

Providence High School & Providence St. Joseph Health



Global Partnerships - Living our Mission beyond Borders with Esperanza International

Providence High School is excited to partner with our parent organization, Providence St. Joseph Health, in the Esperanza service trip. The Esperanza service trips focus on working in solidarity with Tijuana residents by participating in a community project while learning about the US-Mexico border, immigration, and human rights. Along with the service work, participants will hear from special speakers and engage in group reflection activities geared toward ongoing spiritual formation.

Why Esperanza International?

- In partnering with Providence St. Joseph Health professionals and Esperanza International, we work shoulder-to-shoulder with the vulnerable; volunteers make a sustainable impact, connect with the needs of our US/Mexico border, and practice global citizenship.
- Esperanza service learning experiences provide volunteers with an opportunity for direct service and formation close to home. Volunteers will complete a community project alongside families as well as learning about Tijuana, the border, and human rights concerns of migrants through local site visits and speakers.
- Close to ten years ago, the Mexican government donated land to Esperanza, and Esperanza created a vision of an integrated community with over 60 individual homes, a community center, and a health clinic. Current teams fundraise for land improvements, community-based projects, and construction in existing Esperanza communities.

What are the eligibility requirements and who should apply?

- Each volunteer contributes \$250.00 for food, lodging, international travel insurance, and as a contribution towards the cost of transportation. A limited number of scholarships to off-set trip costs are available for those with critical financial need.
- The volunteer team commits to a goal of raising \$1000.00; all funds raised go directly to the community project.
- All volunteers must have a valid passport or be able to obtain one well in advance of the trip.
- Current Sophomores, Juniors, & Seniors in good overall academic standing who have completed the required readings through their Religious Studies classes.
- Sophomores, Juniors & Seniors who are up to date on Christian Service Hours by the application deadline.
- Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors who commit to pre-trip orientation meetings and post-trip debrief sessions to share their experience with underclassmen.
- Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors who commit to volunteering at least three service hours with an approved immigrant/refugee focused nonprofit (see Ms. Fontaine for list of approved nonprofits).

What are the dates and accommodations?

- The trip will be over PHS Easter Break: April 13 – 19, 2020
- Volunteers stay at Esperanza's multipurpose facility called "La Posada," which includes bunk-style accommodations, male and female bathroom and shower facilities, a large common room, and a full industrial-size kitchen. Water coolers to fill bottles are available.
- La Posada is located in the small town of La Gloria, only a fifteen-minute drive from the U.S./Mexico border.

What are the details of Transportation and Supervision?

- The team will leave from Providence High School and depart to the border, walk through immigration guided by trip Team Leaders, and will be met by Esperanza staff upon arrival in Tijuana.
- Upon arrival in Tijuana, our in-country partners will take excellent care of us. They have secure transportation that will convey us to and from construction areas and site visits each day.
- Student groups will be supervised by adult Team Members at all times. Adult team members will be Livescan certified, trained in CPR and First Aid, and members of the Providence High School community.

What kind of project will we be doing?

Most volunteer teams participate in a home construction project (see details attached). Depending on the time of year and specific community need, some teams will be selected for a community improvement project such as painting.

Most teams who come to Mexico with Esperanza are involved in building an 11'x26' home with a concrete foundation, concrete slab floor, concrete block wall, and a concrete roof. Volunteers gradually realize that there is much more to the experience including team and community building, sharing of common values across cultural and socio-economic differences, and observing and learning how a participatory neighborhood-based program can become a means to life improvement.

Our construction methods attempt to maximize the abilities of the groups. There are ways that phases of the project could be completed faster and easier using more expensive equipment, but the results would be less involvement by the group members. We want every participant in every group involved in the building process. We believe the result will be a greater sense of accomplishment, stronger team mentality, and a better opportunity to build relationships with the family and community. We want groups to know that this project is about more than just building houses. We want to build bridges between people and cultures. It is very important for volunteers to get to know the families, play with the children, and experience the culture.

What are other potential visits or experiences on this trip?

- Casa del Migrante: this organization provides food, shelter, and humanitarian services to migrants. You can learn from the stories of men who have been deported or are in transition. The team will eat dinner with individuals who were recently deported, and may have a special opportunity to hear one individual's story.
- Border Tour: visit to the U.S.-Mexico border, where a leader from Esperanza will share personal border stories and reflections.
- Medical Clinic: tour a local medical clinic to learn more about the social determinants of health.
- Daily Reflections: student groups will debrief every evening with Team Leaders and chaperones to reflect on and process the day's experiences, lessons, and events.
- Mass: commune with members of the Team and community through the sacrament of Eucharist.

Example itinerary for Esperanza:

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
-Arrival and shuttle to Tijuana border; immigration process as a group - Pick-up by Esperanza staff -Arrival at Posada; Esperanza orientation -Team reflection	- Travel to work site -Construction project -Speaker; City planning in Tijuana -Team reflection	- Travel to work site -Construction project -Site Visit: Casa del Migrante -Team Reflection	-Travel to work site -Construction Project -US/MX Border Visit -Team reflection	-Travel to work site -Construction project -Medical Clinic Visit -Team Reflection	-Travel to work site -Construction project -Community Mass -Team Reflection	-Final reflection -Lunch with Esperanza family savings group -Leave for border; immigration process as a group -Team transport back to PHS & home.

How do I apply?

***Going on this trip is a serious commitment that will require maturity and sensitivity. It is a labor of love and the outcome will be best served if participants have a genuine desire to leave their own concerns behind to help others. If you want to be part of a team that has that sole objective in mind, then this is a program that you should apply for. ***

- Review the eligibility requirements outlined above and fill out the following application: <https://appsor.providence.org/selectsurvey/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=882M568K>
- Parents & Guardians of applicants must also fill out a permission slip & release form.

APPLICATIONS DUE December 13, 2019

Whom do I contact with questions?

For more information or questions about this opportunity, please contact Janet Fontaine, Christian Service Coordinator at Providence High School: Janet.Fontaine@providencehigh.org (818) 846-8141 ext. 14108.

Selection Committee for the Student Service Team:

Janet Fontaine, Christian Service Coordinator
 Arjan Harjani, Director of the Medical Focus Program
 Christen Harty-Schaefer, Director of the Cinema Arts Focus Program
 James Jimenez, Religious Studies Department Chair
 Allison Castro, Assistant Head of School

**** PARENTS & GUARDIANS of interested students – there will be an informational meeting in the spring semester for the parents & guardians of students selected to attend. ****