

St. Stephen's Summer Outreach Service in Granada, Nicaragua

June 3-June 13

The St. Stephen's Summer Outreach Program in Nicaragua is a 10-day voluntary service program for high school students in the city of Granada, Nicaragua. The program has been designed for highly motivated, mature, serious and responsible high school students who are seeking a challenging and rewarding educational experience working with underprivileged children in an underdeveloped country during their summer vacation.

The City of Granada

The city of Granada, located on the western shore of Lake Nicaragua, is approximately 25 miles southwest of Managua, the capital of Nicaragua. Founded in 1524 by the Spanish conquistador Hernández de Córdoba, Granada is the oldest city in Central America, and the city's architecture still reflects its old colonial flavor. Granada is a relatively prosperous city. It is a very safe, peaceful, clean, hospitable and pedestrian-oriented city. On the other hand, it is also a city that can provide our students ample opportunities to do invaluable work among the less fortunate segment of its population.

Our Mission

In sharp contrast with the downtown area, families in some sections of the city live in shacks built with discarded material, and they do not have electricity or running water. Most of them depend for their daily survival on the charity of a few organizations. One of these organizations is the Missionaries of Charity, a branch of the international organization founded by Mother Teresa of Calcutta. This institution has built a facility that provides free schooling, nursing, child care, playgrounds, food, clothes and medication for these destitute children. Our student volunteers will help the Missionaries of Charity in their efforts to fulfill the most basic and essential needs of these children. Their needs are abundant and their resources are limited to nonexistent.

Accommodations

Students will be housed in a very comfortable small hotel called Casa San Francisco. We have rented the entire hotel during our stay. Students will share a room and there will be adult supervisors staying at both places as well.

Meals

All meals will be served in local, good quality restaurants that cater mostly to foreign tourists. Breakfast will be served at the hotel from 8:00AM to 8:30AM. An effort will be made to provide a well-balanced menu. Salads will be served both at lunch and at dinner, accompanied by potatoes, rice, vegetables, or beans, with steak, chicken or fish. The most common and popular Nicaraguan dish is Gallo Pinto, a delicious blend of rice and beans with stock cooked from the beans added to color the rice. Fish, meat, chicken, rice, beans, plantains and fresh fruits are the main ingredients of the Nicaraguan diet. We

strongly recommend our students eat only well-cooked foods while they are still hot and only fruits that have to be peeled. While students stay in Nicaragua, we highly recommend that students avoid eating dairy products and food sold by street vendors as these foods may have high bacteria content from improper processing or storage. Drinking tap water is not safe either. We strongly advise that they drink only bottled water and beverages. By the same token, they should avoid having ice cubes in their beverages.

Free time and curfew

In addition to the daily hard work that is expected from every volunteer, the schedule also provides time for the students to explore the colorful streets of Granada and its places of cultural interest. We hope that students will become familiar with some of the rich traditions and culture of Nicaragua. At the end of the trip, there will be a one-day excursion to the coast to give the students some time to enjoy the beautiful landscape of the country. Although Granada is a very hospitable, peaceful, and safe city for high school students, for extra safety no student, boy or girl, is allowed to go out alone. Curfew is at 9:00PM, or after dinner. The Directors of the program reserve the right to make modifications to the daily schedule and the cultural activities as circumstances or unforeseeable events demand.

Dates and cost of the program

Departure: June 3rd Return: June 13th

Cost of the program: \$1,950. This price includes the following:

- Round trip airfare from Austin, Texas, to Managua
- Round trip transportation from Managua to Granada
- Room and board

Price quoted does not include:

- Personal expenses such as laundry and long distance phone calls
- Entering and exiting in and out of Nicaragua tax: approximately \$35

Travel arrangements

The group has been booked to travel together on June 10th, on a regularly scheduled flight on Continental Airlines.

Group's flying information:

June 3rd:

Departure:	Austin	CO	Flt # 1540	1:10 PM	Arrival Houston 2:30PM
Departure:	Houston	CO	Flt # 1774	5:30 PM	Arrival Managua 7:52 PM

June 13th:

Departure:	Managua	CO	Flt # 1775	6:50AM	Arrival: Houston 11:10AM
Departure:	Houston	CO	Flt # 241	1:42 PM	Arrival: Austin 2:40 PM

Mr. Philip Doig and Ms. Rachel Nation will lead the group in the flight to Managua and will have the tickets. They will be waiting for the students starting at 11:00 AM at the Continental Airlines Main Desk, Bergstrom International Airport in Austin. Since this is an international flight, and we need to check-in about 14 persons, please be at the airport at least 2 hours before departure time. If you have any questions the day before departure, please call Mr. Doig at 669-3219.

