

# Weekender Team

## Questions and Answers

### **What exactly is this all about?**

**Weekender** teams are organized in order to bring health care and the love of Jesus Christ to the people of Mexico while working alongside local Mexicans.

While using the health care as a method of drawing in the people, we use their time with us to present the gospel of Jesus Christ. Using a holistic approach, we often use a Health Fair format that includes activities that fall under three categories: health screening, health education, and evangelism.

### **What type of health care do we give?**

Services that are routinely offered are dental, general medicine, chiropractic and optometry. We are always open to other specialties too.

### **Who can be a part of the team?**

Anyone with a heart to help the needy! A good team has 50% non-medical people who are willing to pitch in and do anything. We like to have some volunteers just to do meal planning and preparation. There may be construction projects to work on too.

### **What if we don't speak Spanish?**

This is not a problem. Obviously, life is easier if there are several bilingual team members, but it's not impossible without them. The **Weekender** Manual, which you will receive once your application has been approved, includes phrases for team members to work on prior to their arrival.

### **Is there a minimum age requirement?**

While a person of any age is welcome to go, a parent must accompany team members under 18 years of age.

### **Do participants need a passport?**

Starting in January 2007 Passports are required if participants are flying or boating into Mexico. Although you can use a Birth Certificate to travel out of the country by land until June 2009, we highly recommend a Passport for everyone.

### **What does it cost?**

For each team member there is a one time \$30 non-refundable application fee to be made payable in US dollars.

The total cost for the trip varies depending on location. For a cost of each trip check out the Weekender Page on the website [www.mexicanmedical.com](http://www.mexicanmedical.com).

### **What is included?**

This includes food, housing, evangelism supplies, some medical supplies, transportation and administrative fees. Not included are spending money and meals eaten in restaurants.

**Housing** will consist of a dorm facility with hot showers and toilets. Beds with mattresses are provided but you must bring your own bedding and towels. –or– in Loreto housing maybe in a hotel.

**Food** will be purchased in the United States and transported to the site. All facilities have a full kitchen stocked with cookware for the cook to use. The teams to Loreto will be purchasing most of the food in Mexico and preparing it there.

## **Where do I start?**

If you are interested in serving with a team download the **Weekender** volunteer application at [www.mexicanmedical.com](http://www.mexicanmedical.com). Once you send in the application, along with the other requested forms and the \$30 (US Funds) fee we will get in touch with you regarding details, as well as send you the **Weekender** Manual, which will aid in your preparation.

## **How do we share the gospel?**

Various methods may be used including, but not limited to: passing out tracts, showing evangelistic movies, sharing Bible stories, using puppets to tell Bible stories, working on a wordless bracelet or other crafts, and one on one evangelism with the assistance of local church members.

## **What if not everyone on the team is a Christian? Can they come?**

We'd love to have them! We realize that some team members may not be Christians, but as long as they are aware of what motivates our ministry, we welcome them. We don't want anyone to arrive in Mexico and be surprised by the evangelism focus of our ministry.

The hardest part for non-Christians will probably be our conservative dress code and rules for safety. We don't want to be a stumbling block to the people we are trying to help. Many of the things that are commonplace for us in Canada and the United States are considered taboo by the Mexican Christians.

## **Do we have daily devotions?**

Yes, we set aside time each morning to pray and spend time focusing on the Lord for guidance, wisdom and safety.

## **Who provides health insurance?**

We purchase insurance for you time in Mexico that includes health insurance coverage and evacuation. We do ask that all participants provide their own health insurance coverage at home in addition to what we purchase for Mexico.

**What about medical liability insurance?** Liability coverage is not generally purchased or used by Mexican health care workers; therefore Mexican Medical does not require it for medical team volunteers.

## **What is a typical schedule?**

Team members typically arrive at the mission location in Mexico Friday afternoon. The team then meets briefly to get acquainted and have an orientation before starting to serve the people of Mexico.

The workday will start with breakfast and devotions followed by a full day of service. Work wraps up when everyone has been served, then the facilities are cleaned for the next group.

There is usually a debriefing time the last night of the outreach. After breakfast on departure day, Sunday or Monday depending on the team, the team is ready to head home.