

Honduras Mission Trip



March 16-23, 2024

Presbytery of Arkansas and friends

as a Covenant Partners with the Presbytery of Honduras

Mission Trip Directors: Rev. Phil Butin and Leigh Woodruff,
Co-Chairs of the Presbytery of Arkansas Honduras Mission
Subcommittee.

Note Important Dates:

- ✧ Nov. 9, 2023 7pm Informational Zoom Meeting
Apply for Passport, if needed.
- ✧ Dec. 1, 2023 Application due
- ✧ Jan. 11, 2024 7pm Orientation Meeting (hybrid)
- ✧ Jan. 19, 2024 Final day for trip commitment. Purchase flights.
50% deposit due for in-country expenses.
Passport information due
- ✧ March 7, 2024 Final Pre-departure Meeting (hybrid)
- ✧ March 16, 2024 Leave for Honduras!

Mission Trip to Honduras Participant Form

Application Due Date: Friday Dec 1, 2023

Fill out Google Form online or email this to Leigh at
leighwoodruff83@gmail.com

Name _____ DOB _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

School _____ Grade _____

Home Church _____

Emergency Contact Info _____

Do you speak Spanish (circle)? No Basic Elementary Advanced Bilingual

Are you experienced in mission work? Yes/No Explain.

Have you ever traveled outside the U.S.? Yes/No Where? _____

Do you or your family consider you a picky eater? _____

On a scale of 1-10, 1 = poor and 10 = great, what is your current level of your health? ____

A physical and/or discussion with your GP about your ability to participate in this trip is required.

Do you have any health conditions or allergies we should be aware of? _____

Briefly explain why you want to go on this Mission Trip.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

If you plan to request a scholarship from your church, please ask your Mission committee and/or Session as soon as possible. (Total estimated cost \$1,200-\$1,500.) We ask each scholarship participant to pay and/or raise at least 20%.

ESSAY Only for Youth and College Students: 1-Page, Typed, with your name at the top. Please tell us what skills, talents, or special gifts you possess that you'd like to share on a global ministry trip as well as what you hope to gain from this trip. Also include both a church and personal reference with contact info. Then, include this with your application.

IMMUNIZATIONS:

Plan an appointment with your doctor for a physical, to discuss this possibility of this mission trip, and what vaccines are recommended for the area of Tegucigalpa, Honduras. You can also check the CDC website.

REQUIRED: COVID and boosters, Tetanus, Hepatitis A, Typhoid

SUGGESTED: ASK YOUR DOCTOR Flu, Hepatitis B, and Malaria

COVID TEST: A documented negative test is required within 72-hours of travel.

YOUR COMMITMENT TO THIS TRIP:

I understand not everyone who applies for this mission trip will necessarily be selected to go. I understand this is a mission trip to a foreign country with different culture, customs and I will be respectful of and attentive to those differences. I will do my best to follow all guidance from orientation meetings and trip leaders as to what is appropriate, safe, and helpful. I will avoid anything that might put others or myself in danger. I will not transport or consume illegal drugs during this trip, or consume alcohol while in Honduras. I will follow the directions and guidance set by the trip leaders. I am aware this trip is not a vacation, but is meant to strengthen friendships and partnerships with our Honduran brothers and sisters in Christ while spreading the love of God and following the example and teaching of Jesus Christ.

If you commit to the statement above, please sign below.

Signature

Date

Please send your information and copy of your passport back to Leigh ASAP. Type in or write your responses, send/scan your documents and email them to leigh at leigh.woodruff@yahoo.com. Please also promote this trip to others and your church.

ORIENTATION MEETINGS:

As you can see from the schedule on the front page, our first informational meeting Zoom/Hybrid meeting is scheduled for Nov. 9, 2023 at 7 p.m. Additional meetings will be scheduled, so team members can meet and get to know each other for the trip, as well as learn culture, expectations, travel and packing tips, and generally prepare. This will be a PowerPoint presentation with discussion format and available to join online via Zoom. Parents and partners are encouraged to attend as well.

MISSION TRIP DIRECTORS:

Leigh Woodruff, originally from Fayetteville, AR, is a life-long Presbyterian and world traveler. She grew up learning and speaking Spanish and has visited over 30 countries. She has experience in project management, marketing, and Presbyterian ministry work. Leigh is an ordained elder and former camp and conference staff member. She is First Aid Certified and Solar 1 Trained by *Solar Under The Sun*. This will be Leigh's 7th mission trip to Honduras since 2014. If you would like to discuss *anything* with her, feel free to call or text her at (479) 601-1437.



Rev. Phil Butin, serves as a co-pastor of First United Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville with his wife Jan. Also bilingual in Spanish, Phil has been deeply committed to the continued Honduras ministry partnership since 2014, once traveling to nearly all of the congregations in the Presbytery of Honduras for a 3 month sabbatical. He is personally acquainted with many of the pastors and church members of the Honduran Presbytery, and is known as "Hermano Felipe." This will be his 7th trip to Honduras since 2014. Please don't hesitate to call or text (479-200-6473), with any questions or concerns that may arise.

