

Our Parish Outreach program to the Nazareth Orphanage in Tecate, Baja California, is critical to support their ongoing mission and values. For 50 years Nazareth Orphanage has housed 50-60 young boys at any given time. In doing so, the orphanage has forever changed the life course of more than a thousand children and their families. To continue in the orphanage's mission of Family togetherness the Orphanage has begun accepting young girls and/or sisters of current boys who can also benefit from the orphanage and its mission of Family togetherness.

How can you help? We schedule four trips to Tecate, MX each school year.

If you plan on going, please read our insights to make your volunteer service day more enjoyable. Please know there is always an experience trip leader and by planning a bit your experience will be fantastic.

1. Sign-Up: usually the website is open three weeks prior to the trip

Be sure to sign up on the website: <https://www.ofno.org/volunteer/>

- Even if there are no open job assignments or you are not sure what the best job placement is, please sign up anyway! Everyone will have work, we promise!
- This signup ensures that you are included in the headcount for lunch.
- Contact Deborah Sampson (858) 229-0345 / dksampson01@gmail.com for any questions, let her know you will be joining the trip or if you need to cancel.

2. Things to Bring:

- Please bring a small backpack or other bag to carry your personal items. There are no lockers so you will keep your bag with you at all times (or you may lock in the car).
- It is suggested that you leave all valuables at home and travel lightly.
- If you have signed up for a specific project, it is always helpful to bring any needed tools- gloves are always a good idea!
- If you are volunteering during warm weather, please do not forget your sunglasses and apply/bring sunscreen.

3. Required Identification to re-enter the US:

- **YOU MUST BRING A CURRENT PASSPORT.**
- Volunteers 18 years and older are required to have a valid US passport.
- Volunteers younger than 18 years old need to have their birth certificate and a school-issued photo ID card.

4. Food/Beverage:

- We ask that you bring 1-2 water bottles per person. Water will be available during lunchtime but it is important to stay hydrated (especially during warmer months).
- It's a good idea to bring snack(s) for your use, in case you get hungry or have dietary restrictions. Eat a good breakfast beforehand or bring a snack as lunch is not served until approximately 1pm. There are no stores within walking distance.

5. Attire:

- The weather can be fickle so it is a good idea to dress in layers. Please wear appropriate clothing (nothing too short or revealing, no inappropriate logos/phrases) that can get dirty. It is dusty and can be hot/cold depending on the time of year.

6. Departure:

- Please meet at St. Gregory the Great Church parking lot at 7:30am for a departure time of 7:45am. We will carpool/caravan based upon the number of volunteers and cars available.

7. Drivers:

Often we need drivers, so we appreciate if you are willing to drive a group of volunteers. Please be sure that you have a full tank of gas and are ready to go! Anticipate an hour drive to the border and please note, there are no gas/food services available past Jamul.

There are two ways to get to the Orphanage once we arrive at the Tecate border crossing: Park on the USA side or drive across and get directly to the Orphanage.

8. Parking at the Border:

- Just before the border, park in the small strip mall. You may only park in the row facing the street or behind/side of the building (but not the rows facing the storefronts).
- The cost is \$8/US cash and must be paid to the cashier at the grocery store. She will give you a placard to place on your dashboard. This allows you to park in the lot for 24 hours.

9.. Walking Across the Border: (this is the time to switch your cell phone to airplane mode)

- It is very easy to walk through the border turnstiles. As you depart the border building, just across the street, you can hail a taxicab. Give them the address of Nazareth Orphanage - Rancho Nazareth, Carretera Tecate-Mexicali km 7. The cost should be approximately \$8 US cash each way.

10. If you decide to drive across - Mexican law requires insurance

- Required Liability Insurance by Mexican law. All cars must carry liability insurance, which is available usually for \$15 per day, issued from a Mexican carrier for auto travel in Mexico. We suggest the following options:
 - Option 1: There is a Ramco "Mini-Mart Mexico" right before the border crossing into Tecate, where you can purchase insurance for the day. They are an agent of ADA VIS Global Insurance.
 - Option 2: Call ADA VIS Global Insurance Monday-Friday, 9am to 5pm, and purchase insurance prior to the Saturday trip. The phone number is 800-909-4457. Purchasing insurance ahead of time through this option is less expensive than purchasing insurance the same day of travel (Option 1).
 - Option 3: Purchase insurance online through any of these websites: www.mexinsurance.com, www.mexicoinsurance.com or www.bajabound.com. (We recommend purchasing insurance online prior to the day of the trip.)
 - Option 4: Call your auto insurance carrier, as they may offer a day plan for Mexico travel.

