

Frequently Asked Questions

Mexico Mission 2010

April 10-17

How do we get to Mexico? We travel in rented and personal vans, driving from LAUMC to San Diego on Saturday, and crossing the border on Sunday. In addition to carrying passengers, the vans carry our camping and personal gear, our kitchen, food and water, and our building tools and equipment (except those that we rent in Mexico).

Who drives? Each vehicle has a designated driver and a backup driver. These individuals will be assigned close to the departure date. Every adult over 25 should be prepared to drive, so bring your driver's license and driving glasses.

Do we need passports? Yes. Beginning June 1, 2009, the U.S. government implemented the full requirements of the land and sea phase of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). The proposed rules require most U.S. citizens entering the United States at sea or land ports of entry to have a passport, passport card, or [WHTI-compliant document](#).

Do we need shots? Travel to Mexico does not require extra immunizations. Our mission, however, requires a current tetanus shot. Check with your own health provider for other recommendations.

How far will we be from the border? How far will we camp from our building site? Our campsite will probably be 15 or 20 miles from the border, which is typically a 45 minute drive depending on city traffic, border crossing and local road conditions. Our building sites will probably be 20-45 minutes or so from the campsite.

What is the camping facility like? Imagine a gravel parking lot, or large grassy field. No tables, no trees, no electricity, no running water. Port-a-potties are kept extremely clean, and an enclosure is provided for bucket and SunShower showers.

What is the LAUMC camp set-up like? Each family brings and sets up their own tent in a semi-circle around our campfire and cooking area. We all work together to set up two or three large awnings, several large tables and gas stoves that become the kitchen, serving area for our meals, and hand-washing stations. Our camping chairs around the campfire become the dining room.

What about drinking water? AMOR Ministries provides purified water at camp for drinking. Large water coolers at each building site are refilled at our campsite each morning by members of the site's building team. Each team member must bring their own insulated water bottle. We drink a gallon or more of water each day to keep healthy and hydrated.

What about showers? We fill our SunShowers (or buckets) from local water provided by AMOR. It is *not* drinking water so don't brush your teeth with it, or shower with your mouth open! AMOR provides about 2 gallons per person per day for showering. Believe it or not, it is enough for an adult with long hair to clean up quite nicely.

What about food? The world-famous cooking and food committee plans and shops for all the food we will consume in Mexico. All team members are assigned to do a turn or two preparing, cooking, and cleaning up from meals. Work-site snacks are provided each morning and afternoon. Accepting food from your families is not recommended. We provide vegetarian options. You need to tell our food crew about any special food needs.