

DUSTIN'S DREAM

# Mission Trip Packet



***OUR MISSION:  
SHARING THE LOVE OF GOD TO BRING HOPE &  
ENCOURAGEMENT TO THOSE IN NEED.***

## About Us

Dustin's Dream, formally known as the Dustin Chamberlain Memorial Foundation, conducts international mission trips, provides scholarships for students to local high school students and Baylor University students continuing their education in the medical field, and partners with like-minded organizations to improve the welfare of at-risk families locally and internationally.

## Our Trips

Thank you for your consideration of being part of a short term mission trip with Dustin's Dream to Guatemala City, Guatemala. Our short term trips typically last about 7 days and mostly fall under the medical or construction category. During the trip, we get to work at Corazón de Amor Clínica (Heart of Love clinic) on the edge of the Guatemala City Garbage Dump. The clinic, dedicated in 2013, was established in memory of Dustin Chamberlain and was built in partnership with Life of Hope Ministries. The clinic runs year-round and is headed by Dr. Layla Perez. Layla is married to Saul Perez, who is the pastor of Iglesia Bautista Cristo es El Camino. During our short term trips, we get to supplement and amplify the ongoing work that our ministry partners do. Our hope is that the members on our trip team would be moved to compassion when they encounter the needs of those living in the impoverished areas surrounding the garbage dump. During the trip, we seek to engage the Guatemalan people with the truth of the Gospel - God created them, God loves them & God desires to walk in relationship with them.

Lastly, we hope that during your time in Guatemala, you will get to learn and fall in love with the beautiful Guatemalan culture.

# About Guatemala

Guatemala, "*the Heart of the Mayan World*," is a country of rich history built upon the Mayan civilization that once inhabited the tropical mountains. In the 10th century, the Maya Empire began to shrink and split into several groups. The Maya civilization was very advanced in math and astronomy, and the people had a rich culture that is still weaved throughout Guatemala to this day. Many of the women and artisans create brightly colored textiles, pottery, and pieces of jade jewelry.

Guatemala itself is a country of mountains, volcanoes, and beaches, as it sits between the Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea. The entire country is only slightly larger than the state of Tennessee and currently holds 18 million people. Guatemala is divided into 22 departments (like states) and those are subdivided into 340 municipalities.

## Fast Facts

- **Population:** >18 million
- **Form of Government:** Democratic Republic
- **Capital:** Guatemala City, Guatemala
- **Currency:** Quetzal (approximately 7.8 quetzales to 1 USD)
- **Language:** Spanish (Mayan languages are spoken in a portion of the population)
- **Religion:** predominately Catholic
- **Size:** 42,043 square miles

# Trip Costs

**The total trip cost for a 7 day trip = a \$750 ground fee + the cost of the flight.** The \$750 ground expense covers all of the necessities of your time there in Guatemala - lodging, food, transportation, translators, insurance, etc. All expenses incurred while traveling to and from Guatemala (i.e. food in the airport, an extra overnight travel stay if necessary), are NOT included in the \$750, as well as any souvenirs or coffee you might wish to purchase on our day off. The \$750 is calculated based on an average of previous trip costs and is subject to change, depending on lodging, food, and length of stay. In the event that the price does increase or fall, you will be notified of cost changes prior to your trip date. Lastly, airline ticket prices are constantly fluctuating based upon time of year and the location you are departing from. Our goal is to find the most affordable option, as we desire that everyone who would like to has the opportunity to visit Guatemala.

