



Dear Team Leader,

Thank you for volunteering to lead a team to Ranchito con Esperanza in Camichines, Jalisco, Mexico. We are looking forward to having your team here! We hope you have great experience and make wonderful memories. Most importantly, we hope you not only enjoy time with our family, but with God.

I would like to highlight some important information that will help prepare your team for their time in Mexico.

Please remember your team is on a mission trip in rural Mexico. Many modern conveniences enjoyed in the States are not readily available here in Camichines. While here, your team will NOT have internet access and cell phone usage is STRONGLY DISCOURAGED. Some will have difficulty without their cell phone or internet access, but in the end, we know they will be blessed by the extra time spent serving God and getting to know Him better! As the leader, you will have internet access to notify your home church or organization that you have arrived safely and in the case of an emergency only.

We encourage you to eat and snack on what we provide here at Ranchito con Esperanza. Culturally, it is considered rude to refuse to eat what is provided unless there is a food allergy. So dive in and enjoy the local food and drink!

Purchasing or drinking alcohol is strictly prohibited. Smoking of any kind is also strictly prohibited on the property or within view of the children. As the team leader, we trust that you will keep an eye on your team to ensure these things do not happen. Please note, teenage team members caught drinking or smoking will be sent home immediately at their expense.

Our water supply is not reliable. Sometimes the water is only on for a few hours a day. We store the water in large cisterns when it is flowing and pump it up to the houses as needed. It is imperative that you take SHORT showers. Three minutes is generally enough time to wash your body/hair and rinse off. Please turn the water off to soap up. This alone helps save a tremendous amount of water, ensuring everyone on your team will have a shower.

Electricity is very expensive in Mexico. Therefore, please leave electrical comforts at home. This includes hair dryers, curling irons, hair straighteners, irons, computers, ipads, ipods, cell phones and that sort of thing.

Please be quiet in the dorms. Remember there are many people living in a small space here. Not only are people across the lot from you, but underneath and next to you! Please respect the space and be as quiet as possible so others who are sleeping can continue to do so.

The dorms must be kept clean at all times. Please keep food and snacks in sealed containers in your room to keep ants and other insects away. Keep the bathrooms clean, neat and orderly. If you need any cleaning supplies please let us know.

Most of the activities (eating, drinking, playing, and socializing) take place in the main house during the day. That said, please bear in mind that this is also our home. To ensure the younger children get a good night's sleep, please excuse yourself and your team from the main house no later than 8:30 pm.

It may seem like there are a lot of rules, but please know that the rules are critical when raising high-risk children who come from varied backgrounds with many different issues. We try to provide the children with the safest atmosphere in which to grow not only in stature, but in Christ. These rules not only help us manage the children, but also give the children guidelines by which to live, something they may not have had in the past. We have actually found the children thrive when they have a set of rules to follow. That said, if you have questions about these rules, please feel free to talk to Chuy or a staff member at any time.

We hope your time at Ranchito con Esperanza will draw you closer to God and give you many wonderful memories!

In His Service!

Amy