

# ON The Path

## From the Call to the Field

### Training Manuals

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Baja California (Ensenada & San Quintín, Mexico)

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# Team Leader Task List

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## As soon as possible

- Complete the Team Expense Worksheet over the phone with our office 360-657-5541.
- Submit your Team Leader Application and distribute Reference forms.
- Submit your Team Registration form and registration fee.
- Read all of the Team Leader Manual and this Training Manual.
- Launch your missionary campaign by doing the 30 Hour Famine.
- Read the Team Fundraising Ideas manual and begin fundraising.
- Research the CDC and WHO immunization recommendations.
- Instruct participants to apply for passports.
- Submit your team's Information and Release forms.
- Make car rental and hotel reservations. Call us for discount codes.
- Collect clothing items for orphans, migrant workers, and host families.

## March 1<sup>st</sup>

- Team/Individual Registration due, along with \$25 per person fee.

## April 15<sup>th</sup>

- Submit first payment of \$350 (Due: May 1).
- Collect all Consent/Release Forms from your team and send in (Due: May 1). Note: You need to send in copies of your original, completed and notarized forms, to On The Path Missions, keeping the originals to carry with you on the trip.
- Facilitate devotional lessons in the Ten-Week Devotional.

## May 1<sup>st</sup>

- All Consent/Release Forms due to On The Path.
- First payment of \$350 due to On The Path. Note: A \$10 per person late fee applies if funds are not received by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## May 15<sup>th</sup>

- Purchase and prepare all ministry supplies for your trip.
- Label your team's cooler with its name.
- Submit Final payment of \$345 (Due: June 1).
- Collect copies of your passports from your team. (Due: June 1).

## June 1<sup>st</sup>

- Final payment of \$345, or remainder of unpaid balance due to On The Path. Note: A \$10 per person late fee applies if funds are not received by June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Copies of passports due to On The Path.

## In San Diego

- Purchase Mexican insurance for all vehicles crossing the border.

## Team Leader Packing List

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- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CD player      | <input type="checkbox"/> Craft Supplies   | <input type="checkbox"/> Money for fuel and tolls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large cooler   | <input type="checkbox"/> Prizes           | <input type="checkbox"/> Money for piñata/candy   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tarp           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports Equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Consent/Release forms    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VBS curriculum | <input type="checkbox"/> Drama props      | <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlights              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VBS supplies   | <input type="checkbox"/> Money for water  | <input type="checkbox"/> Passport photocopies     |

## Team Member Packing List

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- |                                      |   |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Towel       | <input type="checkbox"/> Soap             | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen   | <input type="checkbox"/> Journal         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Washcloth   | <input type="checkbox"/> Hairbrush        | <input type="checkbox"/> Lip Balm    | <input type="checkbox"/> Pens/Pencils    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shampoo     | <input type="checkbox"/> Deodorant        | <input type="checkbox"/> Eyeglasses* | <input type="checkbox"/> Camera          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conditioner | <input type="checkbox"/> Razor            | <input type="checkbox"/> Bible       | <input type="checkbox"/> Film            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush  | <input type="checkbox"/> Lotion           | <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight  | <input type="checkbox"/> Portable Music  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toothpaste  | <input type="checkbox"/> Insect Repellant | <input type="checkbox"/> Batteries   | <input type="checkbox"/> Spending Cash** |

### ***PACK ONLY WHAT YOU CAN CARRY BY YOURSELF!***

\*Contact lenses are not reliable, and eyeglasses are recommended for backup.

\*\*Spending cash should be limited to small bills because change will be given in pesos.

### Men's Clothing

Men's clothing should reflect respect.

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jacket                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Sweatshirt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pajamas                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Underwear  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Socks                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Shoes*     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bathing Suit (Ensenada Only) |                                     |

\*Open-toed shoes are hazardous and not allowed. Bring only closed-toed shoes. Bathing suits must be knee-length or longer.

#### General Dress:

- |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shirts | Sleeved shirts (No tank-tops) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pants  | Jeans, Khakis or Shorts       |
- Shorts must be knee-length or longer.

