

Come. Build. Hope.

www.amor.org

Spring Break Mission Trip 2018

Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, Mexico

First Rowlett UMC

- Who:** Youth 7th -12th grade, college students, and adults
- When:** Spring Break 2018, March 10th -17th
- Cost:** \$575 total, \$50 deposit
- Sign-up:** Sign-ups start today!
- Passports:** Passports are required for travel to Mexico - Cost is about \$100-\$125 and takes up to 6 weeks to arrive

The Need:

AMOR Ministries has been serving families in need of adequate homes for 35 years. This will be our 12th year to partner with AMOR (5 years in Juarez, 4 years on the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation in Arizona, and 2 years in Puerto Peñasco). AMOR provides each mission team with the tools and resources that are necessary to build a home alongside a family in need. AMOR carefully selects the home site, provides standard building plans, and equips each group to complete a home in about 4 days. While on your AMOR Mission Trip, missions' teams will stay in conditions similar to those of the families they are serving.

Since 1980, AMOR has been perfecting the house building process in Mexico, making this the safest, most efficient, affordable trip possible. We've worked with over 330,000 volunteers to build over 17,300 homes. Amor typically builds an 11'x22', two-room home with a concrete floor, stucco-finished exterior, weather sealed roof, two windows, and a door. An AMOR house is a simple design, built according to the standards of the community so that a group without skilled labor or power tools can still complete the project.

The need is still staggering for millions of families in Mexico.

The Trip:

We travel in vans and spend the night at a churches along the way to break up the drive both directions. We live in tents for the week with port-o-potties as bathrooms, bucket showers, and lots of SAND! We do eat well with a full camp kitchen providing 2 warm meals a day and sack lunches for the worksites. We work for 4 days (Monday – Thursday) building a home up from slab to stucco with the goal of a complete home before we leave. No power tools are used as we experience the full joy of building with our hands. No one needs previous experience to build these homes. All skills will be taught during the trip and job-site safety is always a priority.

Fundraising:

Everyone going on the trip will be expected to help prepare for our journey by committing 3 hours of work prior to the trip. Opportunities for this include stock calling, tool preparation, group fundraisers, and taking other key roles in our preparation. Signups for these opportunities will be posted soon!

All group fundraisers (stock calling to FRUMC members, mission nights, etc.) will be put into the group trip account and divided equally among those who fulfill their time. Any funds raised on your own through letter writing or other activities will go to your account directly. Everyone will be given material to compose letters to write to family and friends so they can invest in the trip by buying stock (\$20/share). A share of stock also allows 2 people to attend the mission dinner. This is a huge celebration dinner where pictures, video, and testimonials will be shared from the trip. This is a great way for others to be involved in the trip without actually going. We HIGHLY encourage you to use this tool to raise funds outside the church! PLEASE do not let the cost be the reason you don't go on the trip. We will help cover as much as we can – even passport costs if needed.

Important Dates:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| ➤ January 21 st | First Adult Chaperone Meeting (5:00 pm) |
| ➤ January 28 th | \$50 Deposit Due |
| ➤ January 28 th | Fundraising Begins |
| ➤ February 18 th | Tent Set-Up Trial Run (3:00 pm) |
| ➤ March 4 th | Commissioning Service / Mandatory Meeting (all) |
| ➤ March 4th | ALL \$\$ and Paperwork Due |
| ➤ March 9 th | Packing Party |
| ➤ March 10 th | Leave for Puerto Peñasco! |
| ➤ March 17 th | Return to First Rowlett |
| ➤ April 7 th | Stockholder's Dinner (6:30 pm) |

SAFETY:

Safety is planned into every phase of the trip. We travel in a van-caravan at all times. Each van has two adults, radios, first aid, water, maps, and phone numbers in case of emergency. We will be escorted from the border all the way to camp - a secure area just outside Puerto Peñasco with 24 hour AMOR staff and constant sponsor supervision. At the worksite, AMOR is with our group and in communication with local authorities. All groups leave the work sites together before sunset and youth are never allowed to leave the worksite (for any reason), without an adult.

From AMOR:

We want you to know that Amor has always been proactive about safety matters. For the past 35 years, AMOR has worked hard to provide the best security and safety for all individuals involved in our Ministry. Amor considers the safety of our groups and Team Members its' first priority. Each policy, practice, and the like that we do regarding security and safety is preventative and proactive.

AMOR has built a strong presence in Mexico over these past 35 years through excellent relations with the local government, the police, and the communities we serve. Because of these relationships, we are equipped to deal with any and all safety issues that might arise. As AMOR has continued to add AMOR Mission Trips in new locations like Delmas, South Africa, we have carried this very same practice of working with the government, police, and the communities to make sure we are abreast on all possible safety issues.

