



CrossRoads
Missions

MEXICO

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This information is intended to better prepare you and your team to serve in Piedras Negras, Mexico, with CrossRoads Missions.

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Promotional Video



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Ministry Info

PURPOSE

Seeking to glorify Christ through **worship, service, and discipleship**, CrossRoads Missions Mexico intends to transform the city of Piedras Negras, Mexico, with the love and compassion of Christ by working alongside and empowering already-existing ministries through construction projects and outreach programs.

HISTORY

CrossRoads Missions has been present in Piedras Negras, Mexico (on the Texas Border), for more than a quarter-century. Past construction projects include two churches, two schools, an orphanage and a neighborhood of many single-family homes with a community center. Outreach programs include soccer camps, medical clinics, soup kitchens, hospital feeding programs, community events and other activities depending on ministry needs.



City Info

Geography

Located at the northern border of the state of Coahuila in Mexico, Piedras Negras sits across the Rio Grande from Eagle Pass, Texas, and is about 150 miles southwest of San Antonio, Texas. The city's population is approximately 250,000 and continues to grow.

Culture

- Those who live in Piedras Negras ("nigropetenses") are very hospitable and friendly for the most part.
- They work hard and strive to make a better life for their children and then next generations.
- FOOD is a very important part of the culture. It's almost like a love language for some.
- Due to its border location, the city is significantly influenced by the U.S. in areas such as religion, media, and even language. Many even speak English!

Safety

CrossRoads Missions facilitates the process of crossing the border into Mexico and through US customs. CrossRoads Missions has led trips to Piedras Negras for over twenty years. We are dedicated to taking all necessary precautions to ensure the safety of the groups and individuals while under our care. All CrossRoads Missions lodging facilities are secure and all ministry opportunities are designed with participants' safety in mind.

Weather/Clothing

The weather is hot and dry for most of the year, but we suggest checking the forecast on-line before coming. During winter trips the temperature can drop into the 30s, and in the summer the temperature may exceed 110. Expect to get paint, concrete and dirt on your clothes.



Mission Teams

Volunteer mission teams spend time ministering in our community by getting plugged in to our ongoing ministry. Group participants work together as the body of Christ to display a testimony of God's love through construction projects and outreach programs to empower local ministries to be the face of Christ in their community.

Construction projects in the Mexico field are primarily aimed toward finishing homes on the remaining 10 lots available in Piedra Angular as well as existing CrossRoads facilities within the neighborhood. There are also often opportunities to assist our local partners with upkeep and renovation of their facilities. CrossRoads staff, interns and local professionals will supervise work including concrete, drywall, tile, roofing, painting and other various work projects.

Outreach programs include community events, feeding programs, and medical missions. Our current outreach focus is refugee relief work. We fund an open meal program, offer a place of housing at The Ranch, and provide groceries for individual families. Different ways that our teams get plugged in are by grocery shopping, cooking a meal, and spending time with our refugee friends.



Piedra Angular

Piedra Angular (Cornerstone) is a subdivision of 34 Christian families in the outskirts of Piedras Negras. The homeowners take great pride in the peacefulness within the community and their relationships between neighbors. The homes were built by church and volunteer groups through CrossRoads beginning in 1998. Homeowners were selected after an application process through a ministers' alliance based on the need and involvement in ministry within the city. The houses were sold to the selected families at cost. The community is now run by its own neighborhood association. The people in the neighborhood enjoy having fellowship with one another and organize community events. The neighbors enjoy the property within the neighborhood and go out for walks and play basketball or soccer in the center court area. In the middle of the neighborhood CrossRoads built a community center that is used for meetings, parties and church events. It also serves as a center of operations for CrossRoads. The future construction plans are to finish the community center and build houses on the 10 remaining lots.



Refugee Relief

Hundreds of immigrants seeking asylum from persecution have come to Piedras Negras. The arrival of immigrants into our city from all over the world and the United States' decision to return asylum-seekers to wait for their court date in Mexico create a steady flow of people with basic needs and an opportunity for our full-time staff as well as our visiting volunteers to provide ministry, service, and love to people in desperate situations. These individuals and families come to Piedras Negras from nations in Central America, Venezuela and even as far as Cameroon. Our work with these immigrants includes making and serving meals, hosting gatherings to provide fellowship and foster a sense of community, purchasing groceries, and paying for the expenses at a couple of shelters in the Piedras Negras area.