#### Church Dress:

- |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shirts | Button-up shirt with collar   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pants  | Slacks or Khakis (No jeans)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ties   | Required for those who preach |

NOTE: Men may not wear body-piercing jewelry on this trip.

### Women's Clothing

Women's clothing should reflect modesty.

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jacket                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Sweatshirt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pajamas                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Underwear  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Socks                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Shoes*     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bathing Suit (Ensenada Only) |                                     |

\*Open-toed shoes are hazardous and not allowed. Bring only closed-toed shoes. Only one-piece or tankini-style bathing suits are acceptable.

#### General Dress:

- |                                 |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shirts | Not tight-fitting*       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pants  | Jeans, Khakis, or Capris |
- \*No midriffs or halter tops. Tank tops with two-inch straps covering all other straps are allowed. Shorts must be knee-length or longer.

#### Church Dress:

- |                                 |                              |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shirts | Same as above, but dressier. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Skirts | No pants*                    |

\*Skirts must be knee length or longer. Slits that extend above the knee violate this rule.

**DO NOT BRING** any expensive clothing or personal electronics such as iPods, etc. On The Path will not be responsible for loss or theft of such items.

Also, please **DO NOT BRING** secular music, magazines, books (except Christian books), alcohol, drugs, cigarettes, weapons, or fireworks.

# Ministry Schedule

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As with any service to the Lord, we are to wait on him, not keep him waiting. Please be on time to scheduled activities. Please be aware, however, that ministry is subject to the Spirit's direction and that changes may be required.

## Friday

2:00 PM Meet in San Diego, San Quintín & Ensenada caravan check-in  
4:00 PM Hotel in Ensenada check-in begins (Teams *must* be checked in by 6:00 PM.)  
6:00 PM Dinner on your own for Value trip covered for Standard  
7:30 PM Prayer over the city service

## Saturday

8:00 AM Breakfast is served provided for everyone  
9:00 AM Kick-off service begins  
11:00 AM Kick-off service dismissed  
12:00 PM Lunch provided everyone  
1:00 PM Training till 3:00 PM then meet your churches  
6:00 PM Dinner on your own for Value trip covered for Standard

## Sunday

8:00 AM Breakfast and cooler drop-off  
9:00 AM Meeting with host pastor, then church service  
5:00 PM Dinner at host church

## Monday – Thursday

8:00 AM Breakfast and cooler drop-off  
8:45 AM Team leaders' meeting  
9:00 AM Worship service  
10:30 AM Drive to host church for VBS  
12:30 PM Lunch  
1:00 PM Leisure or optional ministry time  
4:30 PM Drive to host church for dinner  
5:00 PM Dinner at host church  
6:30 PM Evening service at host church  
10:00 PM Bed time

## Friday

8:00 AM Breakfast (your last On The Path meal)  
9:00 AM Celebration service  
11:00 AM Dismissal\*

\*After teams are dismissed at 11:00 AM on Friday, the trip is complete. Returning to the United States is done at your own leisure, and your team may opt to do some sightseeing along the way. However, please remember that On The Path is not responsible for lost or stolen items, including vehicles—rented or owned—and the contents therein. Unattended vehicles with U.S. license plates filled with tourists' goods are likely to be targeted or vandalized.

# Important Information about Baja California

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## Pricing

Ensenada and San Quintín are on a special pricing structure that allows each team to customize their spending options. Team leaders must contact us to review the Team Expense Worksheet by phone. This will ensure that team leaders are not left covering unexpected costs incurred by their team members.

## Crossing the Border

We will review details and answer questions about crossing the border at caravan check-in time. Please be prompt. When crossing the border, everyone must have their passports with them. Team leaders with multiple vehicles should not collect team members' passports. Instead, assign one person from each vehicle to do a passport check before the caravan procession begins. Drivers will also be required to show their vehicle's registration and proof of Mexican insurance (to be purchased in San Diego). All passengers must remain silent and continue wearing their seat belts at this time. You may be asked to pull to the side of the road so that a border patrol officer may look through your belongings. This is simply a security precaution to help prevent the flow of drugs and weapons into Mexico and is not a cause for alarm. After crossing the border, drive straight to your hotel. Our staff will be waiting for your arrival. Hotel check-in closes 6:00 PM.

