

Grove Kids Family Missions Trip

Rocky Point, Mexico

October 1-3, 2022



Vision: To allow families to serve together, families to connect with other families, and volunteers to invest in the kids of the Grove in new and dynamic ways: serving the world together!

When: October 1st-3rd (Saturday - Monday) See Itinerary Below

Where: Rocky Point - El Mirador Village Hotel
(Calle Mariano Matamoros 140, Benito Juárez, 83554 Puerto Peñasco, Son., Mexico)

Cost: \$175 per person (Additional cost if riding in church van)

Includes: Lodging, Meals, Activity/Construction Supplies ***Fundraising is one way we encourage families to pay for the trip as it gets your community involved as well!**

Who will we be working with?: Oc3an View Ministry (Mexican non-profit organization) - <http://www.oc3anviewministry.com/>

*Our current service projects include running a VBS, a sport's camp, and doing various painting projects as needed. These are all subject to change as we strive to meet the needs of our mission partner!

Extra Individual Costs: Mexican Car Insurance (**Mandatory**), Trip/Health Insurance, and Cell Phone Coverage (See the FAQ's for more details)

Additional Details:

-This short-term missions trip is tailored specifically to families and volunteers of Grove Kids! There will be a significant amount of flexibility as we welcome all ages and help accommodate your family's needs (ie – naptimes and early bedtimes as needed).

-We will offer several hours of free time each day to explore the surrounding area, enjoy our beach front hotel, or simply spend quality time with your family.

-Each morning and evening, we will have devotional sessions where we will hear from a local speaker, be challenged in our faith, and pray together. We'll also have several debrief sessions where we'll be able to share impactful moments.

NEXT STEP: Apply for the trip here: <https://serve-the-world-application-2022-the-grove.pushpayevents.com/booking/attendees/new> Or go to the Serve The World tab on The Grove's website.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 31ST

Trip Itinerary (subject to change)

Saturday

- 7:30 AM **Church vans and private caravanning vehicles** are loaded and depart 8:00 am. This trip takes about 3.5 to 4 hours. Bring a sack lunch for the ride. We will not be stopping for lunch.
- 12:30-1:00 Check in at the Mirador Hotel. Get room keys, change into work clothes and get ready for departure to work sites
- 1:00-1:30 Team Huddle
- 1:30 -4:00 Serving the community at various work sites in Rocky Point: VBS, Construction/Painting
- 4:00—6:00 Free Time at hotel. Beach, pool, bocce ball, naps etc...
- 6:00—6:45 Dinner at hotel
- 6:45—7:00 Quick informational meeting about serve plans for Sunday
- 7:00—8:00 Session 1/ Pastor Marlon/Debrief

Sunday

- 7:00—7:45 Breakfast
- 7:45—8:15 Session 2
- 8:15 Head out to Church(es)
- 12:00 Lunch at hotel
- 12:45--1:00 Team Huddle
- 1:00—4:00 Sports Camp, Construction/Painting
- 4:00--6:00 Free Time at hotel. Beach, pool, bocce ball, naps etc...
- 6:00—6:45 Dinner at hotel
- 6:45—7:00 Quick informational meeting about serve plans for Sunday
- 7:00—8:00 Session 3/Debrief

Monday

- 8:00—9:30 Breakfast & Session/ Final Debrief
- 9:30-11:00 Clean Up & Pack
- 11:00 Check-out/Depart (lunch on own)

Note: *You have the option to extend your stay (on your own) if you brought your own vehicle. Hotel Check out is at 11:00 am. We will caravan back to The Grove.

Micah 6:8 – He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Do something, love somebody, and walk toward someone!

Packing List

Clothing		Miscellaneous	
	Work t-shirts		Light blanket/pillow (optional)
	Work shorts		Air mattress/sleeping bag (optional)
	Work long-sleeve shirts		Snacks (MANY!)
	Work long pants		Sunglasses
	Clothes for church service		Beach towel
	Lightweight Sweatshirt/Jacket		Bible/reading material
	Pajamas/toothbrush		Reusable water bottle, labeled
	Socks		Camera/phone and charger
	Underwear		Ear plugs
	Closed-toe work shoes		Journal, pen
	Flip-flop sandals		Flashlight
	Casual clothes for evenings		Ear plugs for a snoring roommate (no joke!)
	Work gloves		Bedding for more kids
	Swimwear		Money
	Hat/visor		Spending money
			Offering/donation, optional
	Toiletries		
	Shampoo & Conditioner		
	Sunscreen		Documentation
	Prescriptions		Passport OR Drivers License & Birth Certificate
	Allergy/pain medication		Trip Information Packet
	Insect repellent		GPS (sometimes no service)
	Lotion/lip balm		Mexican Auto insurance (drivers) (print)
	Soap		Medical insurance (print)
	Hand sanitizer		

Please leave valuables at home. This includes anything of "personal" value such as one of kind personal items.

