

“The Mexico Project” - 2023

In Partnership with Utah Rotary District 5420 Youth Services And FHF Mexico, Inc (Families Helping Families)

In June 2023 Interactors, Rotaractors, Rotarians and friends from across District 5420 (UTAH) will return for another international service project in Puerto Peñasco, Mexico; (Also known as Rocky Point). We are partnering with, and are guests of, Families Helping Families Inc (FHF Inc) and Casas Perpetuales in Puerto Peñasco, two non-profit foundations which have been serving this area of Mexico for the past 19+ years.

Participants will depart from Utah on Saturday, June 3rd and travel to Phoenix, AZ. On Sunday June 4th we will complete our travel to Puerto Peñasco, Mexico. From Monday the 5th to Friday the 9th, we will be involved in building houses for families in need as well as participating in humanitarian efforts with local neighborhoods and elementary schools. It will be hot, hard work, but seeing the lives that are affected by this project is well worth the efforts. The participants will leave to return to Utah the afternoon of Friday, June 9th arriving back home Saturday, June 10th. We will not be stopping over in Phoenix on the return trip.

Each day will begin between 6:30 and 7:00 am and the day's work will conclude when the job for that day is complete. There may be days that we work until 4:00 or 5:00 pm. However, we generally are able to conclude earlier than that. During the first four days we work, we will construct the cinder block walls, frame the roofs and the interior walls of two houses. The available afternoons and evenings will provide opportunities for different cultural and group experiences as well as dinner in local restaurants providing a variety of local cuisines.

Utah Interact club members, their advisors and parents, as well as interested individual Rotaract or Rotary Club members are also invited to participate. All adult participants (21 and older) will be expected to chaperone a group of 4 to 6 youth. These are optimal numbers and may be adjusted as needed based on the circumstances.

This is not a vacation. It is difficult work in a hot, dusty environment. While we do have medical personnel on staff, medical facilities are limited. *If you have medical or health issues that could be adversely affected by this type of environment, we suggest you abstain from participating.*

Minimum age to participate in the project is 15 years old IF you are a Sophomore in High School or 16 years old on or before June 2nd, 2023. Youth under the age of 16 can participate if accompanied by a parent. (Older siblings do not qualify as parent unless over the age of 21)

PLEASE NOTE: This is a massive undertaking every year. Our greatest difficulty comes from providing sufficient adults to chaperone a group of youth this size. Because of this, we require that your group provide at least **ONE ADULT OR MARRIED COUPLE** participant/chaperone for every 6 youth (or fraction thereof). Please note: We need male or couple coverage for boys as well as female or couple coverage for girls. Parents of youth participants are welcome and encouraged.

Male chaperones are our most needed “commodity”. Without men, we can't bring the young men that want to go. Single men and/or women will not chaperone youth of the opposite sex. Though we will have couples chaperone young men or young women as needed. We do not allow unchaperoned rooms of youth in Puerto Peñasco.

We will do our best to work with each group, but we are unable to accommodate groups that cannot or do not provide sufficient male and female adult chaperones for their youth.

Youth: You will need to know who your adult leader is before registering. Talk to your parents, contact your Interact Club Advisor, check with your local Rotary Club. Do what is needed to get adult participation.

ALSO: Our group of participants will be capped at 55. Once we hit 55 participants, we will begin a “Waiting List” in case any participants cancel. If we have sufficient interest, we will take a second bus load, but will have to fill the second bus completely to make that happen.

Applications will be accepted on a “first come, first served” basis so apply early!

IMPORTANT: You will be required to provide the organizers a copy of your valid US Passport NO LATER THAN MAY 1, 2023 to participate in this project.

While a number of signed documents are required as part of the application process, the initial sign up and commitment will be handled online. Watch the “Interact District 5420” Facebook page for details on sign up opening dates and online requirements.

Written documents, agreements, releases, etc will only be available through the website

WHY SHOULD I PARTICIPATE?

- This is an amazing opportunity to participate in an international humanitarian aid project, at a very reasonable cost compared to other international projects;
- It will provide an opportunity to work side by side with other Interactors, Rotaractors and Rotarians from throughout the state of Utah – To make new friends and experience that interaction with others;
- You will have the opportunity to change the world for families in Puerto Peñasco, as well as change your own perspective and how you look at the world.

Anticipated Costs per person - \$2,00.00 which will include:

BUILDING MATERIALS COSTS – Approximately \$1,000 of your project cost is donated to Families Helping Families to buy the materials (in Mexico) to build the houses, as well as to pay local workers to finish the houses once we have the blocked and roofed.

TRAVEL - This covers travel by tour bus from Utah to Puerto Peñasco and back. (No reduction in cost will be provided if you choose to fly into or out of Phoenix)

LODGING - Lodging in Phoenix, AZ and in Puerto Peñasco for the week.

