

Mission Builder Manual

YWAM Heredia
Costa Rica

Youth With A Mission (YWAM) Heredia, Costa Rica

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Dear Prospective Mission Builder:

Thank you for your interest in serving as a Mission Builder with Youth with a Mission, Heredia, Costa Rica. It is exciting to see the Lord calling workers to fulfill the vision of YWAM, Heredia, Costa Rica.

Volunteering as a Mission Builder is a great way to see if you want to get more involved with YWAM. It gives you the opportunity to talk with staff and students about life as a missionary, as well as be involved in the local outreaches such as feeding the homeless, discipleship classes at the Drug Rehab center, Bible distribution, Bible studies, Kid's Club and more. Whatever is happening at YWAM Heredia in Costa Rica, you can be a part of it. Mission Builders have played a major role in making YWAM what it is today. They serve in many ways, assisting with everything from carpentry and maintenance to food services, housekeeping, grounds keeping, gardening, caring for the animals, office work and more. Many of these wonderful volunteers come year after year because they've found it's a challenging and spiritually refreshing experience -- and a great way to make new friends from around the world. It often is the first step into missions.

We accept volunteers for periods varying from two weeks minimum to three months. Each volunteer provides their own round-trip transportation and any personal expenses. Volunteers work 30 - 40 hours a week depending on what is needed. Room and board per month is \$200 USD. This can be paid weekly (\$50). The non-refundable application fee of US \$40 for singles or \$60 for a couple is to be sent with the application.

Enclosed are **Guidelines for Short Term Workers**, that should be read carefully, and an **application and reference form**. Please fill out application as completely as possible. The **Statement of Commitment** on the application, that will need your signature, refers to the Guidelines attached. When considering your dates for period of availability on the application please give **specific beginning and ending dates, avoiding weekends and holidays** as we do not provide transportation on those days. Couples need separate application and reference forms.

The reference forms should be given to a pastor, teacher or recent employer with instructions to scan and email to: jucumheredia@gmail.com. After we receive your completed Application, Reference Form and application fee, we will pray and make a decision. Therefore, do not make transportation arrangements until you get the acceptance letter from us.

In His Service,
Terry Keith
Director of Operations



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LIFESTYLE:

Youth with a Mission is a missionary organization whose goal is "to know God and make Him known". Our desire is that the life style in living, learning and working together would support this goal. We endeavor to maintain normally accepted Christian standards (yes, including a sanction against drinking, smoking, drug abuse, sexual immorality, etc.) We trust you'll experience a combination of godliness and naturalness that will be refreshing. We did want you to understand beforehand what is expected of those who come to work with us. We'll appreciate your help projecting this Christian testimony with us both on campus and off here in Costa Rica.

LOCATION:

Costa Rica, often dubbed the "little Switzerland" of Central America, is located in the center of the Central American isthmus to the north of Panama and the south of Nicaragua. It is a beautiful country, rich in culture and natural beauty from where it derives its name Costa Rica "rich coast". Our Costa Rican YWAM base is located in the mountains north of Heredia in a city called Los Angeles de San Rafael de Heredia.

CLIMATE:

Because of its mountain ranges, the weather can vary quite a bit, depending on where you are. It may be rainy and cool in San Jose (the capital), but warm and sunny on the Pacific Coast. The average year-round temperature is a delightful 72 degrees Fahrenheit (22 degrees Centigrade) in San Jose and elsewhere in the highlands. Nights can be even cooler. In the warmer, more humid lowlands, the temperatures can vary from the high 70's to the low 90's. The rainy season lasts from April to December. The mornings are generally warm and sunny and the afternoons cool and wet.

TRANSPORT:

Transportation is provided to and from the airport, and to all Mission Builder functions. Car rentals are available locally for weekend excursions.

CLOTHING:

Dress in Costa Rica is casual. It is tropical; therefore, cotton clothing or a cotton/polyester blend is most comfortable. Depending upon where you are in the country, the climate could be more or less humid. Where we are located in mountains, the evenings are usually cool and require a light jacket or sweater.