We partner with several ministries working with the refugee community in our city. If you're interested in bringing along items to donate towards our efforts, see the list below:

- Bed sheets (used or new)
- Towels (used or new)
- T-shirt's (lightly used or new)
- Socks (lightly used or new)
- Nescafe instant coffee
- Powdered creamer
- Rice and black beans
- Harina pan (special corn flour that the Venezuelans love and it can only be purchased in the states)- yellow package in Hispanic section
- Kitchen towels or washcloths
- Dish detergent
- Jello
- Walmart gift cards (for food and gasoline)



Medical Missions

Two to three weeks out of the year medical teams partner with local churches and ministry leaders in Piedras Negras to provide clinics as an outreach tool in neighborhoods throughout the city. Clinics set up by our medical teams serve the local community through compassionate healthcare by providing basic checkups and medicine for ailments. The clinics are based on the biblical model of caring for the body, mind, and spirit. Our goal is that through our outstanding patient care and the church leaders' counsel that God's love is shown and patients will come to know Christ.

Volunteer teams of healthcare professionals and students are needed to conduct these clinics. Participants experience a supervised, hands-on experience. Non-medical individuals are also welcome and participate in clinics according to their ability and experience.

For more info or questions please visit
www.crossroadsmissions.com
or contact Michele Harrell at
michele@crossroadsmissions.com.



Daily Schedule

Saturday | Sábado

6:00 – 7:00 Dinner | Cena
7:00 – 8:00 Orientation | Orientación

Sunday | Domingo

9:00 – 10:00 Breakfast | Desayuno
10:00 – 11:00 Free Time | Tiempo Libre
11:00 – 1:00 Church | Iglesia
1:00 – 1:30 Lunch | Almuerzo
1:30 – 4:00 Market | Mercado
4:00 – 6:00 Nap | Siesta
6:00 – 7:00 Dinner | Cena
7:00 – 8:00 Project Meeting | Reunión Proyectos

Monday - Thursday | Lunes - Jueves

7:00 – 8:00 Breakfast | Desayuno
8:00 – 9:00 Gathering | Reunión
9:00 – 11:30 Serve | Servir
11:30 – 12:00 Lunch | Almuerzo
12:00 – 4:30 Serve | Servir
4:30 – 6:00 Nap | Siesta
6:00 – 7:00 Dinner | Cena
7:00 Debrief (Thur) | Análisis (Jueves)

Please note that the schedule is flexible as we respond to special needs or circumstances that come up with our partners and ministry.



Packing List

Each person is limited to one suitcase and one personal item.

Dorms and Bathrooms

- Twin or Twin XL size sheets, pillow, pillow case, blanket or sleeping bag
- Sleeping attire
- Shower shoes (such as flip-flops)
- Toiletries (soap, shampoo, towel, etc.)
- Sunscreen and insect repellent

Clothing and Expectations

- Laundry is NOT available. Please pack enough for your entire trip.
- Tennis shoes or work boots (CLOSED FOOT). No sandals on the work site.
- Sweatshirt or jacket
- Casual clothes for the evening
- A nice outfit for church
- Long shorts or pants
 - Shorts must be knee-length
 - NO tight-fitting shorts or pants (no bike shorts)
 - NO suggestive or negative messages
- Short and long-sleeved T-shirts
 - NO spaghetti straps (must have a 2-inch strap) or low-cut tank tops. Tank tops are not permitted off-site.
 - NO bare midriffs

VERY Important

- Bible and a pen
- Copy of your health insurance card and passport
- CrossRoads Forms D and E (adults) or C, E, and F (minors)
- Money (small bills recommended) for souvenirs, snacks and travel meals
- Prescription medication for the trip duration (including inhalers and allergy medication)
- Water bottle
- Paint brush to leave behind as a donation