Addressing Travel Warnings and Safety Concerns:

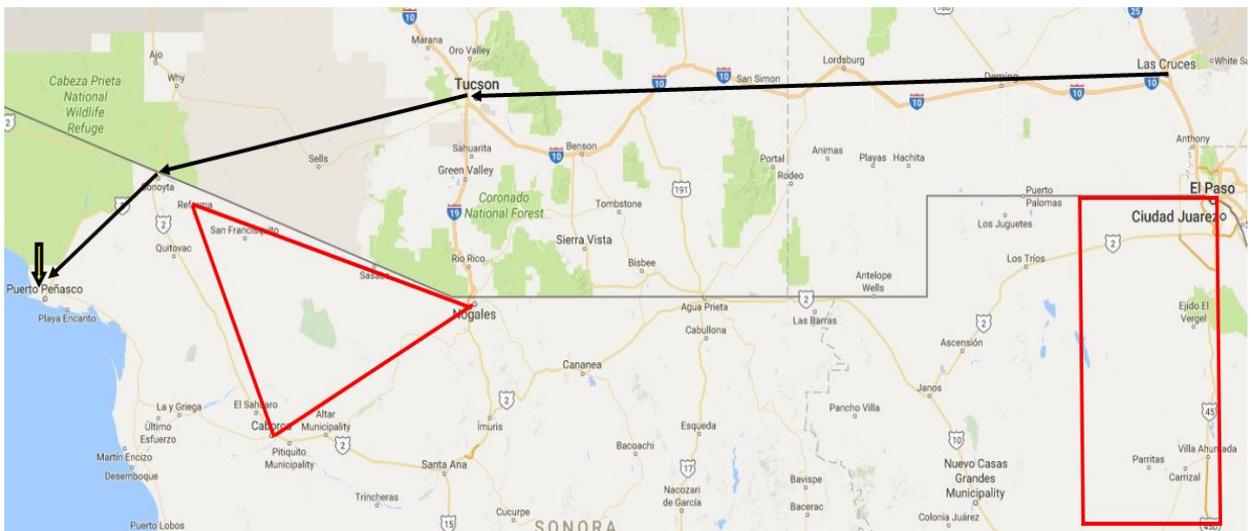
After traveling to Puerto Peñasco in 2015 and 2017, we are even more confident that this location is safe and that AMOR has taken all the necessary protocol to keep us that way. We are continually monitoring the U.S. Travel Warnings and will keep you informed with all the latest information. Below is the latest Travel Warning issued for Mexico and Sonora.

General Conditions: Millions of U.S. citizens safely visit Mexico each year for study, tourism, and business, including more than 150,000 who cross the border every day. The Mexican government dedicates substantial resources to protect visitors to major tourist destinations, and there is no evidence that organized criminal groups have targeted U.S. visitors or residents based on their nationality. Resort areas and tourist destinations in Mexico generally do not see the levels of drug-related violence and crime that are reported in the border region or in areas along major trafficking routes.

Sonora: Nogales, Puerto Peñasco, Hermosillo, and San Carlos are major cities/travel destinations in Sonora - Sonora is a key region in the international drug and human trafficking trades and can be extremely dangerous for travelers. Travelers throughout Sonora are encouraged to limit travel to main roads during daylight hours. Defer non-essential travel to the region west of Nogales, east of Sonoyta, and from Caborca north (including the towns of Saric, Tubutama, and Altar), and the eastern edge of Sonora bordering Chihuahua, as these are known centers of illegal activity. Travelers should also defer non-essential travel to the eastern edge of the state of Sonora, which borders the state of Chihuahua (all points along that border east of the northern city of Agua Prieta and the southern town of Alamos), and defer non-essential travel within the city of Ciudad Obregon and south of the city of Navojoa. You should exercise caution while transiting Vicam in southern Sonora due to roadblocks that can be instituted ad hoc by local indigenous and environmental groups. U.S. citizens visiting Puerto Peñasco should use the Lukeville, Arizona/Sonoyta, Sonora border crossing, and limit driving to daylight hours.

For the full travel warning for Mexico visit:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings/mexico-travel-warning.html>



Overall Safety Points to Highlight:

- AMOR uses the crossing at Lukeville and escorts all groups from the border to camp (deemed safe by the U.S. Government).
- AMOR does not allow travel outside of camp after sunset.
- AMOR is monitoring the conditions and will not allow us to come if they are unsafe.
- Puerto Peñasco is a resort area, and therefore does not see the levels of violence or crime that is reported in the border region.
- We have a guard at the AMOR campsite 24/7.

For any questions regarding the trip, please contact Alexis Blue at alexis.blue@firstrowlett.org.