



Supplemental Handbook

Edited from PathwaysCC handbook 2023

This handbook is intended to supplement the Official RSM visitor's handbook.

Welcome!

We are so excited about your participation in Rancho Santa Marta! We welcome groups from all over the country. Our goal is to introduce people to missions' field by serving the kids at this special place.

Through these trips, people can participate in what God is already doing in Baja California, Mexico. It's not just another trip or a vacation. It is one step in your life-long devotion to God and fulfilling the Great Commission. In some cases, short-term trips like this have inspired people to become full-time missionaries.

We hope this will be an exciting adventure for you and that God will use you to fulfill His purpose on Earth.

Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. – Mat. 28:19

Short Term Trips, Long Term Effects!

Internet/Cell Phones

There may or may not be a working wireless internet connection on the Ranch. Cell phones will not work unless you have an international plan.

Medical

Vaccinations: We suggest you check with your doctor or travel nurse for recommended vaccinations for travel to Mexico.

Medications: All medications should be clearly marked and in original bottles. Bring only the necessary quantity for the time you will be away.

Build a Support Team

Your friends, family, and colleagues who give and pray are just as important as those who serve on mission trips. Your support team may be just a few or many people. Both financial and prayer support are an integral part of your mission to transform lives with the Gospel.

Team Training

Provide heart training to the group and review the Group Visit Handbook.

Put a team together to spread the planning assignments. Planning categories to think of include registration, transportation, food, kids' programs, work projects, spiritual growth, budget/finance.

Prepare your heart

A weekend of service and ministry in another country, away from the concerns of our daily lives at home and away from the digital distractions that sometimes consume us, is an excellent opportunity to focus deeply on our relationship with the Lord. In addition to daily fellowship with other team members as well as the kids and staff at Rancho Santa Marta, your group may set aside time for personal devotions and group family time.

Solo Devotions: Take time during the trip to have short Bible study and prayer time on our own.

Sunday morning church service: On Sunday morning, groups join Rancho Santa Marta community as brothers and sisters in worship. Proper attire is required. (See Dress Code)

Critical Heart Attitudes

No one lives out the life of Christ fully in all relationships at all times. No one is perfect – except Christ. Members of the mission team commit themselves to work together with the team toward living out the following crucial heart attitudes.

1. Put the success of others above my own (within Scriptural limits) “Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” Philippians 2:2-3

Question: What can I do on this trip to put others first?

2. Clear up relationships with others

“So, if you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother and then come and offer your gift.” Matthew 5:23-24

Question: Do I have any relational issues that need to be resolved?

3. Live an honest life before others
 “Therefore, putting away falsehood, let everyone speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.” Ephesians 4:25 Question: Am I being transparent so others can see the real me?
4. Receive and give scriptural correction
 “But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today,’ that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.” Hebrews 3:13
 Question: Have I accepted correction well, and have I given it gently?
5. Support the work of the ministry – Have a generous heart “Remember this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Question: Am I giving what God is asking me to give? 20

When You Return Home

“So how was your trip?” You’ll be asked that question hundreds of times. Be ready! Try not to think of this experience as an isolated incident. Instead, look for ways it fits into how God has been and will continue to work in your life. This will help you share your trip in an even more meaningful way. Use this space to gather trip highlights and to convey what was most impactful. Consider also tailoring your story to a one- minute “elevator speech.”

Ways To Share About Your Trip

You’re now an ambassador with a unique opportunity to share the story of the special children at Rancho Santa Marta, as you’ve experienced their needs and their story firsthand. Will you be their advocate? Here are some simple ways to involve those around you...

- Keep photos on your phone and be ready to share your story in answer to, “So, how was your trip?”
- Post the photos of your trip on Facebook, @ranchosantamartaMX, and Instagram @rsmranchosantamarta with the link.
- Send a letter to those who supported you through prayer or finances, highlighting the most impactful parts of the trip. Including pictures helps put faces to your story.
- Invite one friend to coffee and share your story.
- Ask to share your story at your small group.

*Be sure not to post any identifying information about the children, such as names or ages, with your photos on social media.

In Case Of Emergency

It is important to leave information behind with your pastor, secretary, church, friends, or relatives as to how to get to Rancho Santa Marta and how to get in touch while your group is there.