

GENERAL INFORMATION: Nicaragua 2020

LUMC Sr. High / College / Adult Mission Trip - León, Nicaragua – June 20-27, 2020

Welcome

- **Nicaragua is known as the Land of Lakes & Volcanoes.**
- **It's located in Central America and borders Honduras to the North and Costa Rica to the South.**
- **It's a little larger than the state of New York and has a population of more than 6 million people.**
- **Nicaragua is the 2nd poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere and 1/3 of its people (approx. 1.7 million) live below the national poverty line, surviving on less than \$2 US per day. Most of these reside in rural areas where poverty rates are especially high, with 50% of households living in extreme poverty.**
- **The city of León is located on the Pacific Coast of Nicaragua, just north of the capital city of Managua.**
- **El Ayudante is located on the outskirts of León and that is our base of operations for our mission trip.**
- **Travel Info:**

June 20-27, 2020 (Saturday-Saturday), through United Methodist Volunteers in Mission to Leon, Nicaragua
We will fly **Delta Airlines** connecting through Atlanta. We depart out of Norfolk.

6/20	#1252 8:00am-9:48am ORF-ATL /	#369 11:00am-12:40pm ATL-MGA
6/27	# 370 1:47pm-7:38pm MGA-ATL /	#2095 10:02pm-11:45pmATL-ORF
- **Who is eligible:** Open to LUMC students currently in 9th-12th grades and their parents, young adults and adults. Because of the nature of an international trip, participants must be well known to trip leaders through active involvement in church programs (weekly worship, Faith Formation classes, small groups, youth group or missions) and have participated in previous overnight events and service activities. Also, as space allows, any LUMC Youth alumni, young adults and adults. At least 1 adult is required for every 5 youth.
- **Our host Ministry partner: El Ayudante-** El Ayudante means "the helper". El Ayudante is a Christian humanitarian organization formed in 2001, based in León Nicaragua, and dedicated to partnering with the Nicaraguan people to transform the nation through one child, one family, and one community at a time. You can read more at about EA at www.nicamissions.com
- **LUMC Team Stats (Since 2007) - 125 Individuals / 264 total team members / 48 LUMC families represented**
- **Where we stay:** Team housing is dormitory-style with separate accommodations for males and females. Each dorm has private showers and bathroom facilities. There are two large covered verandas outside both team houses where teams can enjoy relaxing during down-time and group devotions.
- **What we eat:** Almost all meals (breakfast, lunch & dinner) are taken at El Ayudante and are prepared using safe practices and purified water. We do have a couple of meals off-campus but those are at places that are also safe food-wise. Practicing good hygiene (washing hands or applying Purel-type cleanser) will help prevent any intestinal difficulties.
- **How we travel in Nicaragua:** By bus or van, with translators who accompany us to all sites.
- **Language:** It is not mandatory to have Spanish language skills, but it is very helpful to know at least a few phrases to help in conversation (Hello, my name is... What is your name...). We will do some language training at our team meetings but you will want to learn a little bit on your own. (A travel dictionary might be helpful!)
- **Ministries:** In January of each year, the El Ayudante staff typically has a planning retreat to identify priorities for the coming year and we'll be receiving that information after their meeting. If you have a heart for something in particular, though, they love to have you serve in whatever ways you feel led.
- **Cost / Paperwork / Deadlines:**
 - **Approximate cost is \$1,693.00 per person** (includes everything except baggage fees for more than one checked bag – \$40 for the second checked bag, airport meals/snacks & your personal spending money for souvenirs). The exact cost will be determined once EA fee and hotel cost is confirmed and the trip cost may be more or less depending on that. Please see a breakout of the trip expenses on the next page.
 - **Application, along with \$100 deposit** (Check payable to LUMC) **by Sunday, November 3, 2019.**

Trip Budget

Airline Ticket	\$ 856.00*
UMVIM International Team Registration Fee	17.00
Travel Insurance through UMVIM (\$100,000)	22.00
Entrance fee at Managua Airport	10.00
El Ayudante's Fee - housing/meals/transportation/translators, etc.	600.00
Managua (hotel, continental breakfast, banquet dinner, snacks, tips)	125.00
El Ayudante t-shirt (optional)	25.00
LUMC Mission Team t-shirt (optional)	18.00
Miscellaneous Expenses (snacks, entry fees, tips, etc.)	20.00
TOTAL (per person)	\$ 1,693.00*

*Tickets were purchased on January 29, 2020. Anyone adding on after this date will be responsible for purchasing their own airline ticket. **FINAL PAYMENT IS DUE MAY 27TH.**

Team Member Expectations

Each team member is expected to be actively involved in preparation for our trip through praying for our team and those we go to serve, planning our ministries, involving our congregation through pre-trip updates, raising funds for our ministries while in country, and gathering or purchasing supplies.

Team members will be required to attend team meetings once a month.

Our first team meeting will be January 26th. initial meetings will be brief and held once a month, usually on Sunday. These will be for the purpose of getting to know one another – to match our gifts, strengths and interests with the needs in Nicaragua - as well as for distributing/gathering paperwork, coordinating fundraising, etc. Our final two pre-trip meetings will be more extensive and will be scheduled for days or evenings that will be convenient for all team members. Commitment to Team Meetings is essential.

Travel Insurance

\$100,000 policy - coverage with *Sirius International Insurance Corporation* - International coverage is on a **reimbursement basis.**

Passport Requirements

Each team member is required to have a U.S. Passport that will be **valid at least 6 months beyond the dates of our trip** (does not expire before January 2021) and has at least 2 to 4 blank visa/stamp pages. New passports may be acquired by appointment (M-F, 9a-2:30p) through the Virginia Beach City Clerk's Office at 385-4303. (Please note there is a \$35 processing fee in addition to Passport charges. This office only accepts checks or money orders and you should visit <https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/city-clerk/Pages/passports.aspx> for requirements and necessary documentation before your appointment.) If you do not have a passport you should start that process as soon as possible. **Applications and requirements can be found on the US Department of State website** (<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports.html>)

Vaccinations & General Health for Travel

The US Department of Health recommends the following vaccinations for travelers in Central America: Hepatitis A and B, typhoid, tetanus, and malaria prevention medication. Also having routine vaccinations for Measles, Mumps and Rubella. Not all are required for the area we are visiting – León is on the Pacific Coast north of Managua. **Please check with your doctor.**

It is strongly recommended that you visit the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/travel and search for Nicaragua under "destinations" to obtain health information for travelers, including precautions for protecting against the Zika virus.

Fundraising

Each team member is responsible for raising his/her own personal travel expenses (approx. \$1,700). Personal fundraising through letter writing or other means is strongly encouraged. A sample fundraising letter will be provided to team members. In addition, the team will raise funds to support our ministries in Nicaragua. This amount will be determined based on the ministries we choose to do and will be decided at a later date.

Any group fundraising for in-country ministries and/or personal travel expenses will be decided on by the team at the first team meeting and personal fundraising (including tips and suggestions) will be discussed more in depth at that time.

Please note that the following paragraph (in bold type) must be on each letter you send soliciting funds for the mission trip. **"Gifts to this mission ministry with Lynnhaven United Methodist Church are deductible for income tax purposes and this will be acknowledged through an official receipt. Tax-deductible contributions donated to Lynnhaven United Methodist Church are not refundable or transferrable according to U.S. tax regulations. All money is donated solely to Lynnhaven UMC Missions, and financial disbursement is at the discretion of LUMC Missions."**