FAQs

Who? Our mission host, Oc3an View Ministry (OVM), is a Mexican non-profit organization that welcomes people of all walks of life to enjoy serving God and serving others. All ages welcome- there is an option for kids/families to stay at the hotel if needed depending on needs o kids during the trip.

What clothing should I bring? Please dress appropriately for the weekend, modesty is encouraged. Check weather.com to help you determine temperatures and **bring layers**.

Saturday: Think comfortable! The drive down Saturday will be in a vehicle for an extended amount of time. Work clothes for the afternoon. Saturday dinner is casual. Note: The evenings often feel cooler than expected due to the sea breeze.

Sunday: Church clothes and then comfortable sports clothes for our Sports camp or for some work wear. You may be painting, doing drywall, plastering, or be a part of another messy project. **Free time:** Think Relax! You may have time to shop, walk on the beach, swim, or explore local tourism areas. Bring a swimsuit and towel if you'd like to enjoy the sea.

Monday: Comfortable clothes for the ride back home.

Do I need additional money? Additional money will be needed for Monday lunch. You may also want to buy snacks, souvenirs, or make a cash donation to our mission partners. Gas money as well as an extra money needed while there to care for family needs.

How can I help? I don't have specific skills. There is definitely a great way for you to help! Please don't think of what you CAN'T do! The trip is very diverse, from intentional Bible teaching, playing with the local kids, art projects, sports and faith day camp, building and painting. We need help cooking for the attendees, cleaning up, etc. You name it! If you come with a heart to serve others, then you will be needed and appreciated. If you are open to it, you will likely LEARN a NEW skill!

Should I bring tools?

Bringing basic tools is not required, but donations of tools and painting supplies are always appreciated. If you have your favorite tools that you love to work with, bring them!

Should I bring bedding?

The hotel provides all bedding, including towels. Rooms have 2 queen beds. Bring Pack-n-Plays or blow up mattresses if you need more space for your family.

Will my phone or computer work in Mexico? If you need cell service, talk to your provider before heading down. AT&T and Verizon offers some plans with free Mexico service. T- Mobile generally works well in Rocky Point too. Wi-Fi is available at the hotel. BUT, if at all possible, we encourage you to leave as much of this behind and direct your attention to connecting with God, others, and self. Let it all GO for the weekend!

Note: The U.S. phone number for Oc3an View Ministry is 480-264-1172. Kyle has T- Mobile that works well, his number is 601-748-3545. Christine Sani's Verizon number should work well too 704.530.8665.

Can I drink the water?

The water served in restaurants and resorts is generally OK to drink, but otherwise uses the filtered water provided or bring bottled water (we will also provide some bottled water).

Is alcohol or smoking allowed? Consumption of alcoholic beverages and smoking is banned in main lodging, meeting, and group areas. As a rule, both drinking and smoking are not allowed throughout the weekend.

I am driving my own vehicle, what do I need to know? You will **need** to get insurance for your vehicle, it is the law. Typical US car insurance doesn't cover you in Puerto Peñasco, Mexico (aka: Rocky Point). Please have a printout of the insurance policy and a full tank of gas when arriving to meet the caravan. Insurance suggestions: There are a lot of options on the Internet for Mexico Car Insurance or even through your current provider. Kyle uses Sanborns. <https://www.sanborns.com> (approximately \$30-\$50 for the weekend)

What do I do in case of a medical emergency?

You will need to purchase your own travel medical insurance. The cost for a weekend is around \$20. Go to IMG and look for the Patriot Plan, this is an easy and affordable travel insurance website.

Rocky Point has several medical clinics with English speaking doctors and reliable and inexpensive service. The Red Cross (Cruz Roja) provides free emergency service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Emergency Numbers (dial from Mexican phone): Red Cross/Ambulance-065, All Other Emergencies-066.