Optional Items

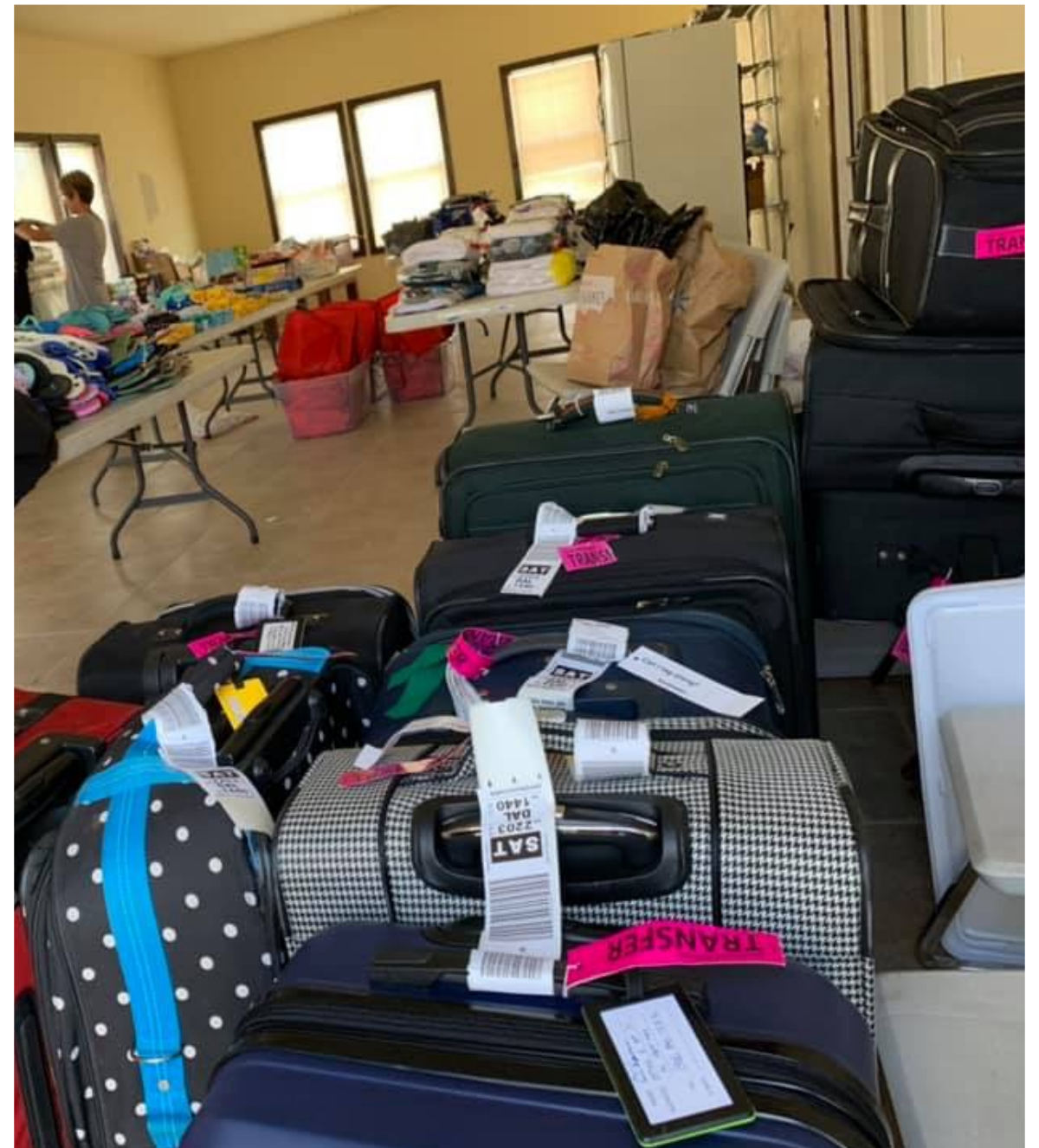
- Bag or backpack to carry personal items to work site
- Alarm clock
- Flashlight
- Camera
- Hat (to block the sun)
- Coffee mugs, pens, and permanent markers to leave behind as donations

Do not bring

- Hair dryers
- Straighteners and curling irons
- Energy drinks
- Knives and fireworks

Electronics and Internet

We discourage the use of electronics while on the field. Wi-fi is unavailable. We ask that all participants "unplug" and put their cell phones away while on the field. Adults, we understand that you have responsibilities at home. We ask that you limit your phone usage to emergencies only.



General Rules

1. Each participant will remain in a minimum group of four and must ask a staff person before leaving areas defined by CrossRoads Missions staff.
2. The focus on the trip is service and worship to God. CrossRoads encourages building relationships with brothers and sisters, however flirtation and inappropriate relationships will not be tolerated.
3. The drinking of alcohol, the use of tobacco, and the use of illegal substances will not be tolerated at any time during the trip.
4. Clothing Expectations: Shorts must not be shorter than four inches above the knee. Tank tops must have a 2-inch strap. Spaghetti strap and low cut tank tops are not allowed. Tight fitting clothes are not permitted. If the definition of appropriate or modest differs from that of CrossRoads Missions, he or she will be asked to change. (Mexico field: Shorts must be knee-length. Tank tops are not permitted off-site.)
5. Females will not enter into the males' sleeping quarters, and males will not enter into the females' sleeping quarters unless given specific permission by CrossRoads staff.
6. Power tools can be used ONLY with permission from CrossRoads staff and trip leaders.
7. No sandals on the worksite. Tennis shoes or boots are fine.
8. We discourage the use of cell phones while on the field. Please try to limit phone usage to emergencies only.
9. Please be considerate of the people to whom we are ministering and ask permission before taking a picture.
10. Shower trailer – wear clothes back and forth from dorms.
11. Take care of buildings, property, dorms, etc.
12. Don't make loud noise at night. Community quiet hours after 10 pm.
13. Ignore the animals - don't feed the animals, and do not let them inside buildings.
14. Use sunscreen, and stay hydrated.
15. Know where you need to be and when, and be on time.