*\*Note: We do hold a minimum age requirement of 18 (unless accompanied by the parent and pre-approved by the Dustin's Dream group host).*

# Lodging

Unless otherwise noted, we will be staying at SETECA, a Baptist seminary in Zone 3. Seteca is a 24-hour guarded location with only one entry/exit point. You will be staying in dorm-room style quarters, and in some cases, more apartment-style housing. You will have a bed, furnished with a pillow and linens and will also be provided a clean bath towel and wash cloth every day (expect Sunday). The seminary has its own well with water safe to brush your teeth with or shower in. We will provide bottled water for the group to drink. We will eat most breakfasts in the Seteca cafeteria. These meals consist of typical Guatemalan foods (i.e. eggs with ham, black beans, bread, and coffee). If you have any food allergies or dietary restrictions, please let us know. For the days that we are at Corazón de Amor, our awesome cook, Elma, and her helpers will serve lunch at the school next to the clinic. On our travel days, we will prepare sack lunches to take and eat at that location. Last but not least, DO NOT flush toilet paper during your time in Guatemala. Their plumbing is not set up for that, so there will be trash cans for disposal of soiled tissue.

## Notes on Seteca:

- Quiet hours are 10 pm - 6 am
- No shorts are allowed on the premises
- An ATM is located across from the cafeteria
- Tokens to utilize the laundry facilities are available for purchase in the Guest Dept. office

# Packing List

- Passport !!
- Toiletries (toothbrush & paste, soap, shampoo, deodorant, eyeglasses, etc.)
- Church outfit for Sunday
- Long pants for our weekdays (5) - we recommend lightweight pants, capris for women are also acceptable
- T-shirts for the week (5) - no halter tops or exposed midriff for women
- Casual outfit for our day off in Antigua - conservative shorts are acceptable on this day
- Undergarments
- Socks
- Pajamas
- Light fleece or sweatshirt
- Rain jacket
- Shoes - tennis shoes for weekdays, sandals for off day, construction team members may prefer hiking shoes
- Shower shoes

- Cell phone & chargers
- Any personal medications
- Mosquito repellent
- Bible, journal, & pen

All clothing should be very modest. Only on our off day are shorts and sandals appropriate. Shorts must be conservative and should be close to knee-length. What may seem acceptable to us may not be appropriate in other cultures. We want to be respectful of that.

**Optional items you might want:**

- Snacks and/or electrolyte packets
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Sports watch
- Hand sanitizer and/or wet wipes
- Ear plugs and/or sleeping mask
- Crisp, new \$10 and or \$20 bills for spending money in Antigua

# Travel Notes

## Health

- No immunizations are currently required for travel; however, we do recommend that your Tetanus booster be up to date. You may also consult your doctor to see what he/she recommends. Please remember that some immunizations require up to 6 weeks of incubation before they are effective, so schedule your appointment accordingly.
- Because Guatemala is an underdeveloped country, some health issues may be of concern for people who are visiting. Our team will be drinking bottled water throughout the duration of the trip, and any food prepared for us is done in sanitary conditions.
- Should a health emergency arise, we have access to Dr. Layla Perez and a variety of medications that may be necessary. Dr. Perez will ensure that we receive the appropriate care while there.

## Travel Risks

Crime rate is high in Guatemala with theft, assault, and gang activity being most common. Typically, perpetrators are looking for money, cell phones, or other goods. Because of that, we ask you to do the following:

- Please do not keep valuables in the outside pocket of back packs
- ALWAYS travel in groups with a local person (Remember: There is security in numbers!) Do NOT ever wander from the group.
- Do not display any form of wealth. Leave expensive jewelry and watches at home.

- Be cognizant of exposing cameras, cell phones, and other electronics in public. Only do so at designated times when given the "ok" from one of our ministry partners.
- If confronted by a thief, give that person whatever they ask for immediately.

This list is not meant to alarm you in any way but rather to inform you of the risks involved. We have *never* had an incident take place during one of our trips and anticipate that you will have a very positive experience as well.

