

BOLIVIA IMPACT MINISTRIES GO TEAM 2020

Application Deadline: December 15th, 2019

Approximate Trip Dates: October or November 2020

Trip ID#: TBD



IMPACT

Purpose: Blackhawk Church partners with Food for the Hungry in the neighborhood of Lajastambo, Bolivia (on the outskirts of Sucre, the traditional capital of Bolivia). Food for the Hungry is a Christian organization seeking to end all forms of human poverty by going to the hardest places and walking closely with the world's most vulnerable people. They actively partner with churches, leaders and families to build mutually transformative relationships, usher justice, and renew communities so God's purpose is revealed in each person they serve. This team will come alongside Food for the Hungry and the community of Lajastambo through different activities in which there will be opportunities to build relationships with men, women and children. Focuses for this team could include working with men and women on economic sustainability, facilitating marriage and family workshops, helping with activities related to hygiene and nutrition, etc. Teams will always work with children through various activities, and team members must be able to engage and play with multiple children at once. Medical professionals are always encouraged to apply. The team will also be expected to lead a short musical worship session during a church service in Lajastambo.

Trip Dates: Dates for this trip are yet to be determined. The trip will be in either October or November 2020 and will be 9 days long (7 days in country). Final trip dates will be determined by affordable available airfare.

Team Members: Space on this trip is limited. This trip will consist of 12-15 adult team members (including team leaders). Applicants must be at least 21 years old. It is important that our team members are mature, available, humble and flexible, and would make a positive contribution to the team. Team members will be expected to be actively involved at Blackhawk in addition to this trip. The ideal candidate will be interested in developing mutually transformative relationships with people of another culture. We are also seeking team members who are conversational or fluent in Spanish. Please take note of the Safety Concerns section below when applying.

Application Process: After reviewing this document and praying about your decision to apply, please fill-out the online GO Team Application by **11:59 pm on Sunday, December 15, 2019, the sooner the better.** After reviewing applications, some applicants may be asked to meet with trip leaders and/or members from the Impact Ministries team to discuss their application.

Who is leading this trip?

Anne Rodgers is the GO Team Trip leader, and Tom Schwei is the GO Team assistant leader.

Accommodations: While in Bolivia, the team will stay at a hotel in Sucre for the majority of the trip. The hotel is modest, but clean and comfortable, with private bathrooms and bedrooms. Team members may be asked to share a room with another member of the team. The team will spend 1-2 nights either in Santa Cruz or La Paz, also in a hotel.

Safety Concerns: The US Department of State has issued a general worldwide travel caution (dated 1/15/2019) in response to threat of terrorist actions and violence against U.S. citizens throughout the world. Please visit <http://travel.state.gov> to read warnings and for more information on traveling abroad to Bolivia.

Mosquito borne illnesses, including Zika, chikungunya, yellow fever, malaria, etc. are risks in Bolivia, particularly in Santa Cruz due to its low elevation. Precautions should be taken while in country to

prevent mosquito bites, and team members should see a travel physician to ensure they have the appropriate vaccinations/medications. Please visit wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/clinician/none/Bolivia to learn more about the CDC's recommendations for travelers to Bolivia. To specifically learn more about Zika and its risks, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/zika/index.html>

Sucre is high in terms of elevation (~9,000 feet above sea level). The team's flight may arrive/depart from La Paz, which is approximately 12,000 feet above sea level. Individuals with heart or other medical conditions that might be affected by high elevation should seriously consider whether it is safe for them to apply for this trip. Terrain can be rocky and uneven, and team members must be able to be on their feet for the majority of the day.

We monitor the security situation in any destination country, including Bolivia. We are frequently dialoguing with the in-country ministry partners to assess any safety concerns for traveling teams. We will continue to monitor all upcoming news related to traveler safety in the country.

Cost of Trip: The trip will cost approximately **\$2,700-2,900** per participant (pending airfare costs and budget finalizations). A support raising goal in this range will be announced at the first team meeting. Though it is not required, team members are encouraged to contribute an initial financial gift in the amount of their choice to help with start-up funds and early expenses. The rest is to be raised through supporters (family, friends, etc.). Each team member is required to:

- 1) Send out 75-90 support letters
- 2) Attend the scheduled training meetings.
 1. Meeting #1: Sunday, March 15, 1-3pm
 2. Meeting #2: Sunday, April 5, 2:30-4pm
 3. Meeting #3: Sunday, May 17, 2:30-4pm
 4. Meeting #4: Sunday, June 14, 2:30-4pm
 5. Meeting #5: Sunday, July 19, 2:30-4pm
 6. Meeting #6: Sunday, September 13, 2:30-4pm
 7. Meeting #7: Date TBD (dependent on final trip dates)
 8. Meeting #8: (Packing Party & Final Preparations): Date TBD (dependent on final trip dates)
 9. Meeting #9 (Show & Tell Celebration): Date TBD (dependent on final trip dates)

Passport Requirements: Participants must have a valid passport that does not expire within six months of our return to the USA (April/May, 2021). The current turn-around on passports can be 8-12 weeks. In order to avoid a conflict with our departure dates please send in your passport application/renewal forms when you submit your application for this trip. You can learn more about this through the US Postal Service at www.usps.gov or at our local branch of the post office.

To Prepare for the Trip: Pray that God will direct the team leadership to choose the team members that He wants to be a part of this trip. Pray for God to prepare your heart for what He has for you during this trip. Pray for your teammates and leaders, and the people you will meet in Bolivia.

If you are selected to be on the team you may need some vaccinations and medications and will need to make an appointment with one of the local Travel Medicine Clinics (contact your primary physician). If you have not been on a short-term trip before you should do this as early as possible as some of the vaccinations require repeat visits. We will go over this during the first meeting.

Climate in Bolivia: November marks the start of Bolivia's wet/rainy season (summer season). The average high temperature in Sucre in October and November is in the low 70s, and the average low is 50 degrees. Santa Cruz is warmer, with highs near 90 degrees and lows near 70 degrees. We recommend packing layers. Sucre is fairly high in elevation (~9,000) and the area is mountainous. Due to high elevation, the temperatures in La Paz are lower, typically with highs in the mid 60s and a low temperature near 40 degrees.

Questions? Contact one of the following:

Anne Rodgers - GO Team Trip Leader: arodgersfam@gmail.com

Tom Schwei - GO Team Assistant Leader: tschwei@prodigy.net

Maddie Blanchard, Impact Ministries Administrative and Global Outreach Assistant,
mblanchard@blackhawkchurch.org