

What to Bring - Teams & Guests



The following is a list of items you will need for your trip, along with some helpful information. It is important to wear appropriate clothing. Since our primary goal is to reach the people of Mexico, we need to be careful not to offend them. So please wear modest clothing. We ask that all shirts have sleeves and that no undergarments are visible. For ladies wearing shorts, we ask that they go down to the knee (like basketball shorts). Also, please do not wear shirts that show cleavage. All skirts/dresses should also go down to the knee. Swimwear should also be modest - bikinis are not allowed.

Weather Info: Please remember that Rosarito is located on the coast and it can be quite cool. In the summer, expect dry weather. During the day, the average temperature is 75°F/24°C (80°F/27°C in July; occasionally reaching up to 90°F/33°C or so), with an average of about 60°F/15°C or cooler in the mornings and evenings. For this reason, you'll want to be sure to bring pants and a sweatshirt or jacket. Spring and fall weather averages closer to 70°F/21°C during the day, and around 50°F/10°C in the morning/evening. Most of the rain occurs between mid-November and mid-March, and is heavier during the winter months. Winter temperatures average around 56°F/13°C and about 47°F/8°C at night.

Clothing, Shoes, Etc.

- T-shirts, Sweatshirt, Jacket
- Pants, Jeans, Capris
- Long Shorts - Knee Length
- Socks, Undergarments, Sleepwear
- Swimsuit (Modest)
- Tennis Shoes, Sandals/Flip Flops
- Clothing/Shoes for Church Services
- Hat, Bandana, Belt
- Glasses/Extra Contacts, Contact Solution
- Sunglasses
- Work Clothes: Jeans/Capris recommended, closed-toed shoes (for construction projects or dump ministry)

Hygiene

- Deodorant, Soap, Shampoo, Conditioner
- Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Floss
- Hairbrush/Comb
- Razor, Shaving Cream
- Hair Dryer, Curling/Flat Iron, Styling Products, Hair Ties
- Sunblock, Lip Balm
- Wet Wipes, Sanitizer
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Prescription Medications

Other


- Bible, Notebook/Journal, Pen
- Passport/Passport Card & Copy
- Driver's License/Photo ID
- Cell Phone Charger
- Camera, Batteries, Charger, Memory Cards
- Water Bottle (**Very Important!**)
- Alarm Clock, Watch, Ear Plugs (For Sleeping/Work Sites)
- Spending Money (Tacos, Souvenirs, etc.)

Bedding & Bath Towels*

- Beach Towel
- Extra blankets/sleeping bag (Winter season/If desired)

Please note that the following linens are provided by Connections:

- Pillow/Pillow Case
- Sleeping Bag or Blanket
- Sheets - Twin and fitted
- Bath Towel, Wash Cloth



*Don't forget to bring
something very important:
your servant's heart!*

Team Coordinator Only:

- Musical Instruments (Guitar, Cajón, etc. - for ministry, team devotional time, etc.) - Some instruments may be available at Connections upon request.
- Ministry Materials:
 - Any special tools or materials for construction projects (please note that we will provide all tools for projects unless specified)
 - Teaching/craft supplies, props, games, prizes, etc. (for VBS, Bible studies, ministry training, or similar ministry)
 - VBS: We strongly recommend starting with 30 minutes of activities to allow the kids time to arrive & to start connecting with them (such as soccer, jump rope, drawing/coloring, face painting, nail painting, bubbles, bracelet-making, sidewalk chalk)
- Christian Music (At Connections and ministry sites – no secular music please; Also in all vehicles with Connections volunteers)
- Flashlight w/Batteries
- Directions, Travel Tickets & Confirmations (Google Maps directions: <https://goo.gl/maps/dkTRgaHBVTmqbqf5>)*
- Laptop/Tablet, Charger (If needed)
- First Aid Kit (Including pain reliever; One kit for each vehicle if serving at more than one location)
- Prepared, daily team devotionals; Ministry debriefing questions
- Parental medical release forms for anyone under the age of 18 (US travel only)
- Recommended: Copies of all team member passports (kept separate from passports)
- US Insurance & Registration: For all vehicles and trailers
- Mexican Auto Insurance: For all vehicles being driven south of the border (including rentals)
- Extra Cash (dispersed among leaders), Credit/Debit Card (for gas, emergencies)
- Other handy items include: Small pocket knife, scissors, duct tape, multi-tool, Sharpie markers

Provided/Available to Your Team:

The following is just a quick overview. Please see the "Connections Team Coordinator Information Packet" for more information.

Drinking Water: Provided at Connections House and sent out to all ministry sites.

Sports Bag: Available upon request. Bags may include any combination of the following - soccer ball, kickball, football, wiffle bat & ball, frisbee, jump rope. Please be sure to request any specific needs.

Tools for Construction Ministry: The tools that you will need are provided by Connections. Please be sure to discuss your project(s) in detail so we can be sure to have everything your team will require.

Wi-Fi: Connections House provides Wi-Fi. Youth will not be given the password without the leader's permission.

Team Host: A Connections staff member or volunteer will accompany your team when you leave the base and will be there to assist with ministry. They will be your guide to ministry sites, meals out, etc. (also for fun activities if desired).

Translators: Most ministry **requires** the use of a translator for anyone not **fluent** in Spanish. The cost is \$30/day (\$20/half day). This includes all ministry with teaching, preaching, testimonies and sharing the gospel. Also, please remember to include time for your translator when considering the length of teaching times, testimonies, etc. Whatever amount of time your schedule allows should be cut in half. (For example, 20 minutes of teaching time actually means 10 min., and 10 min. for translation.)

Technology: We ask that team members unplug from technology while on this trip. It is up to you if you would like to allow cell phone use to take photos, set alarms, etc. Please note that most cell phone companies offer service in Mexico. Having cell phone service is strongly recommended for all team coordinators and helpful for your other leaders to have as well.

Valuables: We recommend that team coordinators collect the passports of all team members (especially if they are under 18) and keep them in a safe place. Always close windows and lock the doors of your vehicles. Never leave valuable items, bags, backpacks, etc., in your vehicles. We cannot guarantee the safety of any valuable items brought down to Mexico, so please keep this in mind when deciding what to bring. We have a locked drawer at Connections to keep your passports, extra cash, etc., if desired.

Money: It's a good idea to use a credit/debit card for gas and other large purchases to cut down on how much cash you'll be carrying. Any lodging, food or ministry materials provided by Connections may be paid with cash or check (made payable to "Saving Grace World Missions"). You should have enough cash to pay for any meals out. Extra cash is recommended for emergencies. American dollars are accepted all over the Rosarito/Tijuana area. Smaller businesses generally have lower exchange rates. [This can be avoided by exchanging money at exchange houses (casas de cambio) in Rosarito or in San San Ysidro, CA, right before you cross into Mexico.] Large amounts of cash should be split up between leaders & vehicles.

Important: We cannot stress enough the importance of bringing water bottles and using sunblock. Some team coordinators opt to bring packs of bottled water for their team, which is fine. Remember, drinking water will be provided by Connections.

Also Note: Soap and toilet paper are not always available in public restrooms. You may want to consider bringing these items, as well as wet wipes and hand sanitizer, and putting them in each vehicle.