

SECTION I, AMOR

Mission and Purpose



We Believe

- that God, as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, are one.
- that God guides, inspires, and strengthens us through His Holy Spirit and Word.
- that as Christians, we live by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and that we consider this the Good News to the world.
- in His commandments to love God above all, and our neighbors as ourselves.
- that God impels us to make a difference in our world.
- that we should always act out of love, considering all men and women as our brothers and sisters.



The Amor Mission Trip Philosophy

- The Amor mission trip philosophy was established in light of the uniqueness of Amor Ministries and has been refined over time. The philosophy is threefold:
- To serve the local church in Mexico by providing homes, churches, facilities, and outreach ministry according to the standards and needs of the various communities in which we work.
- To serve the local church outside of Mexico by providing ministry opportunities to mission trip groups according to the standards and needs of the various communities in which we work.
- To work and to minister according to the goals, objectives and ministry strategies established by the Mexico Ministry Planning Board and in the best interests of our mission trip participants and donors.

The Mexico Ministry Planning Board

The Mexico Ministry Planning Board (MMPB) are not employees of Amor, but an integral part of the Amor team, because they provide vital support in Tijuana, Ciudad Juarez, and Puerto Peñasco, Mexico. The board is made up of Mexican pastors who volunteer to serve alongside the Amor staff because they share a vision of ministry to the people of Mexico. These tireless, self-sacrificing men interview prospective families, create biographical sketches on each family, determine the families in the greatest need for house building priority, and return to the family again and again after the house is complete to remind them that the God who has provided the house will provide salvation for all eternity. The MMPB sets the tone for service by their consistent involvement with outreach programs and medical clinics.

Amor's Field Staff and Volunteers

The Field Team is most seen and known by the groups, because they serve alongside the mission trip groups in Mexico. The Field Team provides groups with escorts to the camp and worksites and positive house building assistance. Amor's Field staff is dedicated to making the experience of each group in Mexico the safest and best it can be for both the family receiving the house and the group building the house.

In addition to working with our Field Staff in Mexico, some groups coming in spring and summer will serve alongside Amor's volunteers. These volunteers are committed to assisting and encouraging groups throughout their mission trip experience.

Project Barnabas is Amor's spring volunteer program. A Barnabas functions as an on-site liaison between the group leader and Amor's field staff. Group leaders should not expect a high level of technical support from this team. They have not received enough training nor are they experienced in the house building process. A Barnabas is not on the worksites to control a group's production or to act as spiritual advisors. They are there to create an environment of motivation and encouragement throughout the work week. They are instructed to help as little or as much in the construction process as the group leader deems necessary.

Amor interns are young people (18-25 years old) who sacrifice their summer vacation to serve families and church groups in Mexico. The intern team spends a week in cross-cultural and conflict resolution training followed by a week of house building training. Interns are trained in the house building process, but they are not expected to be experts. They will refer difficult questions to an Amor field staff member.

Interns are expected to encourage group members on the site and at camp. They are responsible for the relay of information from a group to the Amor staff on questions of house building or policy. They are encouraged to interact with each group as much as possible, including sharing meals and participating in group devotions.

Remember, the staff and volunteers are servants just like you. Please be considerate of them and make them feel welcome at your campsite and worksite. Don't forget to plan for them in your meal times, too. Thank you!



SECTION III, CAMPSITE AND WORKSITE

The Amor Camp



Imagine participating in an event without rules of conduct. Now imagine this on a mission trip in a foreign country. The result: chaos! The Amor Camps are communities with their own sets of rules and regulations that the participants are expected to uphold. We've adopted the same principle found in most state campgrounds: take nothing but pictures; leave nothing but footprints.

Authority

- Group leaders are responsible for the whereabouts of group members at all times.
- The Amor Staff serve as guides and hosts, not police.
- The camp caretakers, pastors on the Mexico Ministry Planning Board, are there 24 hours a day to prevent unauthorized entry into and departure from the camps.



Respect

- Each campsite is a 'private' area. Do not enter without an invitation.
- Do not venture into areas outside of the main camp without asking a staff member.
- Every group is different; do not impose your standards on others.

The Camp

- Groups are expected to stay at the Amor Camps.
- The camps are established near the communities where Amor builds homes.
- Camping provides an atmosphere of team building within each group.
- Groups should not bring fireworks, weapons, drugs, alcohol or animals into the camp.
- Groups should not leave camp without notifying an Amor staff member.
- The camps are open spaces of gravel and dirt.
- An air mattress or at least a thick foam mat that fits under a sleeping bag is a smart investment.
- Canopies, folding chairs and tables are good to bring for dining, Bible study, and relaxation after a long day of work.
- Another smart buy is large steel tent pegs. Aluminum and plastic pegs are too weak to penetrate or stay in the ground.
- Keep vehicles locked when unoccupied and carry spare keys.
- Recreational vehicles are welcome.
- Sandals, shorts, and tank tops can be worn at camp, but please stress modesty.

