

# High School Mission Trip 2017: Ensenada, Mexico

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**Club Cru:** Matthew Allan, Nate Andrews, Katie Emberley, Will Engelhardt, Melissa Gordon, Shannon Lind, Olivia Noel, Will Rettig, Emma Richardson, Nadia Scott, Sam Troller, and Chloe Velasquez

**Dates:** June 4-10, 2017

**Price:** \$850

**Agua Viva Ministries:** [www.aguaviva.com](http://www.aguaviva.com)

The mission of Agua Viva Ministries is to reach Mexico for Christ.

Core Values of AVM:

- Be centered on Christ, focused on loving others.*
- Evangelize, disciple, and equip in order to reach others.*
- Demonstrate integrity and balance in lifestyle and ministry.*
- Have unity in values, mission, and relationships.*
- Invest in the growth and development of our human resources.*

## Transportation:

### *Flight Itinerary:*

June 4, 2017 Southwest 4938 Denver to San Diego 8:30 a.m. -9:50 a.m. Nonstop

Students need to be at the airport on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 a.m.

June 10, 2017 Southwest 4511 San Diego to Denver 11:20 a.m.-2:40 p.m. Nonstop

### *Van Rental:*

All Star Rent A Van. Pickup and Drop-off at the airport

## Where We Will Stay: Rancho Agua Viva

Rancho Agua Viva is a 143 acre campground located about 75 miles south of the San Diego border, just inland from Ensenada, Baja California. RAV currently has eleven dormitories, and the capacity to house 300+ people. A large kitchen and dining hall can feed over 300 at one time, and the camp boasts a soccer field, basketball and volleyball courts, an outdoor chapel and a couple fire circles. Rancho Agua Viva is the most developed Christian campground in all of Baja California, with running water, flushing toilets, and hot water showers. Currently, the camp does not have full time electricity or telephone service. Camp electricity is run by generators, for approximately three hours each night after the sun goes down. The ministry operates

through its office at camp, which functions on solar and generator power. We have internet access and phones in case of emergency.

Address of Rancho Agua Viva

Mexico 3, Rancho Agua Caliente, B.C., Mexico

\*On the night of Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup> we will be staying in San Diego at:

First Presbyterian Church of San Diego

320 Date Street

San Diego, CA 92101

## What We Will Do:

### Trip Schedule:

*Sunday:* Arrive in San Diego. Drive to Rancho Agua Viva and arrive late afternoon.

*Monday-Thursday:* Morning devotionals, ministry areas, Club in the evening.

*Friday:* Fun Day! Spend the night in San Diego

*Saturday:* Depart San Diego

### Family Groups:

Students will “apply” to a certain ministry they are interested in. Each group will be formed based on ministry interest. That way, they will work in that one ministry area for all 4 work days of the trip. The groups will consist of boys and girls and students from each grade.

Students will have the choice to serve in one of four ministry options:

#### *Vacation Bible School (VBS):*

For students who love working with kids. A typical Vacation Bible School consists of a Bible story, some songs, a memory verse (and prizes for those who can recite the verse by memory), a craft, game time, and a snack. AVM has materials that can help students prepare a schedule of events that runs smoothly and keeps the children’s attention.

#### *Construction Projects:*

For students who love building and working with their hands. The projects might be anything from painting a fence or mural, to the construction of a house or church in Ensenada. AVM matches our abilities and resources with the current needs in the community. AVM helps with the planning and logistics of the project.

### *Medical Clinics:*

For students who are interested in serving in the medical field. Make-shift clinics are set up either in rural churches or lean-to shelters. Each day you are scheduled in a new location. Local Mexican Christian MDs and Dentists will accompany you to each site and will facilitate patient follow up and ensure legal coverage. Statistics show that the best way to reach an area with the gospel is to use national Christians to reach the lost. AVM believes in partnerships. Thus, a team of local pastors and trained Christian leaders in the communities are formed to partner with you to provide counseling and prayer stations during the clinics.

