

Reach World Mission Team Manual



Welcome!

We are Michael & Chrisi Shead and we're excited to have you join us for a week of outreaches and activities in Guatemala!

Since 2011 we have served in Chichicastenango teaching Bible courses, helping with needy families, leading outreaches and developing a discipleship ministry for kids.

What's a Chichicastenango?

A "chichicaste" is a prickly plant that when touched leaves an uncomfortable welt on the skin. "-nango" is a suffix that means land or place of. So, the town where we live is the kind of the "land of the nettles". Don't let your hand drag through the leaves alongside the paths or you might get a chance to meet a chichicaste nettle plant in person.

Chichicastenango is about 4 hours outside of Guatemala City (depending on traffic) in the Western Highlands. We live among mainly Mayan people in a region with about 150,000 people living across about 90 communities scattered across canyons and cornfields. Many of the people are businesspeople, farmers and talented craftsmen and women. Many of the young people work and study.

Chichicastenango is known for its traditional Mayan beliefs that are still strongly practiced with witchcraft, idol worship, sacrifices and mixture with Catholicism. Evangelical Christianity is also popular and there are many churches in the area, but the need for discipleship and relationship with Christ is great.

The Team Dream:

We hope that your experience in Guatemala will be a huge blessing to everyone you encounter in and during your travels. We hope that they will see Christ in you and sense His love and care. We also hope that your experience will be one that opens your eyes to what life is like in Guatemala for the families you get to know and the missionaries you serve with. We hope that you will share your testimony and tell someone about following Christ. We hope you will love the people like Christ does. We hope you will leave with a better understanding of how you can serve the Lord right in your own communities as well as supporting and encouraging and even going to the mission field in the future as God leads you!

Passports/Travel documents:

Yes! You need a passport to go to Guatemala! Get yours as soon as you start planning for the trip. It can take a while. If you have one, check the expiration date to make sure

you will still have at least six months left after your return flight. If there won't be six months left, get a new passport!

Make a copy of your passport to keep separately or with your team leader.

When you arrive, Reach leaders will collect your passports for safe keeping and return them to you when you are ready to leave.

Forms to fill out:

Visit www.reachworld.org/teams for forms and additional information BEFORE you come.

Travel Insurance:

Teams should have travel insurance either as a whole (some churches already have something they use for this) or individually. Check with your team leader for coverage. It is highly recommended that you acquire team insurance that covers international travel and emergencies in Guatemala. There are a variety of sources for this. Here are a couple of options to get you started:

- ☐ United Methodists Volunteers in Missions (no affiliation required)
<https://www.umvim.org/ncjins>
- ☐ Brotherhood Mutual <https://www.brotherhoodmutual.com/products/faith-ventures/>
- ☐ IMG Global <https://www.imglobal.com/travel-medical-insurance/>

While Reach World Mission leaders will do their best to keep you and your team safe and healthy, medical and other emergencies will be the financial responsibility of the team.

Team costs:

Team costs are based on (normally) a Saturday arrival and Saturday departure (8 days and 7 nights in Guatemala). A personalized budget will be prepared for your team. Contact us for details for a team and we can give you current costs for your team.

Team costs cover your in-country costs of:

- ☐ Pre-trip planning/coordination.
- ☐ A host to be with you the entire stay (up to the airport dropoff).
- ☐ Transportation in Guatemala
- ☐ Lodging
- ☐ Translators
- ☐ All meals in country
- ☐ Taxes and tips

Things not covered in team costs:

- ☐ Personal items you may purchase.
- ☐ "Fun day" extras like Ziplining, mountain hikes, etc.

Project costs:

Depending on your chosen projects. Projects may be things like: light construction, outreaches, water filters, solar light set, cement block projects, etc.

Payment:

Payment of the Team and Project costs should be sent to Reach World Mission, 2468 Cavalry Rd. Garland, KS 66741 or sent as an international bank wire deposit (we'll provide the most current instructions for your bank).

What to wear:

A fleece, raincoat or jacket are recommended for everyone. (See packing list for more suggestions.)

Men/boys:

Formal:

Slacks or khaki pants with a button-down shirt, dark or dress shoes. (If speaking at a church service: a tie and or sports coat is recommended)

Casual Events:

Good condition/dark jeans and polo or button-down shirt, and casual shoes

Relaxed:

Jeans and t-shirt, and casual shoes

Messy work:

Jeans, t-shirt, old shoes or boots (things that can get really dirty or painted)

Hotel/Guesthouse:

This is up to you but should always be modest and considerate of other team members and those working at the hotel. Swimwear should be modest.

Notes:

Shorts would be best for the hotel or if we are playing soccer with the youth. Most people here don't wear shorts except for sports. Not many here dress as casually here as normal summer attire in the States.

Women/girls:

Formal:

Skirt and blouse. Flats or dress shoes. High heels are not recommended.

