



BETHEL STUDENT MINISTRIES

High School Short Term Trip 2019

Los Cabos, Mexico July 9–16th

Parent Information

Hello and thank you for your interest in the 2019 Mexico Mission Trip. This is a new mission experience for Bethel Student Ministries and I am grateful that God has allowed us the opportunity to serve the Los Cabos area. The dates of our trip will be **July 9-16th, 2019**.

We are eager to be joining LEAD222 for this servant leadership experience. Pastor Luis is one of the pastors we will be working with closely in the barrios of Los Cabos. As a team we will serve the poor neighborhoods through construction, serving meals, and kids ministry. James 1:27 tells us that God desires pure undefiled religion which is to take care of orphans and widows, and to keep oneself from being stained by the world. Acts 1:8 calls us to go to the ends of the earth with the Gospel. As a ministry of Bethel church we want students to have an active faith, a global perspective, and to fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

As with all of Bethel Student Ministries trips, each interested student must go through an application process. The application process is not a guarantee of acceptance to the team; it is to ensure that everyone is qualified to be a part of this team. Students will be accepted based on past and current spiritual growth and their present involvement in church and youth group.

All applications & a non-refundable deposit of \$200 is due to the church office by December 19th. It is recommended, however, that you complete your application as soon as possible because early applicants will be considered first. Applications are available online. Go to www.bethelowatonna.com & click on the Mexico Mission Trip Application under the student ministry page and apply online. \$200 must be turned into the Church office by December 19th.

Please note that you need **two references** in order to apply. The reference form is also online at www.bethelowatonna.com & click on the Reference Form link. One must be completed by a parent and one by a non-family adult who knows your teenager well. **Please be as honest as possible and make sure that they are submitted before December 19th.**

The cost of this year's trip will be a maximum of **\$1650** depending on how many are on the team. In this packet is a detailed description of dates, times, and level of commitment. You will receive more details about the trip on January 6th at 12p.m. at the Parent/teen orientation.

Please prayerfully consider God's will for your teen's involvement in this trip. This is a decision that you need to play a key role in. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact pastor John.
On Mission,

John Anderson | Student Ministry Pastor
Bethel Church
1611 hemlock Ave.
Owatonna MN, 55060
Cell: 651.895.9734
Johna@bethelowatonna.com

BETHEL Student Mission Trip 2019 COMMITMENT DATES

Event	Date	Time
PARENT QUESTIONS (optional) Bethel Church High school room	SUNDAY November 18th	12:00-12:30pm
MISSION APPLICATIONS and FEES DUE	Wednesday December 19th	Apply online and turn in \$200 fee to Church office
Parent/student/fundraising MEETING 1 Bethel High school room	Sunday January 6th	12-1:30pm
Parent/student MEETING 2 Bethel High school room	Sunday January 13 th	12-1:30pm Q & A with Pastor Luis
MEETING 3 (fundraising) Bethel High school room SUPPORT LETTERS DUE!!!	MONDAY February 4	7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
SILENT AUCTION BASKETS DUE *Mexico MEETING 4 TRAINING	MONDAY February 18	Bring to Training Meeting at Bethel 7:00 pm
SWEETHEART DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION	SATURDAY February 23	4:00 pm- 9:30 PM
MEETING 5 TEAM BONDING	SUNDAY March 17th	SPARE TIME 7-9 pm
Meeting 6 TRAINING Bethel High school room	Sunday April 7	12-1:30pm (bring a bag lunch)
MEETING 7 TRAINING Bethel High school room	SUNDAY May 19th	12-1:30pm (bring a bag lunch)
MEETING 8 TRAINING Bethel High school room	MONDAY June 17	7-8:30
MISSION TEAM DEDICATION	SUNDAY TBD	Worship Services
TEAM PACKING NIGHTS/ MISSION TRIPS	Mexico: JULY 8	5:00-6:30 pm BETHEL
STUDENT MISSION TEAMS SHARING and VIDEOS	TBD	

There are **10 required team commitments** prior to the trip: **3 meetings, 4 trainings, Silent Auction, Dedication day and Packing Night.**

