

St. Michael's Guatemala Project – CALL FOR 2016 SUMMER TEAMS

PRELIMINARY MEETING – SAT. MARCH 19

Location TBA

Volunteers interested in joining small teams to visit the rural Maya of the CPR-Sierra for 3 to 8 weeks are invited to contact the Coordinator or to check www.cprguatemalaproject.org for details.



Spanish speakers, health professionals, people with human rights experience in developing countries, and educators are particularly encouraged to participate in this collaboration with local Maya health promoters.

We anticipate two teams, one in June and one in July.

All participants self-fund.

Early application deadline: March 15. **Decisions** by March 20.
Later applications reviewed, contingent upon space, until May 1.

St. Michael's Guatemala Project is a non-sectarian informal partnership with the Maya of the CPR-Sierra [Communities of Population in Resistance of the Sierra], who became refugees in their own country as they fled massacres during Guatemala's 36-year internal conflict. It builds upon a relationship begun in 1993, during the war years.

Focus areas include community health and health education, advocacy, arts and culture, mutual learning, and commitment to indigenous self-determination. Presently the Project provides economic aid for up to 30 health workers, funds for emergency travel for patients who cannot be treated in their home communities, and support for other health needs.

More information: Coordinator Ila Abernathy, (520) 623-3063, ilaa@mindspring.com. www.cprguatemalaproject.org.

St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, 602 N. Wilmot Road, Tucson, AZ 85711.

Photo: Health leader Pedro and nursing student Mack take vital signs (2015).

St. Michael's Guatemala Project / CPR-Sierra Summer Teams, an Invitation

3 to 7 week options, June and July, 2016

What teams do: Everyone helps courier supplies from the U.S.

After in-country orientation, teams accompany Maya health workers and a Project leader on 3 to 4 week "giras" (circuits) that will, during the course of the summer, visit up to 21 rural communities – from isolated mountain hamlets of the Ixil Area to large resettlements on the Pacific coastal plain. We observe, record community data, collaborate with local health workers, meet with leaders and teachers, and continue the "intercambio cultural" (cultural exchange). We accept hospitality from the communities and live at the same level as community members.

Participants must be respectful of indigenous cultures, flexible, and patient; comfortable about working with a non-proselytizing, faith-based group; in good physical and emotional health; and honest about how they respond to physical and emotional stress, fatigue, diet change, and loss of privacy.

Estimated cost:

round-trip international air travel	+/- \$500 to \$880
in-country costs (travel, lodging, food)	+/- \$160 / week
application processing (non-refundable)	\$ 20
in-country donation for group expenses	\$ 50
extras, personal, emergencies	\$200 reserve

Physical demands, depending on the "gira," vary from moderate to strenuous (7 to 9 hours on muddy, rocky mountain trails).

Best team size: Maya health leader plus 3 to 5 visitors, including the Project Coordinator and a health professional. Most team members should have functional Spanish.

Photo: Pedro and Gustavo apply fluoride, using Project supplies (2015).

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