## Driving in Mexico

You must obey all traffic laws in Mexico. Be courteous of other drivers and aware of road conditions. Speed limits are posted in kilometers per hour (K/H), not miles per hour (MPH), so be attentive to the appropriate set of numbers on your speedometer. The paved highway between Tijuana and Ensenada has three tolls, each patrolled by military personnel. The tolls are generally about \$2.50 US Dollars depending on the day's exchange rate. Tolls can be paid in either currency, but not both. There are also military checkpoints where you may be asked a few questions. This is common practice and should not cause alarm.

## Money

US Dollars (USD) are gladly accepted in both Ensenada and San Quintín. So there is no need to exchange currency before crossing the border. However, change from purchases will be given in Mexican Pesos (MXN), so it is best to carry smaller bills.

## Food

On The Path provides breakfast and lunch Sunday through Thursday, and breakfast again on the final Friday. Breakfast will usually consist of cold or hot cereal, milk, juice, fruit, granola bars or PopTarts® and Mexican pastries. Lunch will usually consist of bread, meat, cheese, peanut butter, jelly, mayo, mustard, chips, fruit, dessert, and a drink mix. Each team pays \$25 USD per person to their host church to provide dinners Sunday through Thursday. Dinners provided by your host church will be very simple Mexican dishes. All other meals and snacks, including water, are the team's responsibility. Don't drink the tap water in Mexico! Bottled water is available for purchase at stores around the area.

## Manners

Complaining about food, verbally or through facial expressions, is harmful and not allowed. Do not mistakenly think you can complain in English because nobody around you will understand. You could do serious damage to your presentation of the gospel.

### Cleanliness

It is important to have clean hands when eating, but be very aware of what is going on around you. Applying antibacterial hand sanitizer as you are leaving the church or before a meal could send a hurtful message to our hosts. Even if you think you are being discrete, people are always watching the missionaries. It is best to excuse yourself to use the restroom if you find it necessary to clean your hands.

### Bathrooms

At many host churches, bathrooms are outdoors in outhouse-style structures. It is a good idea to bring an extra roll of toilet paper just in case you might need it. At hotels and other locations with indoor plumbing, toilet paper is to be thrown in the waste basket. The Mexican sewer system is not designed to handle toilet paper.

## **How Do Mexicans View Americans**

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Even the most polite American can be perceived as rude in another country if they don't follow cultural norms. Make it a priority to practice Mexican social customs. This is crucial to demonstrating the love of Jesus. Insensitivity to one's host culture can result in hurting the gospel without even realizing it.

Since hospitality is a huge part of Mexican culture, insulting food prepared for you is also an insult to the person who prepared it. Such insults could come in the form of verbal expressions, making faces, or audible noises of disgust. These are not allowed on On The Path trips. Save your comments until your trip is over and you have returned to the United States. Even then, remember to have a humble and grateful attitude about your experience as you served the Lord in another culture.

Relationships are very valuable to Mexicans, and Americans must adjust how they greet and dismiss people. In Mexico, it is rude to wave a hello or goodbye to an entire room and expect that to suffice. It is necessary to hug or shake hands with each individual in the room. Do not underestimate the value of the additional time it takes to do this, and plan it into your activities. It is better to have a little extra time to visit, than to rush through a program and miss an opportunity to build relationships. Pay special attention to the relationship you foster with your host church. Some of them have hosted On The Path teams for over fifteen years because of the relationships built with love.

Almost everywhere you go, you will not be alone and people will be watching you. This is certainly true in the hotel, the taco stands, and the marketplace. In general, Americans tend to be loud wherever they are, not thinking about how it affects those around them. Remember to be quiet as a sign of respect for everyone you meet. With such a humble attitude, you could lead the hotel or market worker to the Lord, but if your behavior is culturally offensive you will be ineffective in reaching them.