\*We need 2 parents who are doctors, nurse practitioners, or able to write prescriptions to join us for the medical ministry

### *Sports Ministry:*

For students who love sports! One of the best ways to reach the youth in Mexico is through sports outreach. By playing with the youth you can demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ. After the sports time, a few people from your group can share their testimonies. Many groups give out sodas and/or Gatorade for everyone to enjoy during the testimonies. Soccer is the most popular sport to watch and to play in Mexico. Basketball is also popular to play. Either way, you will be sharing the love of Christ.

## **Fundraising:**

### *Support Letters*

We will mail out support letters to friends and family asking for prayer and/or a financial donation that will go toward the price of your trip. This is the primary fundraising for this trip. Please help your student compile a list of friends and family members who would support them before the first student meeting. Include both name and address on that list, make sure your student brings it to the first student meeting where we will be helping students write, envelope, seal, stamp, and send out support letters. It might help if they bring something to type on, we will take care of the printing and providing envelopes, and please bring your own stamps. The first meeting is March 5<sup>th</sup>.

### *Grocery Store Rewards Program*

King Soopers and Safeway grocery cards are like cash. For example, \$100 face value on a card costs the buyer \$100, and the buyer receives the full \$100 in goods from the store upon redemption. From every \$100 worth of grocery cards purchased, \$4 is placed in your "savings" account. Basically, it is FREE MONEY. Obviously, the rewards can increase significantly with frequent participation. Since the program's inception, First Pres families have earned over \$150,000 to pay for participation in church activities or to donate to scholarship funds.

For more info: <http://fpcboulder.org/grocery/>

### *Bolder Boulder Clean-up*

You receive \$20 for every person you bring to help clean up the stadium after the Bolder Boulder on **Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>**.

## **Important Notes:**

### *Passports!*

Get a passport ASAP if you don't have one, or update yours if it expires by June 12, 2017. You will need them in order to enter Mexico. This is very important! We will send Agua Viva photocopies of our passports a month before we leave so please apply or update your passport NOW if you don't have one. [www.usps.com/passport](http://www.usps.com/passport)

### *Notarized Permission Slips:*

To secure entry into Mexico and re-entry into the United States each person under the age of 18 needs a notarized permission slip signed by both parents/guardians, which should accompany their passport and tourist visa at all times.

### *Tourist Visas:*

These are free and we will obtain them at the declaration lane of customs and return them upon re-entry into the United States.

### *Travel Insurance:*

We will provide each student with international travel insurance. This is already included in the trip price.

### *Vaccinations:*

There are **no** required vaccinations for our trip to Ensenada. However, talk to your doctor about any recommended travel shots that you may choose to receive.

## **Safety Policy:**

### *Agua Viva Safety Policy:*

"At Agua Viva Ministries (AVM) we understand your concern and safety for your group; especially in the wake of the recent heightened press. Even though we can never fully allay our guest's fears, nor make any guarantees, we know that God is on His throne and desires Mexico to be reached. AVM boasts that since 1989 we have partnered with over 22,000 guests and none of our participants or staff has ever experienced any incidents involving violence. Ministry groups have been arriving and serving as usual despite media reports and we haven't seen any changes in the communities we serve."

We believe that our long-standing safety record is due to our prayerful safety policies:

1. We believe that **God is in control!** Joshua 1:9 (NIV) "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."
2. AVM provides thoughtful, pre-trip manuals which indicate the **safest travel routes**, travel tips and well-marked maps. The toll road to Ensenada skirts the edge of Tijuana and is well patrolled. The alternative Tecate border crossing adds only a few minutes commute south bound to Rancho Agua Viva and decreases travel time by 20 minutes when traveling north bound. This route is an enjoyable, leisurely drive through vineyard covered hills. The north-bound border crossing back to the states is a breeze!
3. **Agua Viva personally escorts us through the border** all the way to Rancho Agua Viva. Staff members meet us on the U.S. side of the border, accompany us through the visa and immigration process, and guide us all the way to Rancho Agua Viva. They escort us back to the U.S. at the end of the trip as well.
4. **AVM staff always accompanies groups at ministry sites.**
5. **AVM staff always accompanies groups in travel during the ministry week** and chooses the safest travel routes and groups always travel in caravans.
6. We advise all guest vehicles **to travel with walkie-talkies** to keep in contact with others in their caravan with extra batteries at hand.
7. **AVM staff always has local phone contact** during ministry times and has emergency response training.
8. The accommodations at beautiful Rancho Agua Viva are on a **safe, gated 143 acre compound** 12 miles out of town.
9. We require that **all participants register at the border** with the Mexican immigration service.