FOOD - Most meals*

Rotary International travel insurance

ITEMS NOT INCLUDED IN THE \$2,000.00:

THE FOLLOWING FOOD AND SNACKS ARE NOT INCLUDED:

- Breakfast and lunch while traveling to Phoenix on Saturday the 3rd.
- Lunch while traveling to Puerto Peñasco on Sunday.
- Lunch in Puerto Peñasco the Friday we leave for home
- Any other meals once we leave Puerto Peñasco and on our way back to Utah.
- Any other snacks or drinks you buy on your own.

EXTRA SPENDING MONEY IS NOT INCLUDED: Each individual will want to consider bringing a sum they are comfortable with for personal snacks, meals that are not included, and souvenirs. Historically participants bring between \$100 to \$150

US PASSPORT IS NOT INCLUDED: A full passport costs approximately **\$135.00**. A "Passport Card" is approximately **\$55**. The Passport card covers *land travel* in and out of Mexico.

Part of our travel process requires we have passport information well in advance of the trip.

Because of this requirement, WE MUST HAVE A COPY of your passport, or passport card, *NO LATER THAN MAY 1, 2023*. Otherwise, we cannot guarantee your seat on the bus.

******If you do not have a current passport, NOW IS THE TIME TO APPLY. Passports can take four to six weeks and are required for this trip to enter Mexico.***

There will be no adjustments in price for individuals that elect to fly, or drive, into and/or out of Phoenix rather than ride the bus. If you choose to fly into or out of Phoenix, you will need to arrange your own transportation between the Phoenix airport and our hotel in Surprise.

If you elect to participate with our project, we will expect that you commit fully to our group and you will travel, stay, eat and work with our group in all of our functions. We cannot facilitate special outside trips or projects during our stay.

Due dates for Project Costs:

INITIAL SIGN UP AND NON REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT:

\$250.00 - All participants (youth and adults) will be required to pay an initial **NON REFUNDABLE** deposit to participate in this service project. This deposit is used to purchase the Rotary International required travel insurance as well as to reserve the required transportation and lodging for participants. This deposit must be submitted at the time of registration / application. Registration will close February 25, 2023.

\$1750.00 – The balance of the funds for the trip are due NO LATER THAN April 15, 2023.

Any other personal funds should be retained by the individual for purchase of snacks, souvenirs, other meals not covered in the costs as outlined above.

Before proceeding with the application, please review the following information as you must acknowledge and agree to each of these requirements during the process:

- The \$250 NON-REFUNDABLE deposit is Non Refundable for any circumstance. Please don't request your deposit back should you choose not to participate as these funds are expended in advance to guarantee our travel and housing
- Age limit: Youth participants must be at least 16 yrs old, unless accompanied by one or both parents
- We expect youth participants to be mature enough to participate without requiring constant supervision. Come willing to work hard and focus on the project at hand rather than to play and complain that it's too hot, or that you don't like the food
- Each adult participant will be required to act as a chaperone to a group of youth. Though we are requiring each group provide adult chaperones as a condition of participation, depending on numbers and groups, there may be youth not part of your group or club included in your room
- Each group of 6 youth (or fraction thereof) from the same group of club must have an adult chaperone from their group, or from a Rotary/Interact Club associated with their group. Male and/or female leaders will be required based on the youth registering from your group. Parents of youth are suggested and encouraged
- You must know who your adult leader/chaperone is prior to signing up online
- Participation by youth and/or adults requires some affiliation with a specific Rotary, Rotaract and/or Interact Club. Find out who that is before signing up for this project

- There will be a limit on the total number of participants: We will have room for up to 55 youth and 12 adult chaperones, along with the Executive Team. Safety of participants and logistics require we not go over this number. Please have your adult chaperones commit and sign up before you begin signing up the youth
- To allow for a diverse group from across the state, we may place a limit on the total number that can participate from any one group or club. Initially, that number will be 12 youth and two adults, but may increase as demand for spots is verified. (It would be unfair for one big group to monopolize the project and leave other clubs or groups out of the running)
- Once the maximum numbers are filled, registration will close. All other interested parties will be placed on a “waiting list” and will be allowed in if there are openings available. The non-refundable deposit will not be required to be placed on the waiting list, but will be required prior to filling any vacant spots that may become available
- There will be a “Code of Conduct” that every participant will be required to accept and agree to
- PLEASE NOTE: This is not a vacation. Though we are staying in a nice condominium resort, we will be working outside, every day, in June, in Mexico. It is hot and sandy, with little or no shade, except what we bring with us
- We try to allow for “down time” at the condos and beach, but that is not our focus. We are committed to building houses and we will remain at the work site until the required work is completed
- In Mexico, because of the logistics and options available to us, we have limited access to “vegetarian or vegan” food options. If that is a problem for your diet, or if you are unable to make adjustments to your diet based upon lack of vegetarian options, we suggest you abstain from participating
- If you have a health or medical condition that:
 - Requires a doctor’s supervision;
 - Requires medications and maintenance of medical issues;
 - May preclude you from committing to physical labor in a hot and dry climate;
 - Requires supervision by a qualified adult; OR
 - Would be adversely affected by this type of activity:

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM PARTICIPATING

**If there are any questions, determinations regarding suitability of participants will be made by our physician

For additional questions please contact:

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