# Scheduled Ministries

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## Vacation Bible School (VBS)

You may purchase VBS curriculum or write your own; On the Path does not provide curriculum or ministry supplies because we want you to be as creative as possible. Add anything that will enhance the children's experience. Some possible activities include sharing testimonies, illustrating messages, animating puppets, singing songs, making balloon animals, and painting faces. You are not limited to any of these, so enjoy brainstorming ministry ideas with your team. Generally speaking, VBS runs about ninety minutes long, so consider how you will break up the time into manageable intervals of activity that will be meaningful to children. Here is a sample VBS schedule.

10:30 AM	Walk the neighborhood and invite children to come
10:50 AM	Perform skit
10:55 AM	Teach memory verse
11:05 AM	Perform puppet show
11:15 AM	Play games
11:20 AM	Share testimonies
11:30 AM	Teach Bible lesson
11:45 AM	Sing songs
12:00 PM	Make crafts
12:15 PM	Play more games (Piñata on Friday*)
12:30 PM	Dismiss

\*Every VBS team must have at least one piñata on the last day of VBS.

Over the years, we've learned a few things that may help your team's effectiveness. Your team should learn to seek out the children who are off to the side, who are not participating. These children may have learned this behavior and may be the neediest when it comes to experiencing God's love. Separating boys and girls for all athletic games is also a good idea. Make nametags to hang around your neck with a simple English-Spanish glossary on the back. Glossary terms could include phrases like:

Start .....	<i>Comienzo</i>	Please sit here .....	<i>Siéntese por favor aquí</i>
Stop.....	<i>Parada</i>	Jesus loves you .....	<i>Jesús le ama</i>
Listen.....	<i>Escuche</i>	May I take your picture?.....	<i>¿Puedo tomar su cuadro?</i>

Also consider using confetti in your piñata instead of candy. Then, distribute bags of equal amounts of candy to each child once the piñata is opened. Ensuring each child has their own bag of candy will eliminate fighting. Lastly, as you work with children from any country, long hair should be tied back to keep it as clean as possible to avoid getting lice.

Remember, you are there to make a positive difference in their lives. They will love any and all attention you give to them—before, during, and after VBS. Make sure to set an example for them by participating in songs and games as well as quietly sitting and listening to the children.

## Evening Services

Teams are responsible for planning evening services for their host church each night from Sunday through Thursday. Each church will have unique needs and desires for your team's involvement in their service, so remain flexible. The evening services differ from your VBS activities in that you will focus your attention on the adults and teens. They will appreciate your ministry to them, as well as the fellowship time you share with them before and after service. The general layout of a service is as follows:

- 1) Opening prayer (host pastor)
- 2) Song service (host church – experienced teams may be asked to help)
- 3) Dramas or human videos (ministry team)
- 4) Testimonies (written down in advance) (two team members with interpreters)
- 5) Sermon (team leader with interpreters)
- 6) Altar time (host church and ministry team together)

Altar time is the most important time of the evening. This is when people make decisions about their lives. Please pray for the people who come forward for prayer, laying hands on them if they are members of the same sex. Do not feel obligated to pray in Spanish; they understand you are praying for them regardless of your preferred prayer language. Pray for physical and emotional healing, restoration of broken families, salvation and baptism in the Holy Spirit, and for the host church and its pastor. Pray for and expect that people's lives will be changed.

Remember, to be culturally sensitive. Always greet and dismiss people individually. In Mexican culture, it is not polite to enter a social environment and wave to everyone at once. Rather, hug or shake hands with each person. During the service, there may be times when you do not understand what is being sung or spoken. Make sure to stay attentive during these more difficult times. Clapping and raising hands is common to both Mexican and American cultures and is a good way to participate during unfamiliar songs. During speaking times, team members should refrain from talking amongst themselves. Teams that spread out, sitting in various areas of the church, do the best at this. These teams also have a better chance at ministering to everyone in the church than teams that sit together. You might even assign an adult to stand near the front door to invite onlookers into the service.