TASKS FOR THIS TRIP INCLUDE:

TBD

PASSPORTS are essential and must not expire within 6 months AFTER the last day of the trip.

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

We ask that each participant purchase their own airfare in their own name. We’ve found this to be easiest with cancellations, delays, and booking. We will coordinate to be on the same flight or meet at our connecting airport. The team will be flying in from the US to Comayagua, Honduras, the new airport outside of the capital in Tegucigalpa. Most of the group will be flying in/out of Tulsa and we can arrange a Fayetteville church van for group transport to/from the Tulsa airport. For those traveling through other airports, Leigh will help coordinate our travel so we arrive and depart together.

Pending Flight information

- **Departing - Sat, March 16**
 - Leaving early in the morning and arriving in Honduras around 12-3pm.
- **Arriving - Sat, March 23, 20**
 - Leaving Honduras around noon and arriving back around 8-10pm.

TRAVEL INSURANCE:

Some people have travel insurance included on their credit card purchases. Otherwise, purchasing supplemental travel insurance is *strongly* recommended.

TRIP ITINERARY: (This will change!) .

- **All TBD**
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- **3/16 Saturday** Travel from USA to Comeagua, drive to Villa de Gracia (2 hrs) get settled meet with in-country coordinator, eat dinner.
- **3/17 Sunday** Worship and visit
- **3/18 Monday**
- **3/19 Tuesday**
- **3/20 Wednesday**
- **3/21 Thursday**
- **3/22 Friday**
- **3/23 Saturday** Travel back to USA

COSTS OF THE TRIP:

The estimated cost of the trip is **\$1,200-1,500** per person, including all transportation, room and board. Estimated costs per person include:

Flight	\$ 900.00
In-country Transportation	\$ 100.00
Villa de Gracia and Board x6 (\$45/day, Room, Breakfast and Dinner)	\$ 270.00
Hotel (Double-Room) x1	\$ 50

Note that these costs will change. Also, personally please bring \$100 for your meals while traveling and you may also want about \$100-200 as spending money for any souvenirs and snacks.

IN-COUNTRY TRANSPORTATION:

We rent vehicles and hire professional Honduran drivers known to the presbytery.

VILLA DE GRACIA:

Villa de Gracia is the camp and conference center owned by the Presbyterian Women of Honduras. They work and run it as a place for groups to stay near the capital of Tegucigalpa. There are rooms with 4-6 bunk beds along with a bathroom. Linens, pillows, and towels are provided. Hot water showers are available. Cell phone service is very spotty but there is a plan to install wifi .



We'll also eat breakfast and dinner here. Lunch will be bagged or purchased on the road.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND PREPARATION FOR THE TRIP:

Once all applications and requests for scholarships are in, participants will receive more information about this specific trip as the itinerary and costs are more known. You will also be given more information on how to prepare yourself, and a packing list.

DEVOTIONAL:

Each participant is asked to prepare a 10 min. devotion to lead for our group at some point during our trip. We'll have a sign-up sheet of times.

MONEY/CASH/CARDS:

Contact your bank and credit card companies to inform them you will be out of the country, or they may freeze your finances flagging a security concern. Mostly, you will not need cash in-country. Cards are accepted most places and then you won't have to exchange money for Lempira. Also... if you do exchange any cash in-country, it needs to be the crispest, newest-looking bills. No tears or crumpled bills.

CELLPHONES:

Discuss a 1-week international plan with your carrier. Wifi and signal is spotty in certain parts of the country. Inexpensive plans often cover texting to the US, with limited calling and internet usage are normally available.

MORE ABOUT HONDURAS:

Participants are also encouraged to read more about the culture, history, and government of Honduras prior to our getting together. Be aware, online news outlets normally only cover the negative and shocking... so research with caution and understanding that safety regarding where we travel, sleep, work, and worship is the highest priority of the Hondurans who will be our hosts.

Honduras is a republic in Central America, bordered to the west by Guatemala, to the southwest by El Salvador, to the southeast by Nicaragua, to the south by the Pacific Ocean, and to the north by the Gulf of Honduras, an inlet of the Caribbean. The most notable indigenous cultures are the Maya and Lenca. The country was conquered by Spain in the 16th century. Honduras became independent in 1821. The major exports are minerals, coffee, tropical fruit, sugar cane, and clothing

Honduras has five registered political parties. The government has experienced instability in the last few decades as well as considerable hoarding of financial resources by those in leadership. Parts of Honduras have been caught up in the illegal drug trade and its coinciding violence. On the upside, Honduras is considered a biodiversity hotspot because of the numerous plant and animal species that can be found there. Much of the terrain is mountainous, but there are narrow plains along the coasts, a large undeveloped lowland jungle in the northeast, and the heavily populated lowland Sula valley in the northwest. In March, the mean temperature in Tegucigalpa is 74°F (maximum temperature is 85°F and minimum temperature is 61°F). The climate is enjoyable around Southwestern Honduras this time of year. March is not during the rainy season and weather should not be a problem throughout our trip.