Mission Trip Tips

Be flexible. Flexibility is the key. The needs of the ministry you are working with may change, and groups need to be prepared to change directions in order to serve effectively. Be sensitive to what your families need. If it's not what you prepared to do, God may have something different in mind for your day. "He or she that is flexible will not be bent out of shape!"

Go as servants. The primary motivation for a mission team has to be to go and serve God. Serving may mean that we will have to make a lot of adjustments. They are not going to have all the kinds of food we want, the best place to sleep, all the comforts--we might not even have a hot shower, but it's a wonderful opportunity to experience life that most of the world lives in most of the time.

Leave your agenda behind. Accomplishing things is not our primary mission, rather it is to love on the people of Mexico, learn from them and build up our families to have more understanding and empathy for the people and world God created. Understand and support the work local churches and ministries are already doing, versus trying to "fix" things on your own. Remember, they are the ones we want to see win and be the hero's as they minister daily to the people in their communities.

Be a team. Make sure we all have the same focus (***our focus is on learning, fellowship, encouragement and long-term engagement***).

Open yourself to the world. Going on a mission trip can change your life. Be open to learning more about the world and about the possibility that you can serve. **And be open to learning what other people and cultures can teach you. Recognize the gifts and strengths God has given them.** Build relationships by using your gifts to serve each other.

When we get back from a mission's trip, we may not have accomplished what we think we should have, but we are changed. Mexico will change us! We will be different people. We will be even more excited about serving in our home church, the Grove, excited about prayer, and excited about being part of what God is doing in the world at large. But we the only way we get to be changed is by going out of our comfortable surroundings and seeing and serving the world!

Mission Partners/Organizations

Oc3an View Ministry (Our Mission Host) – Conrado (Conrad) Flores founded this ministry to provide outreach and serving opportunities in the community of Puerto Peñasco (aka: Rocky Point) for mission groups of various sizes. OVM has a passion to serve alongside others to help those in need, while sharing God's Word. They are committed to building lifelong relationships with local churches, community centers, rehab centers, schools, and others. They also provide food and clothing through their donation facility. We partner with them in these endeavors. Find out more at www.facebook.com/Oc3anViewMinistry or visit their website at www.oc3anviewministry.com

Local Community Centers – We have worked with several Christian community centers located in one of the most impoverished areas east of town (San Rafael). They serve the community through Bible studies, food, children's activities, etc. We support them through children's ministry, work projects, serving meals, and donations.

About Rocky Point

Puerto Peñasco, also known as Rocky Point, is a quaint fishing village located 60 miles southwest of the U.S.-Mexico border on the Sea of Cortez. It is approximately a 4-hour drive from Chandler. Passports are required for ages 18 and up, while birth certificates are fine for children under age 18. Mexican car insurance is **mandatory** if you are driving your personal vehicle. See suggestions for where to purchase car insurance under FAQ's.

The language is Spanish. Most of the people we will be working with do not speak English; however, most locals who work in tourism speak English quite well. The local currency is the Mexican peso. You do not need to exchange dollars for pesos, because almost all establishments will take US currency. Most places will also take credit cards. Be sure to advise your credit card company that you will be using your card in Mexico. The current exchange rate is about 19 pesos to \$1.

The Malecón in the Old Port part of town is alive with shops that sell everything from tourist souvenirs to fine art. The fish market at the Malecón is a popular stop for the fresh catch of the day, especially during the shrimp season, September to March. There are also many good restaurants to be found along the Malecón, some of which provide stunning sunset views of the Sea of Cortez.

The Sea of Cortez, or Gulf of California, is known for its deep blue waters and white sand beaches. Among the most notable is Sandy Beach, home to most of the newer resorts and to the future cruise ship port. Swimming, snorkeling, parasailing, jet skis and banana boats can be enjoyed virtually all year long, not to mention the wonderful fishing and oyster beds! Swimming in the area is very safe and generally emulates lake conditions with no rip tides and very calm water. Temperatures are similar to those in Arizona, and the average sea temperature is very close to the outside air. This region of the Gulf of California experiences one of the greatest tidal shifts in the world. Twice a day the ocean will rise and fall as much as 24 vertical feet. This extreme tidal shift makes for excellent tide pooling.