Every effort should be made to be at all of these. In the event of an unavoidable conflict, a **maximum of 2 pre-arranged and excused absences are permitted.**

Requirements for the Trip:

○ **Application – Due Wednesday December 19th**

Applications are only available online at www.bethelowatonna.com. The additional forms needed are available for download (annual registration waiver, reference link, etc.). **Trip Deposit Fees** are as follows:

Mexico: \$200 Total trip cost per student: **\$1650** (including deposit)

Need based scholarships are readily available to help cover the deposit fees. Contact Pastor John to apply for a scholarship

○ **Obtain a U.S. Passport – FOR ALL INTERNATIONAL TRIPS**

If you do not hold a current passport, you must apply **BEFORE February 4th**. Passport applications are available at the post office, Steele County Government Center, or online at www.travel.state.gov.

○ **Create a Support Team – Due February 4**

Both students and leaders are asked to send letters to **at least** 25 people for Mexico, asking for prayer and financial support for the trip. Think of relatives and family friends who would be interested to know about your trip and its purpose. Consider including your school teachers, MIDWEEK leaders, or community organizations. Remember that your high school friends usually can't help you financially, but perhaps their parents would like to support you. Further instructions are included in the team manual, which will be handed out at the first meeting.

○ **Begin planning for the Silent Auction February 4**

Students and leaders going on any of the Student Mission Trips are expected to participate in the Silent Auction. Each student donates a gift basket **or** monetary donation for the Silent Auction. ALL students will also be asked to solicit auction donations from area merchants. In addition, all participants are required to work a particular job during the Auction. This will be discussed in greater detail at the training meetings.

Baskets will be accepted anytime and are due no later than Monday, February 18th at the Training meeting at Bethel Church.

- **We are in need of parent volunteers for various parts of the auction. Please email Pastor John Johna@bethelowatonna.com to help.**

Servant Leadership 2019

Mexico Trip

Servant Leadership is a ministry of LEAD 222, which is devoted to the training and development of Christian leaders and students. LEAD222 values the concept of servant leadership and provides Servant Leadership experiences to assist youth ministries who want to help serve the physically, financially and emotionally challenged of our world.

Here's a look at a typical daily schedule (Subject to change)

Breakfast	7:30-8:30 am
Morning devotional	8:30-9:00 am
Serve at worksite	9:00-3:30 pm
Clean up and free time	4:00-5:30 pm
Dinner	5:30-6:30 pm
Evening session	6:30-8:30 pm
Small group time	8:30-9:30 pm
Free time	9:30-10:30 pm

Mission Trip Funding

We believe that the work done on mission trips pleases God. We also believe it pleases God when we extend ourselves in ministry to others. Therefore, we believe Student mission trips are worth the financial cost. We have also found that many other people -- in fact, almost everyone who hears about our work there, feels the same way.

One of the most meaningful parts of the mission experience is to see how so many people give generously to make the trip possible. Every person who prays for us or contributes financially at a fundraiser or as a supporter of an individual on a mission trip becomes a very important part of our team.

Funding for a Student mission trip is provided in the following ways:

Student Application Fee – This fee must be submitted with the trip application, which is due **December 19th**. Scholarships are available.

Support Letters -- A support team is made up of those people who will pray for you and encourage you and may give financial help as well.

Each team member must then write a letter (see the Sample Support Letter in the Team Manual) which includes the following:

- Mexico trip at least 25 letters
- The name and purpose of the trip.
- The dates of the trip
- Location of the projects
- A description of the projects
- Motivation for going and personal feelings about the trip
- Ask and thank people for their interest and support
- Link to www.bethelowatonna.com. Make it clear that donations can be made online through this link. Enter amount on the "giving page" and budget line should be "youth scholarships". After your **(This is the preferred method for donations.)**

We will provide a donation form and return envelope for you to include with your support letters for people who would like to support your trip financially. We have always received tremendous response from support letters -- with people often telling us how much they appreciate being given the opportunity to share in the experience.