#### Other Suggested Church Ministry

We encourage teams to be as creative as possible when ministering to their host church. Optional ministry could include things like painting a classroom or food, clothing, and toy distribution. There are a few things to keep in mind with some of these activities, though. Border patrols may think that any new clothing you bring will be commercially sold, and therefore subject to taxation. However, used clothing can get stuck at the border for three days to be disinfected. It is best to bring very gently used clothing (or new clothing if you remove the tags) packed with your other luggage. If you choose to give to your host church, On The Path limits your total gifts to no more than \$50 USD. This reduces the potential for unnecessary conflict in the church. Mexican churches are not used to managing assets the same way American churches are. Most importantly, be very clear whether your gift is to the host church or the host pastor. Problems can arise later if this is unclear in any way.

## Optional Ministries

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Leisure time is scheduled at 1:00 PM, Monday through Thursday. You can use this time to relax, prepare the next day's ministry, or opt for additional ministry. Some teams, especially first-time teams, will find the existing ministry schedule to be sufficient. Additional ministry can be tiring and strenuous for new teams. The quality of a team's existing scheduled ministry should not be compromised by taking on optional ministry opportunities.

### Migrant Camps

Many agricultural fields are tended by people who live in the field's migrant camp. The accommodations for these migrant workers are very poor. Often times, whole families will live in one small room with no electricity, sharing an outhouse and water faucet with the entire camp. Some On The Path teams distribute food or toys or participate in other ministry to children at migrant camps. Unfortunately there is no place to store food that is safe from rodents, so only a three-day to five-day supply can be distributed at one time or it goes to waste. Feeding an entire family for this length of time is only about \$5 USD. If you do children's activities, bring a tarp for the children and mothers to sit on, otherwise dust and dirt will easily get kicked into the air. The men will most likely be working during the timeslot available for optional ministry, so you probably won't see them. Teams who opt to distribute food at migrant camps will need to make financial arrangements with On The Path prior to the trip and this opportunity is available on a first-call-first-serve basis.

### Orphanages

There are orphanages in the area that you can visit. Your visit can include puppet shows, presents, games, Bible lessons, and food or clothing distribution. Only a limited number of teams can participate in this optional ministry so reservations are required.

### Sports Evangelism

Sports are an easy fit into your existing ministry schedule, and Mexicans love to play basketball and soccer. Teams can go to a local park and attract many local youth. Some teams even set up tournaments. Visit [megasports.com](http://megasports.com) for additional resources.

### Public Evangelism

In some areas of Mexico, a good way to share the gospel is through public evangelism. These events are usually located in parks or amphitheaters and are geared toward teens or adults. To prepare for these, include personal testimonies, modern music, drama, dance, and alter training. Also, be prepared to do follow-up with the local churches.

### Construction Teams (Adults Only)

On The Path can also accommodate construction teams. These teams work on various projects prepared in advance. Construction projects could include churches, pews, bathrooms, and other facilities. Each team is responsible for providing its own equipment and supplies. Please call us ahead of time to have this arranged.

### Medical Teams (Adults Only)

We sometimes have the opportunity to put together medical teams for adults with experience in the medical field. Clinics are organized around the valley to offer medicine and vaccines as well as food and clothing, when available.

## Speaking with an Interpreter

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During your Mexico trip, you will be working very closely with your interpreters. The speaker-to-interpreter relationship is a dependant partnership comparable to performing a duet. Each person plays an equally important role when communicating. Your interpreters will travel with you throughout your stay in Mexico to help you communicate with the local people, as well as to interpret the daily VBS and evening service activities. Here are some suggestions to help you make the most of your bilingual ministry partnership:

1. Speak in short, complete phrases instead of long sentences.  
**Good example:** "God has given us his Spirit / to give us power / to live a holy life."
2. Avoiding slang words or figures of speech which may be difficult to translate.  
**Bad example:** "Jesus is sick and made my life hecka bomb."
3. Talk to your audience, not the interpreter.  
**Bad example:** "Tell the congregation that we enjoyed ministering with them."  
**Good example:** "It has been our pleasure to minister with you this week."
4. Body language and voice tone are 93% of communication—be expressive.
5. Practice these techniques before the trip. Ask a friend to repeat (even in English) every phrase you say to help you get used to speaking slower.
6. Inform your interpreter in advance of any Scripture you will be using so that he/she can be prepared to read them in Spanish.

