



FAQ - Mission Teams

1. Q: What do you believe about Short-Term Missions?

A: At El Ayudante, each *short-term* team fulfills an integral part in the bigger picture of our *long-term* ministry. Teams are our work force - the energy and encouragement that helps us change lives and equip our local Honduran community. Serving at El Ayudante is not about satisfying ourselves, just completing a task, or 'fixing the poor.' We ask our teams to come with a humble attitude of service, ready to learn and grow. Learn more about our mission and vision at eahonduras.org.

2. Q: What is a good size for a team?

A: Our minimum team size is 10 members and maximum is 20 members. A team size in this range provides the best possible experience for all team members. When determining the size of your team, keep in mind that larger teams will likely split into smaller work groups for their projects.

3. Q: What city would we fly into & how far is it to El Ayudante from the airport?

A: Most often, teams fly into San Pedro Sula (SAP), a 3½-hour drive from El Ayudante. Tegucigalpa (TGU) is another option and is an 1½-hour drive. However, SAP is usually more affordable and less prone to weather delays than TGU. *During the summer, teams are required to fly into SAP.*

4. Q: How long of a trip should we plan?

A: Most teams stay 7 nights, 8 days. During the summer we *require Saturday to Saturday trips*. However, in non-summer months, this may be flexible if there are other options you prefer. If you would like to stay longer or shorter than 8 days, please let us know, but an 8-day trip usually provides the best experience for teams.

5. Q: Money – how much does it cost and what does it cover?

A: The cost per person for 8 days at El Ayudante is \$550. This includes all transportation from arrival to departure, housing, food, bottled water, translators, and all the preparation and leadership for your week of ministry. Teams are responsible for their own airfare, immunizations, passports, travel insurance, and souvenir expenses, as well as project money. Exit Fees, if applicable, are not covered by EA and must be paid in cash at the airport before you leave Honduras. Typically, this fee is \$40. (Check with your airline ahead of time. Most airlines include this in the price of the ticket).

6. Q: What does “Project Money” mean?

A: “Project Money” is the funding that will cover your actual project or ministry expenses while in Honduras like construction materials, paint, water filters, etc. (This does not include additional supplies you may choose to purchase and bring with you.) We ask teams to provide \$100-\$150 per team member for project money; this amount allows your team to have plenty of projects to work on. As you and the El Ayudante staff determine your team’s schedule and projects, we will provide an itemized estimate of your project costs so you can see where each dollar will be spent.

7. Q: How & when do I send money for my team?

A: An initial non-refundable deposit of \$500 must be sent to El Ayudante in order to secure the dates for your team. A non-refundable deposit of \$200 per person is due 3 months prior to arrival date. The balance of team fees and project money is due 30 days prior to arrival date. Make checks payable to “El Ayudante Missions, Inc.” and put your team/church name in the memo line. Mail all checks to:

El Ayudante Missions, Inc.
PO Box 154
Rodeo, CA 94572

8. Q: If a team member cannot come, will they receive a refund for the ground fee of \$550?

A: If a team member is paid in full and needs to cancel for any reason, they will receive a refund of \$350 if they cancel *more than 7 days prior* to their trip. If canceling less than 7 days before the trip, no refund will be issued.

9. Q: What addition donations are helpful to bring to Honduras?

A: We have a list! See the “EA Needs List” at eahonduras.org located in the *EA Resource Links* section.

10. Q: What does a VBS, or school program, look like?

A: There is so much room for creativity! We just ask that whatever you do, you do with excellence. With the guidance of EA staff, teams are responsible to make a plan for their program and come prepared. Generally speaking, children’s programs are hosted at local schools for 2 to 3 hours, for 2 or 3 days in a row. Usually the children are divided into smaller groups, and teams use stations for children to rotate between. Everything from crafts, to music, to games and activities are all great hits! El Ayudante staff will help walk you through the preparation process.

For all teams participating in a VBS or school program, we ask them to complete and return our “VBS Planning Sheet” located at eahonduras.org in the *EA Resource Links* section. Please also consider meeting one of the most common and important needs for our schools – basic school supplies. If you can bring pencils, erasers, notebooks, scissors, crayons, etc. it would be a huge blessing for a school.

11. Q: How much ‘spending cash’ should I bring?

A: This depends on how much you like to shop! Team members need to cover all meals in the airport, including lunch in Honduras on travel day home. Spending cash is also for snacks and souvenirs in Honduras. (At the EA Mission House, we have snacks and El Ayudante merchandise for sale as well.)

Team leaders may also consider bringing extra funds to cover a project or need that you encounter in the community while you are here, or treating your team to a treat like ice cream, as well as bringing funds for unexpected medical services. Credit cards are accepted at most stores in Honduras. We also have a safe at El Ayudante where you are welcome to store your money.

12. Q: Can “downtime or tourist time” be worked into the schedule?

A: Yes – we schedule some time off and tourist time for all teams. Options include shopping in central park and visiting the cathedral, visiting a waterfall, and swimming at a pool or our local river. We also like to celebrate the conclusion of a team with a meal at a typical Honduran restaurant.

13. Q: What kind of multi-media can we use for ministry?

A: El Ayudante has a portable sound system, CD player, 2 microphones, a projector, and a DVD player for use by teams. We also have a guitar you may use.

When choosing music or movies to share – make sure the **spoken language** is Spanish – sub-titles do not work well as it’s too fast for the children to read, and even some of the adults are illiterate.

13. Q: I don’t speak Spanish! Can I serve when I can’t even speak to the people?

A: YES! Although it can feel incredibly intimidating to come to a place where you can’t communicate, your ministry can still be effective and worthwhile. Remember, actions can speak volumes. We also have translators that will help you connect with the local Hondurans. At the same time, we greatly encourage teams to learn as much Spanish as possible, even if just a little, before they come.

14. Q: I want to book a team to serve at El Ayudante, what do I do?

A: Email us at teams@eahonduras.org and let us know you want to serve with us! To book a team, you just need to communicate with us about your preferred dates and complete our Team Application (that we will send to you). Once your dates are approved, mail us a \$500 deposit to secure your dates.

Have more questions?

For more detailed team information, please read the **Team Leader Packet** found at eahonduras.org in the “EA Resource Links” section. If you still have questions, don’t hesitate to email us: teams@eahonduras.org.