**BETHEL YOUTH MEXICO 2023**

# **Quick Facts:**

**Where do we travel?** Sonora, Mexico (Hermosillo, Bahia Kino, and Punta Chueca)

**When do we go?** March 23 – April 2, 2023

**How do we get there?** We travel by plane to Phoenix, Arizona and then take a shuttle bus to Hermosillo, Mexico.

**Cost:** $1,600

**When is the application due?** Sunday, October 16 at 11:59PM

**Is there an initial fee?** Yes, team members will be required to pay a $200 deposit at the first meeting (October 30) which is not refundable.

**How does the team prepare for this trip?** We have 7 meetings before the trip, where we largely devote time to getting to know one another and preparing spiritually for the trip.

# **Frequently Asked Questions:**

**What church do we partner with?** Centro Biblico Familiar El Sembrador in Hermosillo, Mexico. We have been partnering with them since 2011.

**What do we do while in Mexico?** Activities in the past have included hosting children’s programs, delivering bags of food to people in need, helping with construction projects at the church (painting, pouring concrete, etc.), and giving out food and praying for people outside the hospital. Each year has a slight variation and we are still in communication with the pastor regarding what this upcoming year will include.

**Why does the team travel to Bahia Kino and Punta Chueca too?** It is part of the ministry of the church in Hermosillo. They had begun to work on planting a church near Punta Chueca (an indigenous community) before the pandemic. We stay in Bahia Kino a couple of nights to minister to the people in Punta Chueca alongside the members of the church.

**What does the cost include?** Flights, travel medical insurance, transportation, food (except for additional snacks and food in the airport), accommodations, construction project costs, and funds for the activities that we host during the week.

**Where does the team stay?** The team stays in a hotel in Phoenix (to avoid travelling at night and the possibility of missing our return flight due to delays at the boarding crossing), and a rented house (AirBNB style) in Hermosillo and Bahia Kino.

**What is the transportation in Mexico?** When we arrive in Phoenix, we take an airport shuttle to the hotel and travel by rented shuttle from the hotel to Hermosillo. Once we arrive in Hermosillo, all travelling is done with the bus the church owns (including travel to Bahia Kino and Punta Chueca).

**When and where are the meetings?** We host the meetings on Sunday’s after the Bethel church service downstairs in the lower level (outside the kitchen and in the chapel). We meet for lunch, while we discuss any upcoming fundraiser, then we have devotional, each team member takes turns sharing their faith journey up until this point, and we practice a drama skit which we use in Mexico to share the Gospel message without words.

**Do you know the dates of the meetings?** Yes, we like to schedule them in advance so parents and leaders can put them on their calendar early. The dates are: October 30, December 4, January 22, February 12, March 5, March 12, and March 19.

**Are team members required to attend every meeting?** We encourage students to attend every meeting, but we understand that scheduling conflicts do occur. Student, however, must commit to missing no more than two meetings.

**When and what will the fundraisers be?** We haven’t finalized dates and information about all of the fundraisers yet, but we will host a fundraiser event at Bethel after the church service on November 20. Other fundraiser initiatives will include selling items (in the past these have been poinsettias, wreaths and winter planters, sub sandwiches, and Dutch treats) and we also encourage students to send out support letters to people they know to sponsor them for their trip.

**How else is money raised for the trip?** We take an offering from the church on a Sunday before our trip. We encourage all team members to attend that Sunday so the congregation can see our team and pray for us. The date for this is Sunday, March 12.

**What if I am unable to fundraise the full amount for the trip?** All members of the team are required to be involved in fundraising. Letters with updates regarding fundraising will be sent home with your teen after each fundraiser. If the total amount needed for the trip (approximately $1600) is not fundraised by March 1st, the balance remaining will need to be paid by March 15th. However, if the amount remaining exceeds $750 as of February 2nd, a letter will be sent out requesting partial payment by February 15th.

**Do you share about the trip?** Yes, we do. We have tentatively put Sunday, April 16th on the calendar as the date our team will share about our experiences with the Bethel congregation after we return. We also may post pictures on the Bethel Youth or Bethel Community Church Instagram or Facebook page (if we have parental permission) during the trip to let you know how we are doing.

**What airline do we fly with?** This year we are flying with Swoop Airlines into Mesa, Arizona. The flight times (and possibly even dates) are subject to change, so we will update parents with any new information regarding the flights.

If you have any additional questions that are not answered here, please contact Pastor Melanie Wright ([melanie@discoverbethel.com](mailto:melanie@discoverbethel.com))