Casual Events:

Good condition/dark jeans or pants with a casual blouse or shirt. Casual shoes.

Relaxed:

Jeans and t-shirt, casual shoes

Messy work:

Jeans, t-shirt, old shoes or boots (things that can get really dirty or painted on)

Hotel/Guesthouse:

This is up to you but should always be modest and considerate of other team members and those working at the hotel. Swimwear should be modest and/or a cover should be worn.

NOTE:

Please no yoga pants or similar tight leggings unless under a skirt or other clothing. Shirts and skirts should be modest length/height. Shorts should be a modest length.

Rules of the road

Agreements

All participants on a Reach World Mission trip are required to recognize that by participating on this mission trip, their actions, attitudes, words and interactions have an impact on how others see them, their church, the local ministry, hosting missionaries and Jesus Christ. Considering this, we ask you to strive to be an example of Christ in your interactions with others on your team, in the community and those with whom you come into contact along the way in, to and from Guatemala.

Participants are also required to agree that during their time in Guatemala, whether in transit or on the mission site, they will not have, use, imbibe, ingest, inhale, inject or participate in the use of any illegal substances, tobacco products, nor drink alcohol, nor participate in extra marital sexual activity.

These agreements must be accepted in the Team Member Info Form that should be filled out before planning details of the trip. The form can be found here:

www.reachworld.org/teams

Travel notes:

Flights

Please always travel as a group. Unless necessary, having the same flight avoids a lot of scheduling difficulties. If you need to come in on different flights, let us know as soon as possible so we can coordinate the best schedule for you.

Where possible, try to schedule flights that arrive before 3:00 p.m. and depart after 11 a.m. We will plan travel to and from the city depending on your arrival and departure times.

In country

Depending on your team size, we'll be traveling in vans or shuttles on longer trips. We'll also get around by foot and sometimes by mototaxi (tuc tucs).

Travel from Guatemala City to Chichicastenango takes about 4 hours depending on traffic and road conditions. We plan a rest stop along the way for a snack and bathroom break. The roads are very curvy in the mountains. Use motion sickness medicine if you think this will affect your comfort.

Preparing your team:

We ask team leaders to prepare their teams for the mission trip spiritually, physically and mentally. We'll prepare a schedule and list out the ministry outings your team needs to prepare for. Please ask for any details you need!

Packing

See the packing list below. Baggage and limitations vary by airline so check your baggage weights, sizes, and limits with your airline.

IMPORTANT PACKING NOTE: Check your bags (all of them) for anything related to firearms or weapons before packing your travel items. Remove that stuff! (Bullets, bullet casings, clips, weapons, etc.) There was a team member (with another ministry) who forgot about some bullets in his bag. He made it through security and got caught with them here in Guatemala. He was arrested and had to stay in Guatemala for about 6 months for all the legalities. He lost his job back home, and it was a really big problem. We hope you like Guatemala, but we don't want you to have to stay here under arrest. CHECK YOUR BAGS WELL.

What to expect...

Before you leave home

Right before leaving the USA please go to <https://farm2.sat.gob.gt/declaDelViajeroGt-web/pages/public/declaracionJuradaDelViajero.html> fill out the declaration form and keep the QR code that is generated. They may need this at the airport on departure and will ask for it when you show your passport on arrival in Guatemala.

When you arrive

After arriving at the Guatemala City airport, you'll make your way down a long corridor. Bathrooms are available toward the end. You don't need to exchange money at the airport unless you want to. There will be a place to do that in Chichicastenango. At the end of the corridor, you'll show your passports and an immigration QR code that you'll get when you fill out the online form before you leave the states.

After you get your immigration stamp, you'll collect any checked luggage and proceed to the customs area. Here inspectors will decide if they need to see your luggage or not. Just work with them, always be honest and friendly. If they ask about what the things are for or why you are coming to Guatemala, you can explain you are here to help (not "work") with a ministry in Chichicastenango.

Then you'll make your way out of the airport. Head toward your left when you exit. One of our team members will meet you at the airport. Here's our contact info if you need it:

Michael Shead
Canton Chujupen
Chichicastenango, Quiche
Guate Cel. 5180-0787
US Phone: 616-965-1906

Travel to Chichicastenango

At the airport we'll load the vehicles with your bags, and everyone will pile in for the ride to Chichicastenango (or a place to spend the night if your flight is very late.)

The roads are quite curvy so if you need motion sickness medication, you'll want to bring that with you. We should make it to Chichicastenango in about 4 hours. Open windows are fine, but please keep your hands, head, legs, etc. inside at all times. The vehicles run close to each other, and motorcycles are even closer. It's best to not leave any of your limbs here in Guatemala.

On the way we'll take a bathroom and snack break to let everyone stretch. You'll also have opportunities to see the city, towering volcanoes, and corn and vegetable fields as well as the everyday life in the Guatemalan countryside.

