

Dear Rancho Volunteer,

Thank you for your interest in our outreach to Rancho Sordo Mudo. The following is information you will need to know regarding the trip, including a packet outlining Rancho Sordo Mudo practices.

WHEN: Meet Friday morning at the CCPC parking lot, 6:00 am. Return on Sunday, 6:30 pm.

FEE: \$30.00 per person (no charge-12 years and younger). The breakdown of how the money is used is as follows: \$20.00 is used for the vehicle pool insurance and fuel: \$10.00 is given to the ranch to offset the impact our group will have on their food supply.

MEALS: You will need to bring additional money or your own food for when we stop to eat on the way there and back. When we arrive at the ranch, we will be eating the food they have prepared for us.

TRANSPORATION: The group will caravan from the church. We will take the vehicles that will allow us to travel as a group, consolidating all the supplies and personal equipment. This will minimize the insurance and fuel costs. You would have indicated on the sign up sheet if you were able to drive your own pick up truck or passenger vehicle and it is from that list I will make up the seating arrangements and disperse the gear. Those of you that have volunteered your vehicles, please arrive with a full tank of fuel and your current vehicle registration.

This is a ministry opportunity for the church to travel to a neighboring third-world culture and serve our Christian brothers and sisters. We will be staying at the campgrounds in rustic dormitory type housing, men and women in separate rooms and detached outhouses with showers. Please pray for servants' hearts and a willingness to submit ourselves one to another in the fear of God.

If you need to cancel, please call me at 562-706-0093 or call the church office and ask them to notify me in order to fill your place with someone from the waiting list.

Sincerely,

S. Craig Donals

Rancho Sordo Mudo

Visitor Guidelines

ITEMS AND EQUIPMENT TO BRING

ESSENTIALS FOR EACH PERSON

- Non-US citizens-please bring your green card to prevent any problems at the US border.
- US citizens-A valid US passport is required to return to the U.S.
- Work clothes, gloves, durable shoes/sneakers, coat/jacket. No shorts, but knickers (short pants that go **below the knee**) are acceptable.
- A spiritually prepared heart and love for the children. Language is not a barrier; so do not feel reluctant to participate if you do not know Spanish. The staff speaks English and the children use sign language.
- It is highly recommended to bring lots of bottled water & beverages for your group. The chow-hall has safe filtered water and there is a store with sodas and etc..

ESSENTIALS AS A TEAM

- Insurance-Purchase at least liability insurance from a licensed company only. The cost is between \$10-\$30 per vehicle. In Tecate, USA, you can purchase the insurance, gas and other items at Amermex Market located on the left side of the street in a shopping center, or over the internet.)
- Tool box
- First aid kit
- Flashlights & lanterns
- Toilet paper
- Also please bring **snacks** for your group, visitors are not accustomed to our late lunch hour (1:15 pm) and get hungry mid morning.
- Paper plates
- Disposable cups
- Napkins
- Bottled drinking water for group

RECOMMENDED (Depending on purpose of trip.)

- Tools- electrical, plumbing, carpentry & gardening
- Cleaning supplies-rubber gloves, mops, brooms, sponges, scrub brushes, spray bottles, and cleaners for floors, counters, windows etc.
- If you are working on a project, it is helpful if you bring your own tools.

NEEDS FOR OVERNIGHT VISITORS

ESSENTIALS FOR EACH PERSON (Include the above)

- Sleeping bag, **padding**, pillow (it's semi-rough camping)
- Flashlights
- Personal toiletries
- Wash cloth & towel

RECOMMENDED

- Bibles, guitar, song sheets
- Snacks (we have a small store with snacks, drinks etc.)
- Sports equipment (volley ball, basket ball, Frisbees, etc.)
- Cap/hat, sunscreen, swim suits (during hot months-no two piece suits please)
- Trash bags

DRESS CODE

The **Rancho Sordo Mudo Image** is described as an appearance that is neat, clean and modest that will enhance a positive witness for Christ.

Women-Modest attire is always appropriate. Clothing which draws immoderate attention to you would be considered inappropriate (shorts*, tank-tops, short shirts that expose mid-drift, low front dresses, short skirts, etc.) When swimming, one-piece bathing suits are required. Non-excessive make-up is acceptable. Women are to wear a skirt or dress that covers the knees for the Sunday church service.

Men-Wear work clothes. No shorts* are permitted and always wear a shirt. No need to show your boxers. Bring nice slacks and shirt for Sunday church service. Please take hat or cap off when in chow-hall.