## Culture

When stepping into a different culture, it is important to honor those differences and remember that differences are not bad, though they may be awkward or uncomfortable. Even our gestures, facial expressions, and tone of voice communicate volumes. Here are some tips for our time there:

- We want to exemplify courteous and grateful behavior as a group. (Use "por favor" (please), "gracias" (thank you), and other kind words and gestures). When you thank the cooks who prepare our food, you will often hear "buen provecho" (may it sit well with you) in return. You may want to learn a phrase or two of Spanish!
- You may occasionally be offered food by locals (i.e. on home visits). Take the food but do NOT consume it unless it is approved by your Dustin's Dream host or ministry partner.
- Mothers will nurse their children in public. Please do not stare or draw attention to it, as it is a normal thing.
- "Piropos" (cat calls/pick up lines aimed at women) are common in specific areas. Do not respond to those.
- Find out when and where you can take photos. Ask permission from people to photograph them and especially their children.
- Feel free to ask about cultural differences. The locals LOVE getting to educate you on their beautiful country and culture.

## Contact Details

Director	Phone	Email
Danae Howard	479-427-1214	danae@dustinsdream.net

# Waiver & Release of Liability

**Disclaimer:** Dustin's Dream is not responsible for any injury (or loss of property) to any person suffered while participating in a service project involving Dustin's Dream, or in any other way involved with a filed ministry for any reason whatsoever. This release includes any ordinary negligence on the part of Dustin's Dream and/or its agents.

In consideration of my participation, **I hereby release and covenant not-to-sue** Dustin's Dream, its board, or agents, from any and all present and future claims resulting from ordinary negligence on the part of Dustin's Dream or others listed for property damage, personal injury, or wrongful death, arising as a result of my participating in the short-term service activities, or any activities incidental thereto, wherever, whenever, or however the same may occur. I hereby voluntarily waive any and all claims resulting from ordinary negligence, both present and future, that may be made by me, my family, estate, heirs, or assigns.

Further, I am aware that mission travel involves certain risks, including, but not limited to, death, personal injury, property damage resulting from travel accidents, sickness, the uncontrollable nature of the encounters with other personas that may occur, and situations in the country being visited, such as civil unrest, epidemics, and unstable governments. In addition, I understand that participation in mission travel may involve sites that may be remote from medical assistance. I agree that the program sponsors cannot guarantee my total safety, since some risks are beyond their control. I agree to follow instructions and guidelines given by them, and to act in a safe and responsible manner toward all participants and the others with whom I come into contact. I am voluntarily participating in this activity with knowledge of the danger involved and hereby agree to accept any and all inherent risks of property damage, personal injury, or death.

I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless Dustin's Dream and others listed for any and all claims arising as a result of my participation in the service project or any activities incidental thereto, wherever, whenever, or however the same may occur.

I understand that this waiver is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the state of Arkansas and agree that if any portion is held invalid, the remainder of the waiver will continue in full legal force and effect. I further agree that the venue for any legal proceedings shall be in the state of Arkansas.

I affirm that I am of legal age and am freely signing this agreement. **I have read this form and fully understand that by signing this form, I am giving up legal rights** and/or remedies which may be available to me for the ordinary negligence of Dustin's Dream or any of the parties listed above. Furthermore, I have read the **Dustin's Dream Mission Trip Packet** and agree to abide by it at all times in respect for the mission and its programs and philosophies.

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Signature of Participant

Date

# Media Waiver | Release & Consent

In consideration of Dustin's Dream, consent is hereby given to use (my)(family/child's) name, picture, portrait, likeness, writing, biographical information, audiotape and/or videotape recording and sound or silent motion, in any form of print or media for editorial, educational, promotional, and advertising purposes, for any purpose in furtherance of the ministry and objectives of Dustin's Dream.

By signing this document, I certify that I have read this document and fully understand it; I am not relying on any statements or representatives of any Released Party. This document shall be binding upon me, (my family/children), heirs, executors, administrators, and all (legal guardians of my child).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I affirm that I am parent/legal guardian of \_\_\_\_\_ and that I have full authority to authorize his/her participation in the above-referenced sponsored event.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*\*If participant is under the age of 18\**

\_\_\_\_\_ After reading the above Media Waiver Release and Consent, I hereby decline and do NOT agree to the content found within the said document.