



Mission Team FAQ's 2012

713 E. Jasmine St., Mesa AZ 85203 * 480-898-4935 (Rachel Stauner)
For more information contact Ginny Holmes: ginny@groundworkguatemala.org
www.groundworkguatemala.org

Groundwork Guatemala Mission Team Information

➤ **What does a Groundwork Guatemala Mission Team do?**

Groundwork Guatemala works with those people in Guatemala who have little or no means of supporting themselves, bringing the Living Word of Jesus Christ to the lost and discipling the found to a life of service through the study of God's Word, mission teams, children's activities, medical care and personal relationships. Mission Teams serve with the Guatemalan ministry team sharing God's love with the people of Guatemala.

➤ **Where do Groundwork Guatemala Mission Teams serve?**

Groundwork Guatemala works in and around Guatemala City, the capital of Guatemala, in both urban and rural settings. We serve in an area outside of Amatitlán and other outlying villages that are hungry for the Word, as well as the fellowship that comes from gathering together each week.

➤ **What do Mission Teams do while they are there?**

Your team's activities are generally in the following areas of ministry, depending on the gifts and skills of your team:

- Outreach and discipling with the Gospel through prayer, worship, Bible studies and activities for adults, teens and lots of kids, home visits, street ministry...divine appointments as the Holy Spirit leads and directs. Teams bring gifts of teaching, preaching, evangelism, music, crafts, and simply loving.
- Medical, eye, dental, as well as psychological care through mobile medical clinics and home visits. Teams bring gifts of medical training, healing, counseling, mercy, and caring.
- Hands on projects for those who like to work on construction, plumbing, electrical or painting. At this date we would also need funding for any special projects.
- While the hearts and lives of the Guatemalan people are touched and changed through the power of the Holy Spirit, He is most assuredly at work in the hearts and lives of those on Mission Teams. He takes these faithful servants on this extraordinary journey of faith, and challenges them to see through His eyes of love in a way that they many never have seen before.

We will be in frequent contact with your team leader as we plan your team's activities and schedule, offering options and designing a week that fits the gifts and talents of the members of your team.

➤ **How long will our Mission experience be?**

While we can certainly be flexible, our typical team experience lasts from Saturday to the following Sunday. We can work together to meet your needs if your team wishes to alter this schedule.

➤ **How many people can be on our Mission Team?**

We like to keep our team numbers fourteen and under for a more intimate team experience and due to space limitations. If another team is interested in the same week, we will work with you to set a deadline for your team members to register so we can tell the other team if that week is available. If you would like to bring more than fourteen people on your team, we can discuss that option at the time.

➤ **How old must I be to be on the team?**

We ask that mature 13-15 year olds have a parent accompanying them. Those 16-18 must have an appointed guardian on the team. Younger team members must know that they are coming to serve and must realize that there may be times they may be bored or asked to do things they don't "feel like" doing. Also, they must be ready to follow the rules and guidelines set by Groundwork Guatemala and/or your team, especially those regarding safety. We ask that team leaders prayerfully seek God's leading when screening team applications.

➤ **How much does the Mission Trip cost?**

The cost for Groundwork Guatemala to cover transportation, food, lodging, and an optional day of rest in Antigua at the end of your week is \$150 per team member and \$1300 per team for rental of vans, fuel and other transportation expenses which can be split between team members or raised as a team. Upon your arrival, you will each receive a journal for recording your thoughts and memories. A non-refundable deposit of \$500 to reserve your team's preferred trip dates is required and will be taken off your team balance. If your team raises funds over and above the required amount, Groundwork Guatemala could certainly find ways to use it to continue in effective ministry.

Each team is responsible for arranging its own air transportation to Guatemala, as internet searches are often the best way to find the least expensive airfare. ****We do ask that you receive our approval of your itinerary before purchasing your tickets.****

During your week in Guatemala, your team will have the option of visiting an artisan's market in Antigua. If your team would like to experience this activity, you may want to tuck away some extra spending money for purchases of colorful Guatemalan bags, paintings, and other typical items found in these markets. Also, depending on your flight itinerary, you may need funds for food purchased while you are traveling. You will each need \$3.00 exit tax to leave Guatemala City.

➤ **What about Safety?**

While there are never 100% guarantees no matter where we are, we *can* tell you that the safety of our teams is always one of our top priorities. We have worked with dozens of teams in the past and take numerous measures to keep our teams safe. You will be accompanied by several Guatemalans, with at least one fluent translator. And, most importantly, we trust our God, who has gone before us, to surround us with His care, knowing He has our lives in His hands.

➤ **Where will we stay?**

Your team will be staying in our team house, which is also where the American volunteers and Manuel's family live. It is in a neighborhood located in Zone 7 of Guatemala City, with secure doors and windows. This is where you will be sleeping, eating most of your meals, having team activities and devotions and getting to know our ministry team. The house has electricity, several bathrooms and showers and, from the roof, you will have an awesome view of Guatemala City, which is surrounded by mountains and volcanoes. There's even a little back yard with a garden.

➤ **Does our Mission Team need to bring In Kind Donations?**

We'll be sending your team leader a list of items that Groundwork Guatemala needs throughout the year. We appreciate anything that your team can bring down from that list, but understand that it may not be possible for your team due to economic stresses in your area. Rather than gathering the in kind items, your team may prefer to gather monetary donations that would cover the cost of our

staff purchasing these items in Guatemala instead. We just ask that you pray for God's provision for all of the needs of your team and the ministry in Guatemala. Our experience is that He never lets us down and always provides for everyone He has called to serve.

➤ **What if I get sick?**

We have a supply of medications in our ministry house allowing us to see to minor illnesses. We also have access to a first-rate hospital in Guatemala City, with which we have had excellent experience in the past. We will work together with your team leader to make sure that everyone on your team has sufficient medical insurance coverage while you are in Guatemala.

➤ **Will I be able to communicate with my family while I'm gone?**

Yes, a telephone will be available for emergency calls and for those with small children and/or family who need you to "check in" from time to time. We also encourage our teams to email team updates back to their congregations, supporters, families and friends to help them "be there" with the team.

➤ **Can I visit my Groundwork Guatemala sponsored child?**

YES! We will make every effort to have you meet your child sponsored through Groundwork Guatemala and his or her family, and when possible, see where they live.

➤ **What if we have more questions?**

We'd love to answer all of your questions and hope you keep asking them! Our goal is to help make your experience in Guatemala one that touches hearts and lives – both yours and your new Guatemalan friends – with the love of Jesus Christ.