11. Passengers: we arrange carpooling on the day of at the parking lot.

- Carpooling is another way to get to know your fellow parishioners and share an amazing experience. Please be considerate of our volunteer drivers, as they're personally paying for insurance and gas to travel to the orphanage in Mexico. You may offer to split the gas and insurance costs with the other passengers in the car, as a courtesy to your driver.

12. DIRECTIONS From Scripps Ranch Area:

(Total drive time is approximately 80 minutes.)

- Take I-15 South – take Exit 11 to merge onto CA-52 East
- Take Exit 11 to merge onto CA-52 East
- Then take Exit 15 to merge onto CA-125 South
- Take Exit 11 to merge onto Sprint Street to get to CA-94 East

- Turn left onto Spring Street to get onto CA-94 East
- Take 94 East for another 40 miles to Route 188 (but note CA-94 East makes a hard right in Rancho San Diego area)
- Take route 188 toward Tecate; in less than 2 miles, you will see the border into Mexico. Just before the border, on your left, in a small strip mall will be a “Mini-Mart Mexico” convenience store. This is another great stop for buying daily car insurance (Liability only is \$15 for the day). NOTE: It is required that you buy liability insurance to drive your car in Mexico. You can also purchase comprehensive insurance here.

13. Driving from the Border:

{This is a good time to switch your cellphone to Airplane Mode to avoid roaming charges!}

Once you cross the border, you may be asked to stop by the Mexican border patrol. Most times, they will wave you through.

- Proceed straight ahead to the second traffic light (Avenida Benito Juarez).
- Turn right towards Tijuana at this signal (west). The turn-off for the orphanage is about 5.6 miles from the border. Remain on Avenida Benito Juarez for 5.6 miles. Please be careful to stop at all STOP signs along the way.
- You will pass a church on your right called Iglesia del Nazareno. This is a landmark that you’re going in the right direction.
- Keep going straight. In about 5.2 miles from the border, you will cross over the toll road (Route 2) that is marked ‘Tijuana Cuota’, but do not enter this toll road.
- Stay straight on the ‘Tijuana Libre’, which is the same street that you are on but continue to drive over the toll road overpass.
- In less than a mile past this toll road, you will see a sign on the right called ‘Ofanatorio’ (which means orphanage in Spanish).
- Turn right at this sign, which is a dirt road just past this sign. (This right turn is about 5.6 miles from the border). The entrance to the Nazareth Orphanage is on this dirt road. Proceed ahead for about .6 miles.
- You will pass a school area and then veer to your left. There is small cemetery on your left.
- Proceed ahead and you will see the blue and green orphanage buildings on your right. The entrance will be on your right. The entrance of the Nazareth Orphanage is about 6.2 miles from the border crossing. Turn right into the orphanage grounds. Drive through the entrance pillars and drive up the hill and park in the dirt parking lot on your left. NOTE: If you pass the “police training facility” (looks like a prison) building, you have gone too far.

14. Check-In:

Once you arrive at the Orphanage, please go to the Check-In area (next to the parking lot at the top of the driveway). This is where you will sign in and get your project assignments.

15. Lunch:

- Typically, the work projects continue until 12:30-45pm. Please clean up your work area and return all borrowed tools/supplies to the Supply Room. Wash up and come to the center courtyard to enjoy lunch and time with fellow volunteers.
- Graciously, the Knights of Columbus provide lunch to the students/staff and visiting volunteers.

16. Departure:

{The line crossing the border can often be long, plan accordingly – estimated 15 to 45 minutes but can be longer. If you walk across there usually no line)

Please pack-up, find your carpool and wish the Nazareth staff well! If you have driven across, here are directions to return to the border:

- Return down the dirt road to the main street and use the driveway to the “police training facility” building to make a left back to Tecate.
- You will take the highway (Benito Juarez) back to the town of Tecate. You will not be going through the same street that you entered Mexico.
- Go past the main plaza and follow the signs for San Diego Border ofno.org Crossing (Puerto).
- You will go past the downtown area and then make a left at the sign that says San Diego Puerto (Border).

17. Taxi to the Border:

- a. You may ask the staff to call a taxicab for you.
- b. The cost is approximately \$8/US cash.
- c. The cab will drop you near the border checkpoint. Be prepared to show your passport to regain entry in to the US.

We thank you very much for your GENEROUS time, and hands-on efforts for the children of the Nazareth House Orphanage!

We hope to see you at our next event.

... May God Bless You