

HOW THIS WHOLE MEXICO SYSTEM WORKS

For Leaders

Prior to the Trip

Safe Place: If you have not taken the Safe Place course through Sunwest, you are required to do so before the trip.

Police Checks: All volunteers will be required to go through a police check with Sunwest, we ask that you fill out the appropriate form and photocopy two accompanying pieces of ID.

Van Pick Up: We will require leaders to help pick up vans on March 22th, time TBA.

List Release: The lists of where students and leaders will be placed for the vans, tents, hotels and building teams will be posted the evening before we leave for the trip. (On March 22th during the luggage drop off time).

Building the House: We ask that all leaders look over their building manuals so that they are familiar with the building process. This will allow you to better assist the building team leader with giving students tasks.

Loading: As leaders we will load the vans and luggage trailer the night before departure.

Leader Jobs: There are many, many things to do before we actually leave for Mexico. We ask that leaders step up to the plate and take on jobs that need to be done before we go. Such jobs are: creating an emergency plan, getting the student list notarized by a lawyer, registration, rounding up necessary tools, and much administration.

During the Trip

Walkie Talkies: These are our primary form of communication between buses on this trip. Please understand that we expect that they are ALWAYS on with the volume up loud enough to hear communication. In order to increase the desire for all holders to have them on we ask that they are not handed off to students and are always under leader control. These should also be carried when we are stopping for breaks.

When we are leaving any area we will do a check with each bus to make sure that they have all of the students that belong to each bus. The lead bus will say that they are ready to go and will require an ALPHABETICAL check.

List Changes: Whether we are talking about tent lists, van lists, hotel lists or building team lists there is to be absolutely no changes unless authorized by Matt Dyck. We spend prayerful time creating the situations that both the students and leaders are placed in and ask that they are not spontaneously changed. In a circumstance where it may be necessary to move students, please consult Matt Dyck or Ron Feenstra with the concerns.

Leader Meetings: We would ideally like to have leaders meetings each non-driving day. Meetings may change times (and often locations as well) so please listen carefully for when meetings are and make sure that you are in attendance.

Bathroom Breaks: We will take standard bathroom breaks approximately every three hours. It is very important that we are strict about this as every time we stop it takes minimum thirty minutes. If there is an emergency and a single person in your van needs to get out to take a break, only that person may exit the vehicle. It has not suddenly become a snack or full bathroom stop.

Border Crossing: At the border the students should be instructed to be completely quiet. Do not give more information than what the border guard asked for but always be honest. If the vehicle should be pulled over and checked, do exactly what the guard says. Students should remain silent and keep their hands where they can be seen (ie on top of the seat backs). It is rare that they would actually pull all of the luggage out of a vehicle.

General Health Care: The temperature in Mexico may vary greatly when we are there. It may go from 25 degrees during the day to 5 degrees at night. We need to look out for ourselves and for students. Make sure that students are putting on sunscreen regularly. Once a day will not cut it for many of them. Everyone should also be drinking water regularly. It is a good idea to go around every two hours and remind students to drink and ask if you can fill up their water bottle for them. Another general health tip is to stay away from the dogs whether they are stray or pets. They often carry diseases or bite.

Hotels: When we get to a hotel the leaders in charge of managing the check in and out will jump out of the buses first and go into the hotel. Please keep all students in the vehicles until arrangements are finished with the hotels and the hotel leaders call the students out. Many leaders will have a couple of rooms assigned to them. Leaders are responsible to remind these rooms of departure information, as well as deal with any issues arising from the rooms. Also remind the students to order a wake up call from the front desk, or set their alarms accordingly.

Conduct Covenants: Students have signed conduct covenants. Please read them over and know what the students have agreed to. As leaders it is our responsibility to hold them accountable to these standards.

After the Trip:

Van Drop Off: We will require help cleaning and returning the vans. Date and time TBA.