Sweetheart Dinner/Silent Auction (Feb. 23rd)-The Silent Auction is a fun event that welcomes the participation of the entire church family. There are raffles for children and adults, and Silent Auction for gift baskets that include, services, weekend getaways at vacation homes, and a wide variety of other items.

Last year the Auction has netted close to \$5,000. Our goal this year for the auction is \$7,000. One other support component is to add a donor match component offered to the entire church as a way of doubling their monetary donation on January 13th when Pastor Luis speaks at Sunday services.

All students participating in mission trips are required to help with the Auction in three ways:

- Mexico: Donate a gift basket of service/goods to the Auction (see Auction Guidelines)
- Work at an assigned task before, during, or after the Auction

NOTE to Parents: If you are willing to volunteer on an Auction Committee, please contact Pastor John at Johna@bethelwatonna.com

Funding for Mission Trips

1/8: Trip Deposit

7/8: Raised Support**

****A portion of the Auction proceeds will be distributed amongst team members and calculated in the 7/8 total. In the past, the average amount awarded has been between \$200-\$250. The amount is dependent on the final net balance Sweetheart dinner/silent auction in February of 2019.**

Note:

1. Students may choose to send letters requesting prayer support only. If this is the case, they are responsible for the remaining balance after auction proceeds are applied. This amount will be due by **May 26, 2019.**
2. **All students** are expected to participate in the Sweetheart dinner/Silent Auction event on February 23rd as a means of raising that portion of their support.
3. If the team raises enough funds as a *group* to cover the entire cost of the trip, no individual is required to make up a shortage in their own account. ***If the trip fundraising (through the bake sale, Silent Auction, and support letters) falls short of the actual cost of the trip, students will be asked to pay the remaining balance for his/her portion of the trip. It is crucial that every team member does their part in raising the funds for this trip.***
4. Faith is an important element of the funding equation. A substantial portion of the trip is funded by the generosity of many people through the Servant Auction and support letter responses.

NOTE to Parents: If you are willing to volunteer on an Auction Committee, please contact Pastor John Johna@bethelwatonna.com

Support-Raising and Financial Policies

Purpose: Raising support is a God given opportunity to bless other people by allowing them to participate in God's work around the world. Sending letters seeking prayer and financial support is important for all of us as we learn to know God as our Provider (I Kings 17:1-16), depend on the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:25-26), and identify with missionaries who rely on our support.

Support Raising Process

1. Everyone will send letters with the goal of raising his or her portion of the total team expenses. Letters are due no later than the second training session. Team members will ask for both financial and prayer support. If team members have the means to cover their own costs, they may indicate on their letter, "All of my costs have been covered, but please consider supporting me and the team in prayer."
2. Team members are encouraged to tell those outside the church about what God is doing through them. Letters may be sent to friends, family, co-workers, classmates, etc. Team members may send support letters to those inside the church whom they know **personally** and would expect to receive a letter from because of their close personal ties.

Support Raising Policy: Trip Coverage

1. Mission trip fees include all airfare, lodging, most meals, ground transportation, most ministry supplies, visas or exit fees, tips, travel insurance, training preparation, administrative fees, and special event costs.
2. Mission trip fees do NOT include passport application or renewal fees (including expediting passports), immunizations, airport meals, souvenirs, or most sightseeing fees unless directly related to the mission project. Any personal expenses incurred (phone calls, laundry, medical needs not covered by travel insurance, etc.) while involved with a Bethel Church mission project are the responsibility of the team member who incurred the cost. Costs, travel arrangements, and schedules are subject to change.

Support Raising Policy: Reimbursement

1. All payments toward *Bethel Student Missions* teams are considered donations and are **NOT** available for refund as defined by the IRS. The following options are available for a team member, who, for extenuating circumstances, is not able to be a part of the team after donations have been received:
 - 1) If expenses have been incurred (i.e. airline tickets, visas, etc.), any donations/payments for that individual will be put toward those expenses first. There are no refunds, except for application fees, if for any reason the applicant is not accepted.
 - 2) Funds can be applied toward the support of another team member.

