



Transformational Journeys

Trip Proposal: San Lucas Scholars Sponsor Trip, July 6 – July 15, 2012

Transformational Journeys mission is to introduce individuals to experiences that can inspire compassion, develop understanding and promote generosity through mutual service with people of other cultures.

THE PROJECT: The project for this group is two-fold: The primary focus will be on the San Lucas Scholars program allowing current and prospective sponsors to connect with sponsor children. The secondary focus will be on construction of fuel efficient, wood-burning cook stoves to give volunteers the opportunity to be in the home of a Guatemalan family and experience a glimpse of daily life.

Transformational Journeys will coordinate a series of events and opportunities for sponsors to connect with their San Lucas Scholar. These events include an orientation by Dennis Evans about the program and local schools, tours and activities at two local schools, speakers, meetings with your sponsor children and a day on Lake Atitlan.

Construction of fuel efficient, wood-burning cook stoves with chimneys for outside ventilation replace the current three rock open stove system and other antiquated stove variations. The new stoves are built using local materials to help reduce initial cost of construction and future repairs. The focus of this stove design is on fuel efficiency; reducing the amount of wood needed to effectively heat the stove, and therefore reducing deforestation and the economic impact on families who purchase wood. In addition, the new stoves help to prevent a variety of health issues ranging from burns, to respiratory, eye and back problems caused by years of working over a ground level three rock open stove. In each home, team members are divided into groups to work alongside a Mayan woman and her family. Together you will construct the stove in their home.

CULTURAL IMMERSION AND ACTIVITIES: Your Transformational Journeys leader and local stove instructors will teach you the skills needed to construct the fuel efficient cook stove. Team members will stay in a Guatemalan family run hotel in San Lucas Tolimán where your meals will be taken. There will be opportunities to attend a variety of local churches or to shop in the local street market in San Lucas Tolimán. Our days will be spent constructing stoves, engaging with children, spending time with your sponsor students, eating family style with our host families and sharing life together. During the afternoons, our Guatemalan partners will talk to the team about the history of their community, local politics, Mayan spirituality, and other interesting topics. We'll spend one day on Lake Atitlan, visiting the Mayan community of San Antonio Palopo, San Juan La Laguna and the popular tourist town of Panajachel.

TRIP DATES: July 6 – July 15, 2012

COST: \$1,850 per person

TRIP LEADER: Candace Kaster

HOW WE WORK AND WHAT'S INCLUDED: Transformational Journeys' model is to provide a complete trip with "no skills required". We customize our journeys to those we are traveling with, but have a set of objectives and goals for every journey we make and have a process that is unique to our organization. Our model includes pre-trip preparation, the trip itself and post-trip reflection and evaluation. We want to make sure you are fully prepared to enter a new country and connect with its people. We believe that each step is an important piece in the process of transformation.

Trip cost includes roundtrip airfare, medical insurance, trip leader(s), stove instructors, interpreter(s), TJ administrative fee, project donation and most in-country expenses including lodging, meals and transportation. TJ volunteer trips are tax deductible!

NOT INCLUDED: Immunizations, passport, souvenirs and personal items, and some meals on excursion and travel days.

PASSPORTS and VISAS: Passports are required to enter Guatemala, visas are not. Your passport must be valid for six months past the travel date. Visas are provided upon entry into Guatemala and there is currently no fee.

IMMUNIZATIONS: Transformational Journeys follows the Center for Disease Control guidelines on immunizations. There are no required immunizations for Guatemala, however TJ recommends that you consider an updated tetanus, hepatitis A and typhoid. Additional information on immunizations will be provided in your trip packet and during the General Orientation meeting.

IMPORTANT DATES:

February 1, 2012 Non-refundable deposit of \$250

Note: This Guatemala Team can be comprised of up to 14 travelers and will be filled on a first come first serve basis. Reserve your spot by sending your non-refundable deposit of \$250 made out to Transformational Journeys to the address below. This trip may be cancelled if TJ does not receive 8 or more reservations. If cancelled by TJ, fees will be refunded.

March 1, 2012 Ticketing payment of \$900 due

With this payment you must submit:

- Completed travel application with a copy of your passport
- Names of your sponsor children

Note: Date deviations are permitted at the end of your journey and must be submitted by this payment date. Date changes may include additional airline fees which will be charged to the traveler.

Important: Payment must be received by TJ on or before this deadline date. **After submission of this payment, airfare will be secured and trip fees become non-refundable and non-transferrable.**

Failure to submit payment by this deadline will result in a late fee of \$25 and a possible increase in total trip cost.

April 20, 2012 Final payment of \$700 due

Note: Failure to submit payment by this deadline will result in a late fee of \$25.

May 5, 2012 General Orientation Meeting (Mandatory) – 10:00am, details to be announced

Note: If the travel group consists of a large number of people from one area, we will try to schedule a meeting site for those that can attend. Otherwise, the meeting will be held via conference call or Skype.

July 1, 2012 Packing Party - 3pm via conference call or Skype

July 6, 2012 Departure Day

July 15, 2012 Return from Guatemala

July 30, 2012 Photo submission due for compilation CD

REFUND AND CANCELLATION:

Transformational Journeys adheres to a policy on trip refund and cancellation which is reflected in the “Important Dates” section above. To request a full copy of our Refund and Cancellation policy, please contact our office.

AIRFARE AND FREQUENT FLYER MILES:

Transformational Journeys specializes in group travel and provides a packaged trip with airfare included. This trip proposal is contingent upon a minimum of 8 volunteers. We do not accept frequent flyer miles toward trip payment, but you may collect frequent flyer miles for your trip.

MORE INFORMATION: For more information, please contact Candace Kaster at:

Transformational Journeys

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