2027-28 Mission Trip Info Packet

Calle San Jose de Grecia, Central Valley,
Costa Rica

Office: 011 (506) 2444-0321, or cell & what's app: 011 (506) 8357-9893

info@strongmissions.com www.strongmissions.org

Thank you for your desire to serve the people of Costa Rica. We explain costs and part of your trip here, and we can help you schedule any additional fun activities (beaches, mountains, volcanoes, zip-lines, rafting, etc.). We are extremely flexible regarding group size, participant ages, trip length, and arrival and departure dates and times (midweek arrivals/departures when airfare is lower is fine). We accommodate all types of construction skill sets and accept various types of work teams as well as teams that offer gifts in children's programming, arts and/or sports. We offer pastor and family discounts, when accompanying a larger team. We look forward to partnering with you in service.

I. MISSION TRIP COST

For teams staying with us in our facility, the per person cost for:

- 5 nights is $800
- 6 nights is $850
- 7 nights is $900
- 8 nights is $950
- *For other lengths of stay please contact us directly. Normally it's $50 per person per additional day. For teams with less than 10 participants, add $50 per person to cover transportation and kitchen costs.*

  What's included? Team lodging and meals with us, limited games/supplies for VBS type activities, building materials and tools, local labor supervision, team transportation, a box of groceries per team member to deliver to local families, and administrative and operational costs. Transportation includes transit to and from

the airport, worksites, a fun day tour, food delivery for needy families, a visit to a souvenir workshop and the farmer's market, as well as transportation for kids' activities. A local coffee tour at Sircof, the coffee we provide at the mission, is available and is the coffee you'll drink while you're with us. A salsa & folk dancing lesson is an additional cultural/fun activity available during your stay with us. Both are more than worth the cost, which if $50 for each tour up to 10 people, and $5 per person for more than 10 people.

What's not included? Flights are not included. Educational Opportunity Tours https://www.eo.travelwithus.com/#eotours in Florida and Highpoint Travel https://www.highpointgo.com/ in Dallas specialize in group mission travel if you need assistance. Teams can come in on various flights if necessary. Driver's tips are not included. We recommend $20 per team per full day of transportation for tips, and this can be given directly to the driver at the end of each day or to the transportation coordinator at the end of the trip. Tour prices are not included, and we can help you get those set up through the providers or local tour agencies.

II. 2023 PROJECTS, ACTIVITIES & ADDITIONAL INFO Photos and more information of teams and projects can be found at www.facebook.com/strongmissions/, in Instagram, Ticktock and at www.strongmissions.org. All projects have been requested by families, churches, schools, children's shelters, city councils, etc., and have been evaluated measuring need and feasibility. Programs provide physical resources and in some cases training so that local leaders can better serve their own communities.

A. Construction and Other Projects

Work includes construction in local children's shelters, public schools, nursing homes, private family homes, churches, and at the mission. Work spans from light to heavy construction. Food boxes will also be delivered to local families in need.

B. Children's Activities

Vacation Bible School style activities such as crafts, games, songs, etc., are encouraged. Teams prepare such activities to bring with them and are encouraged to think outside of the box so as not to duplicate past teams' efforts. We do have limited equipment (parachutes, balls, crafts, etc.) so check with us to decide what to bring. Translators are

provided. Arts and Sports camps can also be offered to local kids by teams wishing to share such gifts.

III. LODGING

A. Strong Missions Center

Strong Missions' lodging is first come, first served. It consists of bunk-bed group lodging and shared bathrooms. Once your team's deposit of $100 per person is paid your space is held for you. Deposit information follows below.

B. Hotels and B&Bs

For those wanting a little more luxury and don't mind the extra cost, please allow us to reserve your space with an area hotel or B&B. We can help you find good hotels at all prices for overnight fun trips.

IV. PASTOR AND FAMILY DISCOUNTS

If pastors need assistance we offer a $200 discount, and to assist families who need it, those families coming from the same household economy are offered a $300 discount off the 3rd family member's cost, $150 off the 4th family member cost, and $100 off each additional family member's cost.

V. METHODS OF PAYMENT/ BANK TRANSFER INFORMATION

All mission costs included in this packet may be sent, by check or online, directly to our 501(c)3 public charity at the South Carolina address, found below and at strongmissions.org.

VI. STRONG MISSIONS REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT/REFUND POLICY

Strong Missions requests a deposit of $100 per person to reserve your space. We ask that final payments are sent to our 501(c)3 public charity mailing address below, or electronically deposited, at least 2 months prior to your arrival. In case someone is not able to make the trip Strong Missions will refund any money that has not been used prior to your arrival. The total deposit amount will be deducted from the final payment.

Deposit checks can be sent to (contact Charlie directly for wire deposit info):
Strong Missions Inc.
PO Box 16132
Greenville, SC 29606
Please note team name, trip date, and "trip deposit" on the memo line so as not to confuse this with a general donation.

VII. CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

All adult participants must agree to this policy and sign the agreement upon arrival at the mission, which states that in the occurrence of misappropriate actions with a minor while in Costa Rica, we will assist the local authorities fully with their investigation.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COSTS AND SPENDING MONEY

Many locations accept credit cards, but a few are cash only. ATMs are available in most parts of the country to withdraw colones, such as in the airport upon arrival. Do not use the currency exchangers, they give a terrible rate; again, ATMs are fine in the airport as well as any bank as the exchange rate is the same the locals receive. Most businesses accept dollars, but most who do will only accept $20 bills or lower unless spending larger amounts. ***Make sure all bills are without even the slightest of tears, and are unmarked, or we cannot accept them, nor will local banks and vendors!***

IX. Things to Bring (please distribute to team members)

Remember that the church here is more conservative than in North America, so clothing should be much more modest for church services and activities held in churches and schools and homes. We ask that teams abide by typical school rules for clothing (no spaghetti straps, crop tops, or short shorts, at least fingertip-length shorts, etc.), for such activities.

- **Flexibility and an open heart along with a desire to help the poor, build relationships, and experience a culture different than your own**
- Bus Driver's tips (typically $20 or more per team per day depending on team size)
- Passport
- A list of dietary restrictions for your team (for team leader)
- Personal toiletries & towel
- Raincoat or poncho
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent with Deet
- Individual, refillable, water bottle
- Pants/jeans, extra-long shorts, or capris for work (for safety and to be respectful of a more conservative culture, at least the folks we work with)-***please, no short-shorts*** in the local community, although we're more flexible while inside the mission, and of course you're free to wear what your leaders decide regarding fun trips
- Gloves, eyewear (sunglasses or glasses will work), and closed-toed shoes for work (and some activities on fun-trips)
- Pillow and pillowcase
- ATM card, extra money, (esp. small bills – 1s, 5s, 10s) for snacks, souvenirs, meals, fun trips, etc. ***U.S. CURRENCY THAT IS TORN, MARKED OR SPOTTED, even just a little bit, WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED IN COSTA RICA.***
- Personal medications
- Small flashlight and a camera or a smartphone
- Swimsuit & beach towel depending on your choice of fun trip, hotel stay
- Good walking shoes/hiking boots
- Shorts & Sandals for fun trip and time off
- Long pants and light jacket for cooler night weather at mission and mountain excursions (temps in the 60s and very occasionally the upper 50s at night at the mission)
- Small backpack for daily and fun trip use

- Hat or cap, rubber boots or old shoes
- Donations for local families/children and for work (tools), school supplies, clothing, shoes, toys, soccer balls, hygiene items, First Aid materials, etc.

