

TPS Honduras 2019 Service Trip Information



A good education is more than just classes. International travel and service prepare students for career and life in a multi-cultural world. TPS provides opportunities for service, leadership, and cross-cultural experiences, and the Honduras trip is one of several foreign service trips TPS offers every year. This trip has three primary components:

Partnership

Working with a Honduran mission called PREDISAN (predisan.org), we have developed a long-term relationship (since 2007!) with San Antonio – a community of 55 families in a remote mountain region near the city of Catacamas. Since 2014 we have also been serving in nearby Las Flores in a 3-way partnership between TPS and both communities. Las Flores is a slightly smaller and less-developed community that is eager to grow. San Antonio and Las Flores are in an area of Honduras where modern conveniences (electricity, clean water, and medical care) are rare. During our annual visits, we have seen the communities grow stronger and our relationships with them grow deeper.

Service



Our team works in multiple areas during our visits. We work in the school, helping the local school teacher with English classes and providing Gospel-centered lessons, music and activities for the children. We are involved with discipleship and spiritual encouragement through Bible studies, home visits, and spiritual counsel. We provide building materials and our labor for construction projects, such as latrines, led by the men of the village. And we sometimes help the Predisan staff provide regular health checks for the children in the communities. Our time in each of these communities is richly relational, building on the cooperation and mutual appreciation developed over the years.

Vision

We are committed over the long term to the physical, educational, and spiritual development of these communities and their families. By working with the leaders in San Antonio and Las Flores together, we hope to model relational ministry with them and among them that imparts vision and encourages the communities to reach out and serve others with the love and good news of Jesus.



When is the trip?

The approximate dates of the trip are July 18-30, 2019. These approximate dates are from the group meeting (Miami Airport Hotel TBD) the day before leaving the U.S. to the group parting (Miami Airport Hotel TBD) on the day after returning to the U.S.

Who may participate?

Students ages 16 and up, siblings, friends, parents, and teachers. All interested participants must apply and be accepted. Individuals under the age of 16 will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and much younger students would be required to have a parent apply for the trip as well. We are also happy to consider applications from alumni and college students.

Do students get credit for this service trip?

TPS is a certifying organization for the President's Volunteer Service Award. The total service hours from this trip earn each participant (U.S. citizens only) a group Gold Award. TPS will provide the certificates in fall 2019. Students may report this on their college applications and résumés. More information is here:

<https://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov/the-award>

How does the travel work?

Participants must have a valid passport and make their own flight reservations to and from the Miami, FL point of origin. TPS cannot support a U.S.-based participant traveling overseas unaccompanied to meet our group (families living overseas should contact TPS to discuss options before applying). Participants will be required to arrive in Miami, FL the day before we depart for overseas. TPS will arrange all airport pickups, overnight housing, and meals in the Miami area prior to departure and when we return.

How much money must I raise or donate to participate?

The donation requirement is \$2,600 for a U.S.-based participant. Participants should expect to provide one-third by June 24, and then the remainder within three months after the trip ends. Participants may also propose an alternate plan to pay the remainder over time. The Potter's School (TPS) is a 501.c.3 organization and donations made to TPS for Honduras Project 2019 are tax-deductible for the U.S. donor.

Participants coming from outside the U.S. may be assigned a different donation requirement to better match their individual travel and participation profile. This must be worked out as part of the application process. Non-U.S.-based participants who are serving in support-based work outside their passport country may also be eligible for support from the MK Service Trip Fund (see below).

What expenses are covered by TPS and what should I expect to pay?

TPS pays all mission and trip expenses, planned and unplanned, from the group meeting (Miami Airport Hotel TBD) the

day before leaving the U.S. to the group parting (Miami Airport Hotel TBD) on the day after returning to the U.S.

In addition to a donation requirement, participants pay all individual expenses, planned and unplanned, prior to the initial group meeting and after the final group parting. Individual expenses include: obtaining a valid passport; elective vaccinations (none are specifically required); luggage and travel necessities, including snacks and personal medications; travel to and from Miami, FL; and personal spending money for snack or souvenir items purchased during the trip. TPS cannot reimburse individual expenses related to this trip.

Special Opportunity for MK's already serving outside your passport country

Thanks to a generous donor, you could receive support for up to half of your required donation. Please consider our MK scholarship opportunity:

<https://www.pottersschool.org/mk-trip-scholarship>

Is Honduras safe?

Honduras has an ongoing U.S. State Department travel advisory due to gang and drug-related violence in some areas. The trip will be registered with the State Department. The travel profile of this trip avoids dangerous areas. The villages we support are small and in peaceful regions. Predisan, which is a Honduran organization, assigns private security personnel to the teams during travel in urban areas. This explanation is provided for information and does not imply a legal guarantee of safety or security.

Additional Information or Questions

Want to know more? There are videos, photos and testimonials here:

<https://events.at-tps.org/honduras>

If you have questions you want to discuss individually, please let us know and we'll reply by email or arrange a phone call with you. Please direct all questions to:

HondurasTrip@pottersschool.org

How do I apply?

All interested participants (including parents and other adult participants) must apply and be accepted. The application is here:

<https://www.pottersschool.org/service-trip-application>

The application requires a reference (if you have been on a TPS trip before, no reference is required), so you may want to get working on that soon, even if you're still trying to decide whether this trip is right for you. **Please note that the application is due by January 28, 2019.** All applications and questions should be submitted to

HondurasTrip@pottersschool.org

We hope to hear from you and look forward to serving in Honduras with the team that God brings together!