## A Look at Mexican Culture

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### Family

The Mexican family unit is very tightly knit. Couples usually marry during their late teens or early twenties, often to lift the financial burden from their parents. These couples usually raise three to six children and do not move far from extended family members.

### Education

Up until more recent years, the education system in Mexico wasn't very strong. Many adults to whom we minister have received only five or so years of formal schooling. However, what they lack in formal education they have made up for in life experience. Nowadays, children being raised in Mexico are receiving much more formalized education, generally beginning in early childhood and continuing into the teen years.

### Religion

Mexico was subject to Spanish rule until the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. During this time, the Spanish forced Catholicism upon the Mexicans by way of the sword. The first generation of Mexican Catholics resented this; they were insincere in their worship. Detecting the Mexicans' desire to elude Catholicism, the Spanish integrated Mexican pagan practices into their Catholic worship system. Pagan temples were remodeled instead of destroyed, and the mixed worship has continued to this day. The Virgin of Guadalupe is now even more highly worshipped in Mexican Catholicism than the Virgin Mary. She has effectively become a national heroin, and worshipping her is equated with patriotism. For this reason, it is difficult for older generations to grasp Christian worship without feeling they've betrayed their country.

# Sample Support Letter

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This basic, preformatted support letter will need to be retyped, inserting the omitted information. It is helpful to send this letter to family members, friends, and businesses. Most youth raise a large portion of their needed funds by doing this. Team members should check with their team leaders before sending this letter to members of their local congregation as other fundraising ideas may be more beneficial for within the church.

Greetings!

I am very excited about an opportunity that I have this summer to go on a short-term mission trip. I know that God is leading me to be a part of this outreach through AGWM this summer.

The main focus on this trip will be to bring love and hope to the children and families of Mexico. The area in Mexico that we are going to is very poor. Many people in the area—who work mainly as migrant farm workers—make only \$150 per month. As part of my youth group, I will be involved in drama, music, sports evangelism, and other forms of ministry to the people of Mexico, as well as helping the local congregation. It is our prayer that we will see many lives changed by the power of God.

My group will be leaving on **DATE** and returning on **DATE**. I need to have my funds raised by **DATE**. I am really excited about being a part of this experience, and I hope that after what I have shared with you, you're joining me in my excitement. I recently sent in my registration, and now I need to begin fundraising the **\$\$\$\$** that it costs for my share of the trip. I'm writing to you, not only to let you know about this opportunity that I have, but to also ask you if you would consider supporting me in this. I am in need of two kinds of support—prayer and financial. **\$\$\$\$** is a lot of money to fundraise, but I know that God will help me do it, and I would greatly appreciate if you would consider helping me by contributing. If you would like to send support, please make your check out to **CHURCH** and send it to **ADDRESS**. They will send you a receipt so your gift is tax-deductible. If you aren't able to contribute financially, please keep me in your prayers, and I would greatly appreciate that also. Regardless of your decision, I hope that you will share in my excitement. I look forward to sharing with you my experience!

Thanks and God Bless!

**SIGNATURE**

Please note: You should sign each letter you send. Photocopied signatures are not authentic and less personal.

