



SIERRA SERVICE PROJECT HONDURAS

SIERRA SERVICE PROJECT AND HONDURAS

Honduras is a beautiful but very troubled country. It is the second-poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere. Most of the population lives in levels of poverty that are shocking to most Americans. With a growing United Methodist Church it is an ideal location to send mature youth for a mission experience in the Third World. Participating in SSP's mission trip to Honduras is an incredible experience, embodying many of the traditions of SSP, but it is also different in many ways. Since 2002, we have sent teams of volunteers to Honduras; each team has built two complete houses while enjoying Honduran hospitality and experiencing the culture and social conditions. It is a life-changing experience!

TEAM MEMBERS

This project is open to high school juniors and seniors and college-age young adults. Spanish is not required, but it is recommended. Each team has about 12 members, plus one or two experienced adults who serve as team leaders. Because our Honduras programs entail 14 days in a foreign country, team members need to be mature, in good health and very good at working with others. All participants must have prior service project experience and be capable of doing hard, physical labor.



CONSTRUCTION

Each team will work side by side with family members and others from the community to construct two simple, but safe, dry and secure dwellings. Nearly all of the work is done by hand. This includes making adobe bricks, moving bricks or blocks, sand and water; mixing mortar; and digging and pouring footings. It's hard, sweaty work! SSP participants are guided by and work alongside a few skilled Honduran workers.

CULTURAL IMMERSION

In order to more fully understand Honduras, the teams will visit several different groups who provide ministries of service in the vicinity. In the past, we have visited a self-help ministry for former street prostitutes, a center for street children, a human rights organization and a group championing the rights of women. We take a tour of a maquila – a clothing factory where tee-shirts, uniforms and other clothing items are manufactured for sale in the U.S. Most of our cultural interaction occurs on the worksite and at church, however. The groups will attend church on Sundays with our Honduran hosts and will spend time with Honduran youth. This has proven to be one of the most significant and enjoyable parts of the experience – simply sharing time with Honduran children and youth, playing soccer, and other games or just talking. Participants will also spend two nights with carefully screened Honduran families.



SIGHTSEEING, EVENINGS AND FREE TIME

Groups take a tour of Tegucigalpa, Honduras' busy capital city, and often take a side trip to a rural town with a major craft market. Evenings are spent singing and having a short reflection and worship time. Participants have a chance to talk about the day's experiences and their impact. They get to know their teammates and leader and enjoy the time with them.

LOCATION INFORMATION

Two of our sessions will take place in the rural town of **El Paraíso**, where two of last year's teams had very successful experiences. We'll stay in a basic hotel on the town square and eat family style meals at a local restaurant. Our work sites will be within walking distance of the hotel. El Paraíso has a vibrant Cultural Center with a strong youth program; we'll spend time at the Cultural Center with Honduran teens and young adults.

Session 2 will take place in the city of **Danli**. We will be hosted by the United Methodist Church in the neighborhood of La Cofradía. Instead of staying in a hotel, we will stay "SSP style" in this large and secure church building. Our meals will be cooked in the church's kitchen and the team will sleep in the upstairs fellowship hall.

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR MORE INFO!



MORE INFORMATION...

HOME STAYS

New this year is a program of two-night home stays. We will place participants in groups of two or three with carefully selected families. These youth will get an unmatched opportunity for fellowship with a Honduran family. Youth not wishing to participate in the home stay program will remain at the church with our staff.

LEADERSHIP

Each team is headed by a United Methodist pastor who will meet the team at the departure city, accompany them to Honduras, work along side the team, and accompany the team back to the US. Session 1 will be led by Rev. Courtney McHill, Associate Pastor of the Corvallis First United Methodist Church in Oregon. Courtney is a member of SSP's Board of Directors, was a summer Site Director for three years and speaks near-fluent Spanish. We will announce the team leaders for Sessions 2 and 3 as soon as they have been identified. In addition, the project is supervised by two experienced SSP employees who will spend the entire summer in Honduras.



Our Program Coordinator will be Rigoberto ("Rigo") Rios. Rigo is the pastor of a United Methodist Church in Tegucigalpa and has worked as a translator with most of our teams since 2002. He is also the coordinator of youth and young adult ministries for the Methodist churches in Honduras. Rigo speaks excellent English and has a wonderful working relationship with youth.



Working together with Rigo will be Laura Rambikur, one of last year's staff members. Laura is a senior at Northern Arizona University, majoring in Spanish and Music. She is also the Youth Director at the Flagstaff Federated Church. Laura has made several trips to Central America and has several years' experience leading challenge courses for youth.

DATES, LOCATION AND SESSION DETAILS

Session 1: June 25 – July 9	Location: El Paraíso	Departure City: Los Angeles
Session 2: July 14 – July 28	Location: Danli	Departure City: Houston
Session 3: July 31 – August 14	Location: El Paraíso	Departure City: Los Angeles

PRICE \$2,000. This includes airfare from the city of departure and all expenses while you are in Honduras.

What previous participants have said!

"I was blown away by the experience. I highly recommend it for the thoughtful, active, conscious individual."

"Team members experience life-changing events while in Honduras and become better disciples of Christ because of what they have learned and experienced."

"The most powerful and impactful aspect...was the interaction with the people of Honduras. To get to know them and their culture was amazing."

"We bonded with the community in so many ways. Every day at lunch we would go down on a dirt street and play soccer with the local boys."

For complete information about Sierra Service Projects in Honduras this coming summer please check out our website, www.sierraserviceproject.org. You'll find cost information, travel details, medical requirements, information about passports, and lots of photographs!

To discuss participating, to call us at (916) 488-6441 or e-mail us at rickeaton@sierraserviceproject.org.