Because we have people coming to the Costa Rican base from many nations and cultures, there are many differences in our thinking regarding what is appropriate dress. We need to be sensitive to others and to the culture in which we are living.

We hope that the following guidelines will help you select items as you're packing your suitcase.



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CLOTHING: (continued)

Because the different provinces of Costa Rica offer different climates and temperatures, it will be better to come prepared for "a little of everything". Cotton clothing and blends are the most comfortable. As there may be times that you'd be washing clothes by hand, lighter weight fabrics tend to dry more quickly. For Sunday visits to church services or other special occasions, the dress will be dress pants, dress shirt for men and dresses or skirts for the ladies. It is good to think in terms of layering your clothing as the mornings could be cool and then the days warm up. We only have two seasons here, rainy and dry. The rainy season begins usually in the month of April and lasts until December. The days could dawn sunny, but by midday the rain could have started and may last through the night. Bring sweatshirts, sweaters, and rain gear in addition to ordinary summer clothing. The dry season takes up the rest of the year. The days are sunny, bright, windy and warm with the temperature dropping as the sun sets. The sun typically sets between 5.30 and 6.00 p.m. year-round. Swimsuits should be of one piece and modest for the ladies and shorts style for men.

LINEN:

Please bring your own towels, sheets and a light blanket or sleeping bag.

MAIL:

It is essential when informing your friends of your address that you specify "Mission Builders". We do not encourage you to have packages sent here to Costa Rica as it is not secure. We encourage you to inform your family and friends to email, skype or call you (if you have an international cell phone) rather than using snail mail directly to Costa Rica as it can take a long time and is not secure.

TRAVEL:

AFTER YOU HAVE RECEIVED YOUR ACCEPTANCE LETTER FROM US, you may then purchase a round-trip ticket to San Jose (Airport Juan Santa Maria), Costa Rica. **YOU MUST COME WITH A ROUND-TRIP TICKET.** Be sure to return your arrival & departure form (which you will receive with your acceptance letter) at least two weeks before your intended arrival to help us greet you properly. We will make every effort to meet your flight at Juan Santa Maria Int'l Airport, but sometimes circumstances beyond our control do interfere. In that event, please call our Mission Builder Coordinator at (506) 267-7063.

PLEASE PLAN YOUR ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DURING THE WEEK AND NOT ON THE WEEKENDS OR HOLIDAYS. Generally weekday travel will save you money and it will simplify arrangements for us.



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MEALS:

All meals are served family-style. Meal schedules are provided upon arrival. If you have any food allergies that we need to be aware of, please let us know.

HOUSING:

We live as “a community” and seek as much as possible to preserve a family atmosphere. Singles can expect to share a room with others. We will try to accommodate couples and families as necessary. At this time we do not have accommodations for families on the base premises.

Because of our limited space, we know you will understand that we are able to provide room and board only for workers in needed skills who are able to work a full day.

SCHEDULE:

We work eight hours Monday through Friday. Weekends are free for resting, exploring and attending the church of your choice. Workers are required to have their quiet time and be at the morning worship at the base. You are also required to be part of the staff meetings on Wednesdays.

INSURANCE:

WE DO NOT PROVIDE MEDICAL COVERAGE. PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR CHURCH OR EMPLOYER OR INSURANCE CARRIER TO CONFIRM THAT YOU WILL BE COVERED DURING YOUR VOLUNTEER SERVICE WITH US.

TAX DEDUCTIONS:

Youth With A Mission – Heredia is a non-profit missionary organization and all donations of money, equipment or property are tax deductible. These gifts may be made without restriction or may be designated to one or more of the YWAM ministries through www.mei.com/ywam

Consult the IRS or other countries’ equivalent, if considering tax credits for travel in connection with your service as a voluntary builder/worker. It is recommended that your local church or other non-profit organization send you out where the ticket is paid by the church from donations made for this purpose.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to email to jucumheredia@gmail.com.