## Introduction to Ensenada

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Ensenada is located on the Baja peninsula, about ninety miles south of San Diego. The drive from San Diego to Ensenada is about two hours, along one of the most beautiful coastlines in Mexico. The climate in Ensenada is similar to San Diego, with warm, dry summer days. Ensenada is the fourth-largest city in Mexico, and is the leading seaport of Baja California. The people of Ensenada are trying hard to improve their city both for tourists, who are a big part of their income, and for themselves. The improvements are viewed as positive, though some of them result in the loss of authentic Mexican culture in tourist areas. You can drive down the street and see a Pizza Hut™ and McDonalds™, and then see a taquería (taco stand) or a dulcería (candy store). The accommodations are similar to those in America. The ministry atmosphere in Ensenada is fairly urban. In addition to the children's VBS, you will be ministering to the youth and adults during the church services and sports outreaches in the local area.

## Introduction to San Quintín

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The San Quintín (pronounced "SAHN keen-TEEN") trip is located on the Baja peninsula, in the San Quintín Valley, about 200 miles south of the Mexican/American border. The valley contains several small cities in which teams will minister—San Quintín, Vicente Guerrero, Camalú, San Vicente, and El Papalote. The San Quintín Valley is comprised of two distinct areas—the agricultural valley and the waterfront. Even though San Quintín is on the water, swimming in the ocean there is not allowed due to dangerously strong currents. Each year, thousands of migrant workers come to the area to work in the tomato and strawberry fields that dominate the valley. There are no paved roads except for the highway passing through. Public health facilities are limited, and water and electricity are available inconsistently. The hotel accommodations are more primitive. The spiritual climate in San Quintín is that of openness to the missionaries and the gospel. The outreaches are to the children in the local neighborhoods in the mornings and to the youth and adults in the evenings.

## Code of Conduct

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### Cross-Gender Behavior

Holding hands, kissing, or other public displays of affection are not acceptable on a mission trip, and couples may not be alone. Please avoid a flirtatious attitude with teammates and people in your place of ministry.

*Men* – Please be gentlemen! Open the doors for the women, let them be first for meals, carry their luggage and heavy equipment, etc. The Mexican people will be offended if they see the women doing these things.

*Women* – Please be ladies! Show appreciation to the men, and let them be gentlemen. Also, do your part by keeping your vans and host church clean.

### Broken Promises

Do NOT make promises you can't keep. This includes promising to return next year or promising to write or call someone. It is possible to obtain someone's contact information without promising to keep in touch.

### Personal Information

You should not give out your home address (email addresses are optional). Well meaning individuals who give out their home address for correspondence sometimes find strangers knocking on their doors in America.

### Group Conduct

Please be aware of the impression your group will make. Show God's love in the way you treat each other. Avoid being loud and boisterous except for before and after VBS, when playing with kids. Teammates leaving the group to get food, souvenirs, etc. must always travel in groups and get permission from leadership.

### Photography

Taking photos is okay, but limit the amount of photos you take. Try bringing your camera for only one day of ministry, taking all your photos at that time. We're not tourists, and we don't want to give that impression.

### Personal Electronics

Mobile phones, iPods, GameBoys, and other personal electronics are not allowed during times of ministry. They must be left at the hotel to avoid being confiscated.

### Respect & Leadership

The Mexican culture highly values respect toward people who are leaders or elders. Show respect to your host pastor, team leader, and any On The Path staff. They are the leaders that God has placed in your life for this mission trip.

### Time

Understand that you are there to serve, and that means being flexible to your host church and its schedule. You should always be on time for VBS and evening services, knowing that they may not start (or end) on time. The Mexican culture does not revolve around the clock. If things start late, it will give you more time to pray and prepare. You must also be on time for breakfast and morning devotions.

### Dress Code

The packing list is included in this manual. You are required to observe any restrictions as a show of respect to God, the Mexican people, and to each other.

### Use of Plumbing

The Mexican sewer system differs from ours. You must put all toilet paper and other products in the trash cans. Flushing anything other than natural waste will cause system backups and overflows. You will have to unclog and clean up the mess!

### Showers

Limit time in the showers, and divide the team into morning and evening bathers because water is in short supply and hot water runs out quickly.

### Forbidden Activities

Smoking, drinking alcohol, foul language, fireworks, weapons, and swimming in ocean water are not allowed on this trip at any time!