

# Honduras Mission Trip

## March 22-29, 2025

Presbytery of Arkansas and friends

as Covenant Partners with the Presbytery of Honduras

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

Note Important Dates:

- ✧ Nov. 9, 2024 7pm Informational Zoom Meeting
- ✧ Dec. 1, 2024 Application due
- ✧ Jan. ?, 2025 Final day for trip commitment. Purchase flights.
- ✧ Jan. 16, 2025 7pm Orientation Meeting (Zoom)
- ✧ Feb. 20, 2025 7pm Orientation Meeting 2 (Zoom)  
50% deposit due for in-country expenses.  
Passport information due
- ✧ March 7, 2025 Final Pre-departure Meeting
- ✧ March 22, 2025 Leave for Honduras!

## Mission Trip to Honduras Participant Form

Application Due Date: Sunday, Dec. 1, 2024  
email to Leigh at [leighwoodruff83@gmail.com](mailto: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 the 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 and what you hope to gain from this trip. Also, include a church and personal reference with contact info. Then, include this with your application for Leigh.

**IMMUNIZATIONS:**

Plan an appointment with your doctor for a physical and discuss the possibility of this mission trip and what vaccines are recommended for 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.

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**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 cultures, and 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, aware that this trip is not a vacation, but is 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.

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**Signature**

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**Date**

Please send your information and a copy of your passport back to Leigh ASAP. Type in or write your responses, send/scan your documents, and email them to leigh at [leighwoodruff83@gmail.com](mailto:leighwoodruff83@gmail.com) . Please also promote this trip to others and your church.

## ORIENTATION MEETINGS:

Our Zoom meetings are scheduled for February and March at 7 p.m. Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed. These meetings are for team members to 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 a discussion format and available to join online via Zoom. Parents and partners are encouraged to attend as well and listen in.

## MISSION TRIP DIRECTORS:

**Leigh Woodruff**, originally from Fayetteville, AR, is a lifelong Presbyterian and world traveler. She grew up learning and speaking Spanish and has visited 35 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 8th trip to Honduras since 2014. If you would like to discuss *anything* with her, call or text her at (479) 601-1437.



**Rev. Jesse Gonzalez**, is a joyfully retired Presbyterian pastor. Born in Mexico and educated at Austin Seminary, Pastor Jesse has served churches in Mexico, North Carolina, Arkansas, and Texas. He's passionate about border ministries and working with students. Pastor Jesse gives passionate sermons in English and/or Spanish, and builds lasting relationships wherever he goes. He first traveled to Honduras in 2024. Please don't hesitate to call or text (479) 445-2483, with any questions or concerns that may arise.



## WHAT EXACTLY WILL WE BE DOING?:

There is a process. The Presbytery of Honduras fields requests from churches and matches our team with a work project 2-3 months before our trip. We don't yet know, but expect construction work with mixing cement and building materials.

## TRAVEL DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS:

- **PASSPORTS:** are essential and must not expire within 6 months AFTER the last day of the trip.
- **PERMISSION LETTERS:** from parents of a minor child (under age 21 in Honduras) not traveling with them.
- **OTHER:** Your home country (Non-U.S. citizens) might require background checks or other supporting documentation.
- **TPS Status:** If you have TPS student status, you are not eligible for this trip due to Honduran and U.S. travel/entrance requirements. Sorry.

**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 bookings. (If you need help purchasing your flight, discuss privately with Leigh) 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 in Comayagua. Leigh will help coordinate our travel so we arrive and depart together.

**Pending Flight information**

- **Departing - Sat, March 22, 2025**
  - Leaving early in the morning and arriving in Honduras around 12-3pm.
- **Arriving - Sat, March 29, 2025**
  - Leaving Honduras around noon and arriving back around 8-10pm.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:**

Some people have travel insurance included in their credit card travel purchases. Otherwise, purchasing supplemental travel insurance is *strongly* recommended when purchasing your flight.

**TRIP ITINERARY: (This will change!)**

- **3/22 Saturday:** Travel from the USA to Comayagua, Honduras. Meet the in-country coordinator, Alex Rodas, and then travel by bus to Villa de Gracia (about 2 hrs), where we will get settled, eat dinner, and discuss.
- **3/23 Sunday:** Worship together, hangout, tour
- **3/24 Monday:** Workday
- **3/25 Tuesday:** Workday
- **3/26 Wednesday:** Workday and worship with a rural congregation.
- **3/27 Thursday:** Workday
- **3/28 Friday:** Tourist Day. Return to Villa de Gracia
- **3/29 Saturday:** Travel from Honduras to the USA

**COSTS OF THE TRIP:**

The estimated cost of the trip is **\$1,400-1,700** per person, including all transportation, room and board. Estimated costs per person include:

Flight	\$ 1100.00
Contribution to Contruction Costs	\$ 200.00
In-country Transportation	\$ 100.00
Villa de Gracia and Board x6 (\$45/day, Room, Breakfast and Dinner)	\$ 270.00

Note that these costs will change. Also, please bring \$200+ for your meals while traveling and spending money for shopping, 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 only occasionally available. Cell phone service is spotty and there is no wifi. We'll eat breakfast and dinner here most days. 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, no more than 18 participants will be selected. They 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-minute devotion to lead for our group at some point during our trip. We'll have a sign-up sheet of times once in Honduras.

#### **MONEY/CASH/CARDS:**

Before departing, you *must* 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 in most places and then you won't have to exchange money for Lempira. Also... if you *do* wish to exchange any cash in-country, it needs to be the crispest, newest-looking bills. No tears or crumpled bills.

#### **CELLPHONES:**

Before departing, discuss a 1-week international plan with your carrier. Wifi and signal are unavailable or spotty in many parts of the country. Inexpensive plans often cover texting to the US, with limited calling and internet usage normally available.

## **MORE ABOUT HONDURAS:**

Participants are also encouraged to read more about the culture, history, and government of Honduras before our getting together. Be aware that 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 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 79°F (maximum temperature is 95°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.

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