July 7 – Saturday, July 21, 2012

Your name, exactly as it appears on your passport:

First Middle Last

Date of Birth _____ Gender _____ T-Shirt Size _____

I am in (check one): High School College Not in school Year in school _____

Mailing Address _____

City State Zip

Passport Number: _____ Date of Expiration: _____

(If you no do not have a passport, leave this blank, but apply for a passport **now**.)

Communication:

Participant Contact Information

E-Mail* _____ Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Parent or Guardian (Required for minors and high school students)

First and Last Name _____

Email* _____ Cell Phone _____

Additional Parent or Guardian (Optional)

First and Last Name _____

Email* _____ Cell Phone _____

**Most communication will be done via email. If you are a minor or are still in high school, all email correspondence will be sent to your email and to your parent's email.*

Recommendation: You must discuss this application with your pastor or youth leader and have that person's recommendation prior to submitting it. (This is required for high school youth.)

Pastor or Youth Leader's Name _____

Church _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Youth Leader or Pastor: Please sign below to show that you have discussed this project with the applicant and believe that the applicant has the maturity and judgment to successfully take part in it.

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Description and date(s) of prior service experience: _____

If you want to be on the same team as a friend, please list your friend's name: _____

Medical condition(s) requiring special attention: _____

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- I understand that the second installment of \$950 is due March 15, 2012; the balance of \$900 is due on June 1, 2012.
- I agree that as part of the preparation for this trip I will read the Trip Handbook and all other information which will be sent to me by Sierra Service Project.
- I have read and understand the SSP Honduras Project Information Sheet.
- I understand that I must provide my own transportation to and from Los Angeles (LAX).
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