Designated Campsites

- All groups will be given a designated, chalked out area to use as their campsite when they arrive in camp.
- Campsites are determined by group size.
- Plan for enough seating, cooking, and serving equipment for your entire group.
- Smokers must smoke only at their fire pits; no smoking in public areas or on the worksite.

Fire Pits

- Groups who want a campfire must dig a firepit and it must be contained within their campsite.
- Only wood or paper products can be burned.
- Do not allow the fire to be more than 3 feet high.
- All fire pits must be cleaned and refilled before leaving.



The Bathrooms

- A bathroom is called a baño \bahnyo\ and it resembles an outhouse.
- Helpful Hint: B.Y.O.T.P. (Bring Your Own Toilet Paper)
- Baños are cleaned and disinfected daily. Report any problems immediately.

The Showers

- Amor Camps use bucket showers with separate, enclosed structures, marked 'boys' and 'girls'.
- Shower in the appropriate enclosed structures only.
- Water is provided in 55-gallon water barrels just outside the showers.
- Take shower water from the barrel; don't bathe in the barrel.
- Groups should not drink, brush teeth or wash dishes with water from the shower barrels.
- There is a two and a half gallon limit for each person, per day.
- Proper shower attire is a bathing suit.
- Proper attire to and from the shower is anything large enough to cover the bathing suit.
- Keep personal items (especially razors) off the shower floor.
- Helpful Hint: A great water container for showers can be made by cutting the top off of a gallon jug just above the handle.
- Helpful Hint: A good investment is a portable shower bladder. Fill it, hang it in the sun, and by evening, there are two and a half gallons of warm water for a shower.

Trash

- There is an area designated within the Amor Camp for all trash.
- Bag trash, tie all bags and break down boxes before placing in designated area.
- Do not allow trip members to litter.

Quiet Hours

- Quiet hours are 10pm- 6 am. Dismiss kids between 9:30pm and 9:45pm to use restroom, brush teeth and be back in campsite by 10pm.
- No Radios or PA systems.
- Quiet conversation within campsite.
- No loud voices en route to or at baños.
- Respect those around you by adhering to quiet time rules.

Generators

- No portable generators are allowed through the Mexican border. All generators must be fixed to the bed of a truck, trailer, or camper.
- Generators are allowed for food preparation only.
- Groups should contact the Amor office in advance, because all groups with generators will be positioned together so that noise will be limited.
- Generators cannot be used for sound systems.



SECTION III, CAMPSITE AND WORKSITE

The Worksite



Dress Code

- The Amor Ministries worksite dress code is clothing that is culturally appropriate and will promote health and safety.
- A t-shirt, long pants, and a pair of shoes is the minimum dress code requirement for the worksite.
- For safety and cultural reasons, shorts, capris, sandals, short t-shirts and going shirtless are never allowed on Amor worksites. Shorts and going shirtless can be culturally unacceptable in the communities we work in and often cast a negative image of the Church.
- Our pastors have specifically requested these requirements.



Supervision

- An adult leader needs to be at each worksite to make decisions, motivate, and discipline the group when necessary.
- The Amor representative does not lead groups. That is the responsibility of the group leader. The Amor representative will work alongside a group, help make building decisions, show groups more effective ways of working and generally assist the worksite leader in any way possible.

Working at the site

- Each worksite can use approximately 15-22 workers, depending on the phase of the project.
- Amor strives to have groups with multiple worksites near each other, but this consideration is secondary to the needs of the Mexican communities we serve.
- Encourage the family to work with your group.
- The goal of building, unfortunately, often surpasses the goal of ministry and service. Ministry to the people of Mexico is much more than building!
- Groups should determine a work schedule based upon the group's energy level, the intensity of the sun, outreach programming schedule, and other outreach activities.
- An average work schedule is from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.
- The work day may begin no earlier than 7:30am and must conclude 1 hour before sunset or no later than 6pm during summer months.
- The families groups build for sometimes make personal requests for adjustments in the building plans. Please confer with an Amor staff member before proceeding.

Materials

- Inventory all materials at the worksite. Ask the family where materials are stored.
- The quality of materials may vary. Sand may have dirt or big rocks in it. The lumber may be warped. Don't be alarmed... be flexible.

Tools and Equipment

- No power tools of any kind are allowed on any Amor worksite.**
- Groups should buy new hand saws, or ensure every saw is sharpened.
- Generators are not allowed on any Amor worksite.**
- End each day with a tool pick-up and clean-up time.
- Groups can donate any tools for the continuing work on the field.
- A tool rental program has been established. Call us for availability and pricing.

Final Tip: Please remind your group not to play with the animals in Mexico.

Animals are not required to be registered or immunized there, so the safest bet is to steer clear.