Support Raising Policy: Tax Deductible Donations

Online donations will be the preferred method of giving through Youth Scholarships. When a donation has been made by a supporter please have them email their name, amount and who's account it is for. Email Pastor John at Johna@bethelowatonna.com. All check donations should be made out to Bethel Church to be tax deductible. Donors should put "Mexico Mission Trip" in the memo line and a post-it note on the check with the name of the team member they wish to support. Please include Bethel Church's address and "Attention Pastor John Anderson" for mailing instructions to donors.

Support Raising Policy: Personal Responsibility

1. A trip deposit fee is due with the application. Applications will not be processed until the deposit is received.
2. Each team member is expected to raise 100% of their funding. This is done by participating in the Silent Auction and by sending out support letters. Therefore, the cost of the trip is paid for as follows:
 - a. Trip Deposit fee (non-refundable)
 - b. Personal support from support letters.
 - c. Proceeds from the Silent Auction fundraiser will defray a portion of the team's (therefore, the individual's) expenses, assuming all team members have contributed to the fundraising efforts.
3. *If the team is at a deficit*, team members who are contributing to that deficit will be responsible for making up their portion of the deficit by contributing their own personal funds. The team members with deficits will be responsible to pay their remaining funds or work out a payment schedule with the Bethel Student Ministries no later than May 26, 2019.

Support Raising Policy: Surplus Funds

1. All receipts and expense documentation (for approved ministry supplies) need to be turned in to the Pastor John within 14 days after completion of a trip.
2. *If a team is at a surplus*, the excess will be applied toward other student trips that have a deficit, the purchase of additional ministry supplies, a donation to the hosting mission organization, or toward a need in the community being served.
3. *In cases where individual team members have raised more than their needed funds*, their surplus of funds will be applied toward individuals on the team who may still have a deficit or toward the purchase of additional ministry supplies. This policy is in accordance with II Corinthians 8:13-15: "For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. As it is written, 'Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.'"

Silent Auction Guidelines

1. Mexico team participants are required to provide a silent auction basket.
2. Have fun coming up with your basket! You don't have to spend money - ask for donations, donate your time, talents, hobbies, babysitting gift certificate; be creative ... go on Pinterest for great ideas!
3. Complete a **basket tag** (these will be available at team meetings). On the front, **write** why you chose the theme of your basket, how it reflects your personality or the gifts God has given you. You could even write how you would like the buyer of your basket to pray for you while you are in Mexico. Attach a small **photo**. We want this to be personal!
4. Bring your completed basket (enclosed in cellophane), bucket, bowl or whatever container you fill to the team training meeting at Bethel Feb. 4th. You may also drop them off **BEFORE** this date at the Bethel Church office.
5. You will be assigned to an Auction committee before the Auction day, and will be responsible to the coordinator of that committee. You are expected to be at the Auction.
6. If you have questions or need assistance or advice, call Pastor John at (651)895-9734

NOTE to Parents: If you are willing to volunteer on the Auction Committee, please contact pastor John Johna@bethelowatonna.com

The Auction Committee is always looking for donations for the Auction. If you can contribute new items, services, vacation homes, etc., please contact pastor John.

MEXICO 2018

Parent Informational Sheet

Center for Disease Control (CDC) Issues	Chapelstreet Church Requirements
Vaccines required for most travelers: Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Tetanus	Recommends that participants follow the CDC guidelines. Consult your family doctor with any questions.
For protection from insect bites: Use bug spray with at least 20% deet and cover exposed skin by wearing long sleeves, long pants and hats.	Participants will be required to follow the CDC guidelines.
Drinking water: recommended to drink bottled water that has been sealed. Do not drink tap water.	Lead 222 and the hotel will provide bottled water for drinking. Water bottles are required to bring along.

Here is a list of activities and the nature of what trip participants may be engaged in:

- Physical labor, such as digging, painting and cleaning, etc.
- Using tools and materials such as shovels, sledgehammers, paint, adhesives, etc.
- Working with and caring for small children
- Traveling on rural roads by bus or van
- Swimming in a swimming pool
- Riding on a boat in the ocean and swimming in the ocean

Please refer to the CDC website at cdc.gov for further information.