

# Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico

CrossRoads Missions Field Established: 1993



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This information is intended to better prepare you and your team to serve in Piedras Negras, Mexico, with CrossRoads Missions.

# General Info

## Schedule

A typical week includes:

**Praise/devotions/teaching** - Since worship is the focus of the week, we have times of praise, personal devotions, small groups and teaching to prepare and challenge us throughout the week.

**Construction projects** - CrossRoads staff will lead you in a wide variety of construction projects for people of all skill levels. Trained staff and interns will supervise work including concrete, drywall, tile, roofing, painting and other various jobs.

**Community programs** - During the week your group will spend time ministering in the community through kids programs, soup kitchens, hospital feeding programs, meals and community events for all ages.

**Fellowship** – Your group will spend time in fellowship with other churches from the states and the local church. Evening activities include going to the city park, a cookout, game nights, home visits with families and other activities to experience the culture.

## Cost

The participant fee covers supplies for construction, community programs, lodging, meals and supplies for worship and devotions. This DOES NOT include travel meals or lunch at the Market.

\$450/person- Drive to Eagle Pass, Texas

- Parking for your vehicles will be arranged stateside
- Approve scheduled arrival time with Field Coordinator
  - Arrival Day (Saturday) - 5:00-6:00pm in Eagle Pass
  - Departure Day (Saturday) - 7:30am in Eagle Pass

\$500/person- Fly to San Antonio, Texas

- AIRFARE is not included, you must purchase separately
- Approve flight times- you MUST get approval from field coordinator before scheduling flights
  - Arrival day (Saturday) - Arrive to San Antonio BEFORE 1:00pm
  - Departure day (Saturday) - Depart San Antonio AFTER 2:00pm

\* Discounts are available for trip participants, please notified the Field Coordinator for details.

## Payment Schedule

- The initial deposit is \$100 per person. Trip spots cannot be guaranteed until the deposit has been received. Deposits are non-refundable and non-transferable to another field.
- A second payment of \$250 is due by January 15th
- Final payments are due February 15th

## Transportation

CrossRoads Missions provides transportation from Eagle Pass, Texas OR San Antonio Airport and during your time in Piedras Negras, Mexico. Should you have transportation needs, contact the field coordinator for suggested providers.

***\*Passports are required for people traveling to/from Mexico.\****

**Lodging**

While in Piedras you will stay at Piedra Angular. The facilities include dorm rooms, with bunk beds, bathrooms, showers, a kitchen, outdoor meeting area, basketball court and soccer field.

**Meals**

While in Piedras Negras, your meals will be provided by CrossRoads Missions. Additional money is needed for meals while you travel, for lunch at the market one day, and for any other personal purchases. Each morning breakfast consists of cereal, oatmeal, bagels, toast, fruit, juice and coffee. Lunch includes deli sandwiches, pb&j sandwiches, chips, cookies, and veggies, which are prepared by participants and staff. The evening meal is an authentic Mexican meal prepared by local ladies. Dinner will be provided for you when you arrive on Saturday night, and you will be responsible for your breakfast when you leave Saturday.

**Age Requirements**

Piedras Negras trips are open to all ages. Family groups are welcome. Medical trips are open to adults 18 years and older. We ask for a 4:1 youth to adult ratio for student groups. Students younger than 13 years old are welcome, but must be accompanied a parent.

**Safety**

CrossRoads Missions facilitates the process of crossing the border into Mexico and through US customs. CrossRoads Missions has led trips to Piedras Negras for twenty years. We are dedicated to taking all necessary precautions to ensure the safety of the groups and individuals while under our care.

All CrossRoads Missions lodging facilities are secure and all ministry opportunities are designed with participants' safety in mind.

We research [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov), weekly, for bulletins regarding; travel warnings and general info about the country of Mexico and the city we serve in, Piedras Negras.

**Weather/Clothing**

The weather is hot and dry for most of the year, but we suggest checking the forecast on-line before coming. During winter and spring trips the temperature can drop into the 30's and may exceed 90 degrees. Expect to get paint, concrete and dirt on your clothes, visit [www.crossroadsmissions/forms](http://www.crossroadsmissions/forms) for a detailed pack list.