Upon arrival in Managua, Mr. Mario García, who kindly has volunteered his services to help provide logistical support to the group, will be waiting for the group to proceed to Granada in a chartered bus. Upon arrival in Granada, the students will have dinner. After dinner there will be a brief meeting for room assignments. All tickets and passports will be collected for safekeeping as soon as we arrive in Nicaragua. If you would like us to keep your child's money for safekeeping, let us know.

Passport and Visa

A valid passport is required for all participants. No visa is required for USA passport holders for a stay of up to six months. If you already have a passport please check the dates and verify it is current, or if you do not have one, please apply for one as soon as possible. Do not wait until the summer for the big rush of travelers. We highly recommend that you make a copy of your passport and put it in a separate place.

Vaccinations and medications:

1. Doctors recommend the following vaccinations before leaving for Nicaragua:

- Tetanus
- Polio
- Hepatitis A
- Typhoid shot or pills
- Malaria pills are highly recommended

2. Medicine for headaches, for upset stomach (Pepto-Bismol or antibiotics) or muscular pain, dizziness when traveling etc. are best brought by you because, though readily available, they may not suit you as well as those you are used to. Also bring insect repellent for mosquitoes, common in tropical areas.

3. Special personal medicine: If you are taking any special medicine, bring an extra supply. Although some pharmacies in Nicaragua are open all night, we want to make sure we have medicine on hand for you when you need it.

4. Glasses and contact lenses: If you use them, we recommend you bring your prescription with you and a pair of old ones as well, just in case.

Telephone calls:

We are planning to purchase two cell phones upon arriving in Nicaragua. We will e-mail those numbers to you as soon as we have them. Also you can reach any of us at the hotel where we will be staying, Casa San Francisco: telf. 505-552-8235. The owners are Americans, so you can speak English and leave messages there. To place a direct call to Nicaragua dial 011 505-552-8235. There are also several internet cafes in Granada, so you can e-mail your child as often as you want to.

General Information

Nicaragua's official language is Spanish. The main religion is Roman Catholicism. Their National Holiday is the First of July, Spanish Labor Day. The national currency is the Cordoba. The current rate of exchange is approximately 1 dollar = 15 Cordobas, but it fluctuates slightly from one week to another. The electric current is 110 Volt., the same as in the USA.

What should I bring?

Remember that Nicaragua is an underdeveloped country with a different language and culture. It is a very traditional Catholic country, with its own unique and traditional customs which must be respected at all times. The objective is to blend in as much as possible into the general population. We highly recommend that students dress accordingly at all times. Do not bring fancy jewelry, unusual hairdos, or extravagant clothing, and do not wear shorts in the city, jeans with holes, low cut jeans, and miniskirts. Use common sense, and avoid an unnecessary show of skin. Talking loudly in public places can also be interpreted as a show of rudeness.

1. Money: We suggest about \$200.00 preferably in denominations of \$20.00 and \$50.00. Travelers checks can be more complicated to cash. Dollar bills are easy to cash.

2. Please, for practical and obvious reasons, we strongly recommend that you do not bring large, very heavy suitcases, and bring no more luggage than you can carry comfortably yourself. So, remember: strong, but lightweight luggage.
3. Bring a regular-size carry-on with you with some clothing, personal belongings and your medications, just in case your luggage doesn't arrive on time.
4. An alarm clock. Preferably an inexpensive travel alarm clock (quartz). If you blow-dry your hair, we suggest a small travel-size blow dryer.
5. If you don't own a camera, consider buying or borrowing one.
6. Clothes: Cool, lightweight summer clothes. For practical reasons, preferably cotton-polyester blends as they are easy to wash and dry.

Ladies: Mix and match separates. A couple of skirts, with a few different blouses. A few T-shirts (shorts not recommended), two pairs of jeans, a jacket or light sweater. A bathing suit and a beach towel.

Guys: Two pairs of jeans, two slacks, a couple of shirts, a few T-shirts, a light sweater or a jacket. A bathing suit and a beach towel.

Shoes: bring comfortable, sensible footwear. You may want to bring a pair of rubber-soled sandals for the swimming pool. To the ladies, we highly recommend low heels (1 1/2 inches). We do not advise leather soles because they tend to be slippery when walking on cobblestones.

7. When packing the carry-on bag, please note that the following items are prohibited from aircraft cabins: Knives of any length, composition or description. Cutting instruments of any kind and composition, including carpet knives and box cutters (and spare blades), any device with a folding or retractable blade, ice picks, straight razors, metal scissors and metal nail files. When in doubt, transport items in checked baggage or risk confiscation.