* During hot months knickers (**shorts below the knee**) are permitted.

The above dress code may seem unreasonable, but it is culturally based. Without these guidelines we would be a less effective ministry. It is the cultural mores that Mexican men and women keep their bodies covered. These customs and habits need to be respected. It is an important aspect of our ministry.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Please do not bring people who are at all sick or have been ill three days prior to your visit.
- Please do not bring pets.
- It is semi-rough camping, not suitable for babies or very small children (unless you have a camper or tent). The bunkhouses are without heat or fans. We do have electricity (But it will not handle heaters, curling irons or hair dryers). Remember to bring **padding** & bedding for the bunk beds. We also have an RV park with full hook-ups and showers.
- All the meals are eaten together with the children and staff which is always a highlight of the visit.
- If you are bringing children, please be responsible for them. An adult should watch over them at all times, and make sure they stay in the areas designated as the playground, gym or chow-hall. Children cannot be in the work areas, dormitories, shops or kitchen. During non-work times plan to be with your children regardless of age. They may not explore or run around by themselves. Please bring coloring books, crayons, videos and other child entertainment for the young children in case of inclement weather.
- There is a basketball court, Disc golf course, a gym, and a large playing field available for your use. We have some equipment for these areas.
- Make only promises to the directors, staff or children that you will keep. Well-meaning people often make promises, but never come through, leading to disappointment. Proverbs 25:14

GENERAL GUIDELINES

The deaf children learn by what they see, therefore we must be careful to maintain an atmosphere where they always observe a good example. For this reason we have a few guidelines concerning the children and our visitors.

- Overnight groups must have one adult for every six persons under 21 years of age.
- Please do not move the bunk beds from their locations in the rooms.
- Dress modestly. No shorts (men or women). No mini skirts. short shirts, For church, men need to wear nice clothing and women must wear a dress or skirt. Please refer to *Dress Code*.
- Boys and girls have separate swimming periods. This includes visitors.
- Overnight visitors are not to sleep in the dorms. Check with directors for sleeping arrangements.
- Do not play with livestock or pets (including dogs and cats), or enter animal pens.
- Do not give the children candy or money at any time.
- Do not take the children away from the dorm areas without the director's permission.
- Drive slowly on the ranch. Remember the children cannot hear. Please ride in the vehicles, not hang onto or ride on the outside of vehicles.
- Deaf children are not allowed in, or on, the cars.
- No visitors under 21 may drive the Ranch vehicles.
- No smoking or alcoholic beverages.
- No guns, knives or fireworks.
- Plan to attend Sunday school (9:30 am on Sunday), and have daily bible studies with your group.
- If you are not working in the kitchen, please stay out. Group leader will assign people to help with KP.
- No playing or rough housing in the chow-hall or lounge.
- Please do not wrestle or play rough with the children.
- No food or drink in the lounge (Brown Room).
- No children are allowed in the lounge (brown Room)
- The rocky hills are dangerous and have rattlesnakes. If you must explore, do not go alone and advise someone you are going and be careful. Do not take the deaf children.
- Be on time for meals. Tables are called by rotation, so please wait your turn. Weekend eating hours are: breakfast 8:30 am, lunch 1:15 pm, and dinner 6:00 pm. Please take care of your own personal dietary needs.
- Children (deaf and visiting) are not allowed in the workshops.
- Men-please do not hold, put on your lap, or extensively associate with any of the young girls or boys. This sets a dangerous precedent for when the children return to their home environment, where they might assume all men are trustworthy, and therefore can be taken advantage of easily.
- Affection between visitors and the children should consist of pats on the back and side hugs. Full frontal hugs, back rubs, or other similar body contact must be avoided.
- Please, please, please do not waste water. Water level is very critical, our well is running dry. And showers may be limited if available at all. If water is available please take quick army style showers (water on, get wet, water off, soap up, water on, rinse, water off, done).
- It is essential that in all bathrooms and outhouses all soiled toilet paper be placed in the trashcans located near all toilets, not in the toilets. Please use outhouses at main areas and campgrounds. Our septic tanks cannot handle high volume use.
- Please keep areas clean.
- Please do not pick fruit off the fruit trees.
- Do not enter staff housing or dorms without prior notice, and only with a staff member. Do not hang around outside the dorms.
- No hanging off the basketball hoops.
- Please ask staff before allowing visiting children to play on the tricycles or the wood play set, as only very small children are allowed on them.