**Emergency Contact (while in Mexico)**

*\*This phone works in Mexico, we check messages often.*

Field Coordinator Cell (Emily)

316-655-5871

# Daily Schedule

## Saturday

6:00	Group arrives in Piedras Negras (Fly & Drive groups)
7:00	Dinner (1 <sup>st</sup> meal provided by CrossRoads Missions)
7:30	Group orientation & gathering
8:30	Evening activity or free time
10:30	Lights Out

## Sunday

8:00	Wake up
8:30	Breakfast
9:00	Continued Orientation Piedra Angular Orientation
9:30	Devotions
10:15	Piedras Negras City Tour
11:30	Worship w/local church
1:00	Lunch & Market
4:30	Free Time
6:00	Adult Leader Meeting
6:30	Projects & Programs sign up
7:00	Dinner
7:30	Worship, small groups and teaching
8:30	Evening activities and fellowship
10:30	Lights out

## Monday through Friday

7:00	Wake up
7:30	Breakfast
8:00	Morning praise time & devotions
8:30	Projects and/or Programs (continue worship through work)
12:00	Lunch
1:00	Projects and or programs
4:00	Worksite cleanup
4:30	Shower time
6:00	Dinner (Friday dinner is last meal provided by CrossRoads)
7:00	Worship, small groups and teaching
8:30	Evening activities and fellowship
10:30	Lights out

## Saturday

6:00	Wake up
6:30	Load
7:00	Hit the road

**\*This is what a general schedule will look like when on the field in Piedras Negras.**

# Week Activities

CrossRoads Missions staff offers opportunities throughout the week to experience the culture. The purpose of these activities is for the participants to learn more about Piedras Negras, provide cultural experiences, get to know the CrossRoads Staff, participants, community members, or to simply have fun. Below is a brief description of activities that will be incorporated into your week.

## **Macro Plaza**

City parks are a large part of Mexican culture. The Macro Plaza is a large park that has basketball courts, soccer fields, volleyball courts, and walking and running paths. There are also small shops to purchase ice cream, cold drinks, and other local treats.

## **Piedras Negras Tour**

A driving tour of Piedras Negras will be offered to show the highlights of the city and we will provide information about the cities demographics and people. The tour is a great time for groups to ask questions and learn more about the culture.

## **The Market**

A visit to the market will be offered to allow time to purchase gifts or souvenirs for family and friends. During the visit you will have the chance to eat lunch at a restaurant in the market.

## **Game/Fellowship Night**

A couple of times a week we want to provide board games, card games and recreational activities. This is a great opportunity for staff and participants to interact with one another.

## **Miscellaneous Activities**

Cookouts, concerts, potlucks and other activities occur periodically throughout the winter, spring & summer trips. We will plan different events throughout the trips, which offer fun for the groups and community members.

# General Rules

1. Each participant will remain in a minimum group of four, and must ask a staff person before leaving areas defined by CrossRoads Missions staff.
2. The focus on the trip is service and worship to God. CrossRoads encourages building relationships with brothers and sisters, however flirtation and inappropriate relationships will not be tolerated.
3. The drinking of alcohol, the use of tobacco, and the use of illegal substances will not be tolerated at any time during the trip.
4. To avoid distraction from service and worship of God we ask that one dresses modestly and appropriately. Please be conscious of length of shorts, sagging pants, low-cut tank tops, and revealing midribs. If the definition of appropriate differs from that of CrossRoads Missions, he or she will be asked to change.
5. Females will not enter into the males' sleeping quarters and males will not enter into the females' sleeping quarters unless given specific permission by CrossRoads Staff.
6. Power tools will be used by permission from CrossRoads Staff & Trip Leaders.
7. No sandals on the worksite. Tennis shoes or boots are fine.
8. We discourage the use of cell phones while on the field. Please try to limit phone usage to emergencies only.
9. Please be considerate of the people to whom we are ministering and ask permission (in most cases) before taking a picture.

\*More specific expectations will be shared upon your arrival to Mexico in order to make your stay AMAZING!