

Belize

Spring Break 2019

Mission Trip

March 10-16, 2019

Application Checklist

- Pray for God to help you decide if this is the right time and place for you to serve.
- Read cover letter carefully.
- Fill out application completely.
- Applications are due by Sunday, November 25.**

Dear 2019 Spring Break Belize Mission Trip Applicant,
Praise God that you have decided to apply for our Spring Break 2019 Mission Trip to Belize! This is an exciting opportunity for our church to build on the relationships we have begun to develop with our friends in Belize. This cover letter is intended to give you an overview of what we'll be doing before, during and after the trip and what will be expected of team members.

What the trip is all about

We will be working through The Word at Work (TWAW) and our focus will be on building relationships with Belizeans while we work on various projects. We will connect with our friends in the village of El Progreso (where we have worked on previous trips). We will be planning activities that can safely involve our youngest team members. In partnership with the villagers, we will work on a construction project as well as several opportunities with children both during and after school.

Who the trip is for

Our plan for Spring Break is to take an intergenerational team to Belize. The trip is open to those going alone as well as those going with the whole family. We welcome families to apply for the trip with children ages 4 and up. Basically, it is open to children who are old enough for our children's choir. If you have a younger child that you would like to go with you, please talk to Pastor Walter. Children up to 5th grade would need at least one parent to go with them. We encourage our youth (6th – 12th grade) to apply either on their own or along with their family. **Each team member (regardless of age) needs to fill out a separate application.**

What to expect

Team meetings

Team members will be expected to participate fully in all team meetings. In these meetings, we'll be working on teambuilding as well as training for our team. The culture and setting in Belize is much different than our own situation in West Texas, so we'll be learning a bit about what to expect and how to deal with the differences we'll see. The better prepared we are as a team, the more useful and lasting impact we can have there.

Prior to our trip, we'll need to meet together as a team for a total of 4 or 5 meetings. Team meetings are an extremely important part of this mission and are required for all team members. If you have an unavoidable conflict and cannot attend, please clear it with Pastor Walter before the meeting. The material for that meeting can be made up, but the relationship and team building cannot, so please only miss when it is absolutely necessary. **Our first team meeting will be Tuesday, December 4, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the church. Subsequent meetings will be decided upon by the team.**

Our ministry to those who send us on the trip (our church family and friends) is an important part of the mission. Because of this, team members will be expected to participate in the sharing and reporting opportunities upon our return from the trip. These opportunities will vary, but could include sharing stories in a worship service, Sunday school class, special event or small group as well as writing up stories for church publications.

Raising Support

Each team member will be expected to send out letters asking people for both prayer and financial support for the trip. We'll talk about this in our first meeting. If a team member wishes to fund the trip on their own, then he or she will still need to send out letters asking for people's prayer support. The total cost per person for the trip will be about \$2,000.

On the trip

Team members will be expected to participate fully while on the trip. This will include our daily devotions and debriefing times as well as all the ministry opportunities God gives us. We will give priority to building relationships whether through construction work or other activities.

The climate in Belize is warm and humid in March with highs in the 80s and 90s. Our accommodations will likely not have air conditioning, but our teams have found them to be sufficient in the past. Belize is a peaceful, small country and is usually quite safe for us to travel around. We will plan a day at the end of our trip to focus on debriefing our experience together before returning home. This time will be important for us to reflect on what God has done in and through us on the trip and how we are going to share with our friends, family and coworkers back home.

Children

With children on the trip, we will arrange our schedule as best we can to accommodate bedtimes and plenty of time to rest. We will give priority to families so they can stay together in their own rooms.

Passport and Immunization Requirements

If you have a passport, the expiration date needs to be at least six months after we arrive in Belize. If you do not yet have a passport, please arrange to get one as soon as possible. We recommend going to the passport office in the Ector County Courthouse.

You will need a current tetanus immunization (within the last 10 years) for the trip. No other immunizations are required. You may consult your doctor and/or the CDC's list (<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/belize.htm>) for recommendations (including anti-malaria medication).

Application process

Please fill out the attached application. It will also be accessible from our church website at fpcmid.org. Once completed, please turn the application in at the church or scan and email it to me at the address below. **The deadline for applications is Sunday, November 25, 2018.** Limited spots are available for this trip, so please be prompt in applying.

Again, we are very excited about what God has planned. If you have any questions at all, please feel free to call or email me. I would love to talk with you about it. May God bless you!

With the Peace of Christ,



Walter Thompson
cell: 432.312.8295
office: 432.684.7821
wthompson@fpcmid.org

FPC Midland Mission Trip Application

Mission Trip you're applying for	
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General Contact Information			
Full Name ¹			
Street Address ²			
City, ST, ZIP Code			
Home Phone		Work Phone	
Cell Phone		E-Mail Address	
Male or Female		Birth Date	
Marital Status		Occupation	
Church of Membership			

Passport Information			
Passport Number		Issued by (Nation)	
Date of Issue		Date of Expiration ³	
Country of Birth		Citizenship (Nation)	

Person to Notify in Case of Emergency	
Name	
Relation to you	
Street Address	
City, ST, ZIP Code	
Phone	
Alternate Phone	
E-Mail Address	

¹ Your full name as it appears on your passport (if you have one)

² Address where you will receive mail during our preparation process

³ Expiration date needs to be at least 6 months after we return from the trip.

Health Information

Please describe any health problems you may have, including chronic diseases and allergies.

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Please list any long-term medication you use and the reason.

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Do you experience claustrophobia or motion sickness?

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If you believe you have a chronic condition or allergy that might make participation in this mission trip inadvisable, please consult your physician and talk with the team leader.

Your Experience

Have you been a part of other short-term mission teams? If yes, briefly describe one of the highlights of your experience.

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Describe any other significant cross-cultural experiences you have had.

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Your Gifts and Abilities

In what areas has God given you special gifts, abilities or experience?

In what ways are you currently involved in the ministry of FPC and/or other churches?

How are you serving God where you live?

What do you consider your strength(s) in working on a team?

What do you consider your weakness(es) in working on a team?

Expectations

As an applicant for this FPC Mission Team, I understand and agree to the following expectations:

- **Team Meetings**
 - I will be expected to attend all team meetings possible before, during and after the trip.
- **Trip Cost**
 - I understand and agree to the guidelines for payment and/or support raising as outlined in the cover letter.
- **Physical demands**
 - I understand the physical demands of this trip as outlined in the cover letter.

Understanding and agreeing to the above expectations, I commit my time, talents, energy and prayers to the Lord to make a success of this Mission Trip.

Name (printed)	
Signature	
Today's Date	