

Q: Do I have to serve on a team for one week before I can be an Intern?

A: We strongly recommend that you serve on a team with OSI before you apply for the Internship, so that you have a one week experience before committing to one month.

Q: How much Spanish do I need to know?

A: Part of being an intern is being a facilitator for the team members. If you have Spanish skills you will have lots of opportunities to use it. OSI can provide you with a CD of common phrases; please familiarize yourself with this resource. You may want to purchase a small Spanish-English dictionary and a Beginner's Spanish language book to provide some additional help.

Q: What will I be doing on a daily basis?

A: Each day is different. Our motto is **“Be Patient, Be Flexible, Be Unified”**. Everyday there will be morning duties, devotions, and evening duties. On Saturdays you will be picking up team members from the airport, on Sundays you will be helping with orientations and shopping, through the week you will be helping/serving in different areas. After all the duties are done for the day, you are free to socialize, go out into the city and experience the local culture, and play games with team members. You will have one day off a week to rest and gather your strength.

Q: If someone sends OSI money for my trip; how do you know that it is for me?

A: When you start fundraising for your trip you will receive a Response Device (RD). The RD is basically a coupon that has your information and your supporters include them in the envelope with a donation. DO NOT have your supporters write your name on the memo section of the check. The RD tells us who they are sponsoring for a trip. All donations and sponsorships are tax deductible. Contact the office if you need more information on tax deductible donations.

Q: How safe is Mexico City?

A: OSI uses the same trusted companies that we have used for over a decade. The hotel, transportation, and restaurants have all been approved by our National Field Director. As with any city there can be safety issues; use common sense and follow the rules laid out in the training sessions held upon arrival in Mexico City. We have a travel advisory that can be sent to you or your parents if there are any concerns.

Q: What do I need to pack? Can I bring my computer?

A: A packing list is included in the acceptance packet. Laundry facilities are close to the hotel and clothes can be dropped off on your day off and picked up within 36-48 hours. You can bring a computer, however we do strongly suggest that you do not leave it lying out at any time. WIFI is usually available in the hotel but it is not always guaranteed that you will be able to get on line at all times.

Q: How can I apply for the Intern program and what is the application process?

A: Download an application on our website www.operationserve.org or contact the main offices in Ohio by e-mail at internship@operationserve.org or missions@operationserve.org, or by phone at 513-939-2000. Once OSI receives your completed application with personality profile, Pastor Recommendation, and \$25 application fee; your information will be reviewed by the Intern Acceptance Committee. If accepted, you will receive a confirmation e-mail and acceptance packet via mail. Once you receive your confirmation of acceptance you are free to start raising money.

Q: How much money should I bring with me?

A: While with the team your hotel, two meals a day and in-country transportation is included in your Intern fees. On your days off, the meals will be covered if you eat at the hotel only - if you decide to go out to eat, travel on your days off, or if you purchase souvenirs you would need your own money. Make sure you are aware of the exchange rate from US Dollars to Pesos. You will occasionally have access to an ATM to withdraw funds, just be aware that banks usually charge your account with an international fee to do so!

Q: Can I come down with a friend?

A: OSI recommends that you come to Mexico with an open heart to what God has for you. We believe that part of the experience is getting to know and interact with other people in an environment where our goal is to serve the Lord. While we are not against friends we do suggest that you consider how much of a distraction you may be to each other. Remember we are a Christian Missionary Organization and we strongly discourage boyfriends/girlfriends joining you on the field.

Q: How can my parents get a hold of me?

A: In your acceptance packet there is a contact card that has phone numbers for the hotel, staff, and emergency contact numbers. If you plan on using your cell phone; **make sure you have an international plan for calls and texts.**

Q: I'm in College, can I get credit hours for this trip?

A: We have had college groups receive credit hours before. Let us know that this is what you are looking for and what the requirements are; we will see what can be done and work with you on receiving credit.

Q: I have more questions; who do I contact now?

A: You can contact our main office by phone at 513-939-2000 or e-mail questions to missions@operationserve.org. We look forward to talking to you.