Spanish Lesson

Hello
Good morning
Good day
Good afternoon
Good evening
Yes
No
Please
Thank you
You're welcome
What is your name?
My name is...
How are you?
Fine
Very well
So-so
Where are you from?
Nice to meet you
I don't speak Spanish
I don't understand
I'm sorry
Very delicious
School
Soccer
Excuse me
God bless
Goodbye

Hola
Buenos días
Buen día
Buenas tardes
Buenas noches
Sí
No
Por favor
Gracias
De nada
Cómo te llamas?
Me llamo...
Como estas?
Bien
Muy bien
Más o menos
De dónde eres?
Mucho gusto
No hablo Español
No entiendo
Lo siento
Muy rico
Escuela
Futbol
Con permiso
Dios te bendiga
Adiós



Social Media



[Facebook.com/CrossRoadsMissionsMexico](https://www.facebook.com/CrossRoadsMissionsMexico)



<http://crossroadsmissions.com/piedras-negras-mexico/>



[instagram.com/crmissionsmexico](https://www.instagram.com/crmissionsmexico)

Field Logistics

Week-long Cost

The participant fee covers supplies for construction, outreach, lodging, meals and supplies for worship and devotions. This DOES NOT include travel meals or lunch on Sunday at the Market.

\$600.00/person - drive to Eagle Pass, Texas

- Parking for your vehicles will be arranged stateside
- Approve scheduled arrival time with Field Staff
 - Arrival Day (Saturday) - by 5:00pm in Eagle Pass
 - Departure Day (Friday) - 7:30am in Eagle Pass

\$675.00/person - fly to San Antonio, Texas

- Airfare is NOT included, you must purchase separately
- Approve flight times - you MUST get approval before scheduling flights
 - Arrival day (Saturday) - Arrive to San Antonio BEFORE 1:00pm
 - Departure day (Friday) - Depart San Antonio AFTER 1:00pm

Transportation

CrossRoads Missions provides transportation from Eagle Pass, Texas OR San Antonio Airport and during your time in Piedras Negras, Mexico. Please note that we make only one caravan trip to and from San Antonio and Piedras Negras each week. If you are lined up to come alongside another group, there might be some waiting time. We as a staff are unable to provide transportation/tours around San Antonio. Should you have transportation needs, contact the field staff for suggested providers.

Passports are required for people traveling to/from Mexico.

Lodging

While in Piedras Negras you will stay in the neighborhood of Piedra Angular. The facilities include dormitory-style housing, bathrooms, showers, a kitchen, a community center, meeting areas, and a basketball/soccer court.

Meals

While in Piedras Negras, your meals will be provided by CrossRoads Missions. Additional money is needed for meals while you travel and for any other personal purchases. Each morning breakfast consists of cereal, oatmeal, bagels, toast, fruit, and coffee. Lunch includes deli sandwiches, pb&j sandwiches, chips, cookies, and veggies, which are prepared by participants and staff. In the evening local cooks prepare a delicious authentic Mexican meal. Dinner will be provided for you when you arrive on Saturday night, and you will be responsible for your breakfast when you leave the following Saturday.

Age Requirements

Piedras Negras trips are open to all ages. Family groups are welcome. Medical trips are open to adults 18 years and older. We ask for a 4:1 youth to adult ratio for student groups. Students younger than 13 years old are welcome, but must be accompanied by a parent.



FIELD ADDRESSES

Texas Mailing Address

2014 – C E. Main Street
Eagle Pass TX 78852

Mexico Physical Address

Calle Nissi 132
Colonia Piedra Angular
26064 Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico

FIELD STAFF

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Group Form B

- ❖ The Form B is for you to fill out about all the participants in your group. The sooner you can get that back to us the better, so that we can plan ahead for you all.

Individual Forms

- ❖ Each participant must fill out and bring with them Forms C and E if a minor and D and E if an adult.
- ❖ Form C
- ❖ Form D
- ❖ Form E

Debrief

- ❖ Before Your Trip
 - ❖ Remember that short-term missions is about the process and not outcome
 - ❖ Projects might not get done as you expect, and projects maybe be unknown in advance
- ❖ During Your Trip
 - ❖ How is God at work?
 - ❖ Seek out making relationships with those you come into contact with
- ❖ After Your Trip
 - ❖ What is your story about your trip?
 - ❖ How is God continuing to call you to missions - locally and abroad?

