

Mission Work Team FAQs

- **What is the minimum age for participating?** There have been family trips where the youngest child was 7 years old. Most participants are in their teens or older.
- **When do trips happen?** Trips take place all year long.
- **Can groups from multiple churches go together?** Yes! This is a lot of fun and a great way to build relationships.
- **I'm interested in learning more, who can I contact?** Stacy Lynch is our Work Team Coordinator. Her email is: stacy.lynch2131@gmail.com.

"So that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the Faith." Eph 4:12-13

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Acción Ministries : Faith with Action... Acción

Friends of Accion, Inc., supporting
Acción Ministries
Improving lives in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula

Mission Trip Work Team Opportunities



A partnership of Mexican and American Christians to Build the Body of Christ

Who We Are & Where We Serve

ACCIÓN MINISTRIES, led by Rev. Oscar Dorantes, Sr., took its first mission trip in 1981. The ministry was officially organized in Mexico in 1988. In 2008, Oscar R. Dorantes, Jr., took over leadership responsibilities. Acción Ministries serves the Yucatán by supporting educational opportunities for children and young adults and coordinating building projects with U.S. work teams to improve church facilities and community centers.

Over 500 work teams have served the area since 1981. Projects are vetted and evaluated for their safety, feasibility and the support of the community. Staff work with U.S. groups to carefully match projects and groups to ensure a safe and meaningful experience for all.

ACCIÓN STAFF are experienced professionals. All of the paid staff of Acción Ministries



are Mexican natives who live and work in the Yucatán Peninsula. They are supported by funds from Friends of Accion, Inc. for which U.S. operations are all volunteer.

FRIENDS OF ACCION, INC. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charity which supports Acción Ministries' work in Mexico's Yucatán peninsula. FOA is led by board members from Presbyterian and Lutheran churches in the U.S.

Friends of Accion
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OUR SERVICE AREA is the Yucatán peninsula. The native population is predominantly Mayan and the Mayan culture and language flourish in the jungle villages where we serve.





Acción Ministries: Faith with Action... Acción

SAFETY IS OUR PRIORITY

We take our staff and volunteers' safety VERY SERIOUSLY. The Yucatán Peninsula remains a safe place for both Mexican and American citizens. Our area of operation is removed from the violence in the north and other cities in Mexico.

The U.S. State Department shows it to be much safer in the Yucatán peninsula, where Acción does ministry, than in other states. In fact, the Yucatán state is one of the safest places in the world (Level 1: Exercise Normal Precautions). Quintana Roo state, with Cancun, is the same level as most of western Europe (Level 2).



Travel.Gov

Most of the Yucatán is scattered small towns and villages where everyone knows each other and crime rates are very low.

HEALTHY HABITS

Heat related illnesses are our biggest threats. Volunteers are reminded to use sunscreen and are encouraged to drink plenty of water and to take frequent breaks to cool down.

Fresh bottled drinking water is brought to the worksite and living accommodations to ensure volunteers have access to clean water at all times.



WHAT IS A WORK TRIP?

A work trip is undertaken by a work team, which is a group of 10-60 Americans from churches, schools or other groups. They come to Mexico for about a week and partner with Acción on construction projects in villages where help is needed. The work is hard, the weather is hot, but the experience is life changing.



TYPES OF SERVICE

- Church, Community Center or Home repairs and additions - *All construction projects are fully coordinated by experienced Acción staff.*
 - Concrete block walls and roofs
 - Concrete floors
 - Painting
 - Disaster relief projects
- Vacation Bible School with local Mayan children
- Fellowship opportunities with adults and community members
- Other service opportunities may be available depending on the interests of the team (ie eyeglasses distribution)



ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Visits to local ancient Mayan ruins
- Living immersively in a Mayan village with other youth and adults.
- Opportunities to practice Spanish and hear the native Mayan language. VBS and interaction with villagers is usually in Spanish, with gestures and staff help.*



BENEFITS

- Faith development
- Leadership opportunities
- Cultural awareness
- Community building
- Spanish language development*
- Service hours for school
- International experience
- It is an adventure!

**Spanish language fluency is not a requirement for participation!*

ITINERARY & DAILY ROUTINE

- The typical trip lasts 7-8 days and includes 3-4 days of work. The other days are spent traveling or visiting a cultural site. The trip's length can be adjusted based on the group's needs.
- Work days are structured to maximize safety and efficiency. Construction work is done early in the morning, when temperatures are cooler, with a siesta time after the noon meal.

- Vacation Bible School is led in the late afternoon.
- Meals are prepared and enjoyed together as a team.
- End day(s) of R&R at beach or Mayan ruins use tourist hotels and restaurants which staff can recommend.



LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS

- Mission Team members typically stay in groups in community centers or homes. The homeowners stay with other community members when groups stay in their homes.
- Everyone sleeps in a traditional hammock.
- Running water is not guaranteed (but clean fresh water is always available). We are truly immersed in the local Mayan community!

COSTS

- \$600 is paid to Acción Ministries to cover ground transportation, construction supplies, hammocks, and staffing. Ask about discounts or scholarships.
- Additional costs include: airfare, food, R&R, momentos, incidentals, etc.



Extensive Team Leader's Handbook:

