

Center for Global Volunteer Service (CGVS)

Building Bridges to Baja (BB2B)

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What type of volunteer work will we participate in?**
 - a. Project examples include planting a garden, laying the foundation for a playground and providing green areas at local schools, supporting microcredit programs, retrofitting buildings for handicapped children, visiting a migrant shelter, building a bridge and much more!

2. **Where will we spend the night?**
 - a. Participants stay in dorm-style accommodations.

3. **Is bottled water readily available?**
 - a. Yes. Please remember to bring a refillable water bottle.

4. **I have eating restrictions; is that ok?**
 - a. Yes. Please be sure to let staff know before the trip.

5. **Is it safe to travel to Mexico?**
 - a. Travel to most areas in Mexico is safe. CGVS staff monitors U.S. State Department, Mexico, and media outlets to stay abreast of any alerts or warning that may occur.

6. **What should I pack?**
 - Work clothes: Please know that these clothes WILL GET DIRTY.
 - Work shoes/sturdy shoes: tennis shoes, sneakers or work/hiking boots.
 - Work gloves to protect your hands (recommended)
 - Sunscreen and hat
 - Refillable water Bottle-let's cut down on waste!
 - Casual/comfortable clothes for the duration of your stay.
 - A pair of shoes in addition to your work shoes.
 - Long sleeve T-shirt, sweatshirt, or a fleece (weather dictating).
 - Towel
 - Personal toiletries.
 - Sleeping bag or blanket (Bed, pillow and sheet are provided).
 - A camera to document your experience
 - Board games/ books/iPod, etc for the nighttime
 - Proper identification:
 - A passport for all US citizens.

- 7. How physically demanding will the work projects be?**
- Some projects can be physically demanding. However, we can always alter projects depending on your physical limitations. Please check with CGVS staff as projects vary depending on the trip.
- 8. I don't speak Spanish; can I still attend the trip?**
- Yes. Bilingual staff will be available for translation.
- 9. What are some suggested readings for preparation for the trip?**
- Banker for the Poor to learn more about Micro Credit
 - Familia: Migration and Adaptation in Alta and Baja California
- 10. What is the weather like in Baja California?**
- Weather in Mexicali can be extremely dry and hot during the summer months and more temperate the rest of the year. Nights are usually cooler. Please visit <http://www.weather.com> for more information
- 11. How much free time will there be on the trip? Will there be any sightseeing?**
- There is minimal free time at night for group bonding. While you will certainly view a number of extraordinary sites, we most likely will not visit the most popular tourist sites. Instead, you will gain a local's perspective of life in Mexico
- 12. Do I have to be a U.S. citizen to participate?**
- Not necessarily. Please check with CGVS staff to determine eligibility.
- 13. What type of documentation is necessary for U.S. citizens participating in this trip?**
- Each visitor needs a valid picture I.D. and one of the following:
 - a state-issued birth certificate with an affixed seal, or
 - a naturalization certificate, with a laminated naturalization card, or
 - a valid U.S. passport (expired passports are not valid)
- 14. Do I need a passport?**
- Yes
- 15. Do I need insurance?**
- Travel insurance will be provided for full time UCSD students for no additional cost.
- 16. What age groups participate in these trips?**
- Participants of all ages attend the trips.
- 17. Is this course for credit?**
- UC San Diego Extension credit can be secured. If interested, please communicate with CGVS staff.

18. How can I track the progress of the volunteer projects after I have returned from the trip?

- a. CGVS will periodically provide updates on the CGVS website. Please check for details.

19. What other volunteer trips are planned?

- a. Please visit the CGVS website for details as trips are always being added.

20. What other ways can I be involved with the Center for Global Volunteer Service?

- a. Please contact CGVS staff or visit the CGVS website to learn about ways to become more involved with CGVS.