**\*On a personal note:** the staff at AVM hasn't seen any incidents of violence nor felt personally at risk since most of the incidents have occurred in border towns and have dealt with the drug and turf wars. We cross both the Tijuana and Tecate border on a weekly basis without incident. We have chosen to raise our families here and we personally drive by ourselves on a daily basis. Rest assured, we would inform you in a heartbeat if there were any known risks. You not only are co-workers, we consider our guests as family.

### *Other Sources:*

-Westmont College brings over 250 students every spring break to Rancho Agua Viva for over a decade. Azusa Pacific University also offers similar yearly trips to Ensenada with AVM.

- The US Consulate Our Risk Manager met personally on 2/6/09 with the US Consul (Deputy Chief of American Citizen Services), whose recommendations for traveler safety are consistent with the plans we've put in place in Tijuana. Their consistent recommendation is to travel by day and stay in groups, which we are committed to doing. They do not regard us as fitting the profile of the drug cartels' targets for violence, and none of them consider us to be facing a danger that would warrant canceling the trip

- Informed sources indicate that most of the violence occurs in the deep night, between midnight and 4am--when our students are inside the gated and locked Rancho Agua Viva, twelve miles east of the city.

*To Ensure the Safety of our students we will:*

1. We always travel in a caravan on the trip to and from RAV.
2. We make sure every vehicle has a walkie talkie (with extra batteries!), all set for the same channel.
3. After every check point, we use the walkie talkies to check in and make sure each vehicle made it through okay.
4. We make sure each vehicle has copies of all the (excellent!) maps provided by RAV - this saves lots of headaches, especially making the quick turn onto the highway in Tijuana and when we travel through Ensenada where it's likely to get separated by traffic lights.
5. We make sure each vehicle has all the passports of each person riding in that vehicle in case they get pulled over by police or have an accident.
6. Most importantly, we pray and trust that God is in charge; and we continually remind ourselves of the fact that every day of our lives is ultimately in His loving and powerful hands.

## Registration:

Registration will start February 1, 2017 online at [fpclub.org](http://fpclub.org)

## Forms Needed:

- Notarized Travel To Mexico Permission Slip  
(for students under 18 at any point during the trip)
- Agua Viva Health Waiver
- Agua Viva Release of Liability
- First Presbyterian Liability Waiver
- Scanned copy of U.S. Passport (No Pictures!)

\*Forms will be available online at [fpclub.org](http://fpclub.org), please return them at the meetings.

## Student Mandatory Dates:

Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am-10:30am – Student Meeting #1

\*Bring necessary info and material to write and mail support letters

Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am-10:30am – Student Meeting #2

Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00-12:00pm – Columbine Work Day

Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> time TBD – Student Meeting #3

Sunday, May 7 Commissioning at 9:15 and 10:45 church services

Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm-3:30pm – Bolder BOULDER fundraiser

## Payment Dates:

**All payments must be made by cash, check, or credit card\***

**\*If paying with a credit card, a fee of 4.95% will be added**

Payment dates are the same days as student meetings. Please bring the payment to the meeting.

Deposit of \$300 due on Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup> (Refundable up until March 26<sup>th</sup>)

\$200 due on April 9<sup>th</sup>

\$350 due on May 7<sup>th</sup>

## Please don't hesitate to contact us with questions:

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*We are so excited about what the Lord has in store for our trip in Ensenada with Agua Viva! We hope you can join us!*