Chichicastenango

As we near Chichicastenango you'll notice that many women wear the traditional hand-woven skirts and colorful blouses typical of this region. It's Ok to wave at the people, just don't be obnoxious or teasing. Please DO NOT throw anything out of the vehicles. This is littering and even if it's something for the people (like candy), it can be dangerous for children trying to run get something near the road. JUST DON'T THROW STUFF!

Guest house

At the guest house or hotel, you'll be able to find your sleeping arrangements. We'll provide you with sheets and blanket and a pillow. If you prefer a special pillow please bring your own. Please bring your own towel and washcloth as well as soap/shampoo.

Orientation

After you settle in with your bags, we'll provide an orientation time to help you know how things work here. Here are a couple of tips:

- ☐ *Don't flush the paper.* The trash can by the toilet is for that. Sewage systems here can't handle toilet paper and can clog easily. That's a mess. Use the trash can!
- ☐ *Don't drink the tap water.* Water here can have bacteria that isn't friendly to you. Avoid drinking water other than what is provided in bottles or water cooler type jugs.
- ☐ *Don't pet the street dogs.* They may look friendly, but they may bite you. Rabie shots aren't fun. (I know this from experience!)
- ☐ *Don't go off alone.* We want to keep track of everyone, so no one is lost. Stay with your team.
- ☐ *Wash your hands often.* This helps keep you healthy!
- ☐ *Do try out your Spanish with the locals!*
- ☐ They are friendly and may enjoy trying out some of their English on you!

We will be available to answer any questions you have and to help you learn, grow and serve the people. Please feel free to ask anything and let us know how we can serve you during this time!

Blessings!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael & Chrisi". The script is fluid and cursive.

Reach World Team Packing List

Travel documents

- Passport (Original AND a copy)
- U.S. Dollars (Clean bills, no rips, marks, etc.)
- Travel insurance info

Hygiene stuff:

- Toothbrush/paste
- Personal roll of toilet paper
- Personal hygiene products
- Bath towel. Washcloth

Medical

- Spare contacts/glasses
- Personal medications (in original container)
- Insect repellent
- Camara/cell phone (internet is limited)

General clothing

- Socks
- Underwear
- T-shirts
- Sturdy shoes
- Hat

- Work gloves
- Work clothes (Jeans and long sleeve shirt or t-shirt)
- Casual clothes
- Rain jacket
- Bathing suit (1-piece or with non-see-through cover)

Ministry clothes:

- Ladies (skirt and blouse/shirt)
- Men: button down shirt and slacks & belt

Other:

- Bible & Journal/notebook
- Pen
- Backpack
- Personal snacks
- Sunglasses
- Small flashlight
- Power/charging cords

Things not to bring:

- Tight clothes (yoga pants, etc.)
- Low cut shirts
- Short shorts

Please no shorts during ministry outings or public activities (**except for soccer!**)

Optional donation items...

Useful things teams can bring:

Art/School/office:

Crayons
Markers
Dry erase markers
Pens/Pencils
Pencil sharpeners
Erasers
Rulers
Notebooks
Coloring books
Spanish kids' books
Post-It notes
USB memory sticks

Craft supplies:

Paper fasteners
Yarn
Ribbon
Whole punches
Etc.
Tape
(transparent, masking, packing, or duct)
Scissors
Glue sticks
Painting brushes
Staplers & staples
Construction Paper

Personal hygiene:

Antibacterial soap
Toothbrushes
Toothpaste
Deodorant
Feminine Hygiene
Small shampoos

Small cups
Washcloths

Household:

Kitchen towels
Bath towels
Beach towels
Batteries: AA, AAA, C
Flashlights
Ziploc bags (1 gal)

Medical supplies:

Band-aids (all sizes)
Prenatal vitamins
Triple antibiotic
Surgical gloves
Digital blood pressure monitor
Thermometers
Pressure stockings
Sterile gauze

Construction/work tools:

Work gloves
Ball cap/hats
Safety glasses
Drill bits
Zip ties
(Check for your project needs)

Baby items:

Baby hats
Bottles/Nipples
Small stuffed animals

Kids items:

Small kids' toys
Children's shoes
Soccer balls
Air pump for balls
Air pump needles
Bubbles
Balloons
Pool noodles
Fun Stickers
Yard games
Science project kits
Table games like:

- Connect four
- Chess
- Checkers
- Uno
- Old maid
- Sorry
- Puzzles
- Guess Who?
- Dominos
- Ticket to ride
- Lego blocks

Bring all the items you will need for your ministry activities or projects.

Specialty items:

A video projector in good working order (for schools)

Laptop computer (for ministry or school)

Used, working smart phones (for ministry and photography classes)

Donation items NOT to bring:

- ☐ No clothes items other than those specified above.
- ☐ No large shoes (size 10+ = Too big!)
- ☐ No perishable food items.
- ☐ No guns or violence toys.

