

July 20-29, 2018

Zacapa, Guatemala



ST. MICHAEL YOUTH MINISTRY PRESENTS

Guatemala Information Packet 2018

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT TRAVELING TO A THIRD WORLD COUNTRY FOR A MISSION TRIP?

If the answer to this question is yes, then do we have an experience for you. This summer, we will be returning to Guatemala to be the hands and feet and heart of Christ.

We are currently planning a trip for youth, young adults and adults to Guatemala. For more information about these trips, read the following packet or go to www.smym.org and look for the Guatemala service trip



Don't Miss out on this life changing experience!!!

Questions or for more information, Contact Aaron at
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E-mail: afrazita@stmichaellouisville.org

Guatemala General Information

Population: 12,728,111

Political Status: Guatemala signed a peace treaty in 1996. Since then there has been no uprising and is one of the most stable of the third world countries in the western hemisphere.

****Note there is not a current travel warning for Guatemala that will impact the group and it whereabouts nor has there been one for quite some time.****



About Hearts in Motion

We are traveling with a group called Hearts in Motion. H.I.M. is a non-profit, non-denominational organization focusing on the needs of impoverished children and families. Our volunteers are working together in a ministry of compassion, incidentally promoting personal growth by experiencing cultural exchange. Our mission is committed to meeting the needs of individuals by aiding in the development of programs in the health, education and welfare, both in the US and throughout Central and South America. The organization was incorporated in 1993 with 501(c) 3 status.



They are a very reputable group and have a great working relationship with the community that we will be working with in Guatemala. The group does not extort or use the people of Guatemala in any way shape or form and places the majority of the money paid for the trip right back into the Guatemalan economy.

You can find out more about H.I.M. at www.heartsinmotion.org

Information on Our Trip

When: July 20-29, 2018

Who: Any current 8th grade or high school student through adult who has a passion for justice and helping others.

What are we doing: What we will be doing will depend on the skill set of the group. Most likely, we will end up doing construction work of some kind (building with cinder block and concrete.)

Where: As aforementioned, we will be spending most of our time in the region of Zacapa, but will spend the last two days of the trip in the city of Antigua. We will be staying in the Hotel el Atlantico in Teculután, Guatemala for the service portion of the trip and Hotel Casa De Las Fuentes for the Antigua portion of the trip.

What would I Need for the trip?

Passport: The passport process:

1. Get Pictures taken for the Passport from Walgreens, etc.
2. Fill out the Required forms and turn into Post Office or Courthouse (Be sure to bring a two checks)

They will take it from here and send you your passport.

-Note: this must be done soon to make sure you get it back in time. It can take up to 2 months turn around for you to get your passport back.

Immunizations: The following Immunizations are recommended for those traveling to Guatemala by the US government:

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|--|-----------------------|
| 1. Typhoid-shot | 2. Hepatitis A-shot |
| 3. Hepatitis B-shot | 4. Tetanus-Diphtheria |
| 5. Malaria (pills taken before, during and after trip) | |

-Note: Like the passport these should be done ASAP to assure you are ok to go.

Rules for the Trip

The normal Youth Ministry rules apply including the 4 B's (no boobs, butts, bellies, or boxers should be seen on the trip). And no writing on the butt of shorts! No Purple.

There will be **no** alcohol or tobacco products on this retreat experience. (Yes, I realize it is legal there, but you still are not allowed to use them).

There must be a chaperone present when leaving the hotel or anywhere else.

Other Rules To Come.

Costs for the Trip

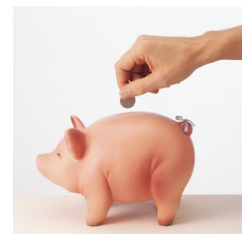
Major Costs:

- \$1,200 to Hearts in Motion
- Approximately \$900 for airline flight

Minor Costs:

- \$97 for Passport
- \$7.99 for Passport Photo
- Cost of Immunizations Varies
- Spending Money

...Continue reading for information on fundraising



Fundraising

Using personal letters and many other fundraising events. Each member is responsible for fundraising their own trip fees. We will have group fundraisers, however, they will be divided up amongst those working them. **There are two deadlines for your money: half of your money is due by March 15th and the other half is due by June 1. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE! A \$100 deposit is due upon your being accepted to travel on the trip.**

All group members are expected to be a part of the team and have money turned in on time. If someone fails to do this they **will be asked to step down** from the team.

Application Process

Each applicant is asked to do a The essay should be at least one page double-spaced and typed on the following topics:

- Why do you want to go on the trip?
- What gifts (strengths) do you feel you bring to the trip?
- What are your weaknesses?
- What experience do you have with service?
- If you have been before, why are you wanting to return?
- If you have been before, what do you hope to gain from returning to the country?
- If you have been before, what have you done with what you gained from the last trip?

Application to the trip does not mean you will get to go.

The essay is due by January 7th, 2018. No late applications will be accepted!!!!

Known Fundraiser Dates for the Trip

January 28th- 8-1:30 pm– Pancake Breakfast in Griner Center

February 25th- Pancake Breakfast in Griner Center

March 18th– Pancake Breakfast in Griner Center

April 29th– Pancake Breakfast in Griner Center

April 14th– Trivia Night at St. Michael

***We do not require you to be at all fundraisers, however, you are responsible for fundraising the entire amount of your trip and these opportunities help to achieve that as well give you a chance to bond with others going on the trip.

Other fundraisers may be planned by the group.



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Fraz's Final Thoughts

This trip is an amazing experience that will hopefully impact your heart and ultimately the way that you live out your Catholic faith. I strongly believe in taking people into the third world so that we can develop relationships with people we might not normally encounter and to put a face and name to poverty so it becomes real for all of us instead of just some far off group. I had a college professor who used to remind us that paint always needs to be repainted and even walls and buildings eventually fall down, but the relationships that we build on trips like this can never be taken from us. Lets work together to build the kingdom of God here on Earth. I ask that as you consider this trip, you pray and then listen for where it is that God is leading you.

God bless.