

# Things that you will need to know about serving at Lantern Hill

## **Living situation**

As our summer staff, you will be living in close quarters and sharing rooms. The girls will be in one and the guys in another and you will share one bathroom for all the volunteers. Cleaning this area will be your responsibility and part of living with your new "family." There is a "hang-out" area just for the staff and when available, you may also use the studio apartment located above your rooms. This will usually be where we connect as a team and have staff meetings. It has it's own kitchen for you to enjoy when it's not being used for our groups or being rented out.

## **Working**

You will have different responsibilities around the Retreat Center at "home" and at our sites out in the community. You can expect long days sometimes beginning early and lasting until late in the evening. This will include chores at Lantern Hill, leading groups to and from sites and serving along side your group. You will need to be a servant leader. This means doing sometimes menial tasks with joy, organizing the participants, encouraging them when they are tired and continuing to serve even when you are tired. That is why resting when you can is so important.

## **Siesta**

Each day, between 3:00 - 6:00, we return home from our sites and participate in siesta time. This is your time to rest, play, enjoy the beautiful surroundings and do what you need to do for you! You will need to be refreshed for group processing which happens after dinner and there will be opportunities for you as a staff

member to help lead group discussions and activities. In all things, we ask you to be patient with yourselves, your team and your directors. We need to be flexible!

## **"Somos Flexibles!"**

**"We are flexible!"** This is our motto and we cannot emphasize this enough. This is Mexico. Things don't happen on an American timeframe. Sometimes 11:00 means 11:15 or 12:30. And we have to go with the flow. Each day something different may happen - a new project will pop up or the order of the day will get changed. We will look for the positive in all of this and understand that "our world is not the world."

## **Cultural Differences & the Christian church in Mexico**

Life in Mexico is different than life in the states in many ways. We can learn from each other if we are from different backgrounds. We always try to respect the culture and the land that we live in and are careful not to put our priorities and our expectations on another culture. We think differently and that is okay. Just because we do it one way does not make it a "better" way. The Culture of Mexico sometimes also differs from the Culture of the Mexican Christian. There are rules that Christians here follow that we may not, but we must respect these rules even if we think differently. The way we dress is one of them!

## **Modest Dress**

Women do not wear short shorts or spaghetti straps, except for at the beach. It is very rare to see a woman in a bathing suit at all. If you wear

one with American groups, we ask that you wear a one-piece. If we do large events with Mexican groups we will probably ask you to wear shorts and a t-shirt or tank-top to swim in. Women wear nice clothes to church and a skirt if part of the service.

In impoverished areas, Men do not wear shorts. You are able to wear these around Lantern Hill and in tourist areas, but never when at a site and never to church. Men need to be dressed in khakis or nice jeans and a polo or button down shirt for church. We also do not allow men to wear sleeveless or cut-off t-shirts. It's just not culturally acceptable.

## **Packing**

You will not have that much drawer space. Please pack wisely. You can wash your clothes weekly and re-use them. The majority of your days will be spent getting dirty and working. Work clothes (that you don't mind if they get ruined) are what we recommend for your daily wear. T-shirts, jeans, cargo pants and capris. Sweatshirts and long-sleeve t-shirts are needed for cooler nights. Closed-toed shoes are best for the sites because you never know what each day brings. When back at Lantern Hill, you can wear your flip flops, t-shirts and long shorts. And remember, you can always buy something here if you need to and support the Mexican economy!

## **Working Together**

We need to communicate as a team and work together. You are responsible for communicating your needs and feelings to the team. Attitude is everything. Please bring a positive one with you! We can't wait!