

manna project international

communities serving communities

MPI Spring Break Application

A form must be completed for each trip that your school wishes to send. If you wish to send one group, please fill out one form indicating your site preference and site flexibility. If you hope to send groups to two or more of our international sites, please complete this form for each group, indicating site preference accordingly.

Group Information:

Name of School/Group: _____

Location (city/state): _____

Estimated number of individuals in your group: _____

Please note: The minimum group size for spring break trips is set at six (6) individuals.

The maximum group sizes for our sites are as follows: Ecuador--12, Guatemala--10, Nicaragua--12.

Groups larger or smaller than the sizes specified above will NOT be accepted.

How are group members affiliated (MPI campus chapter, academic program, etc.): _____

Trip Information:

Desired MPI International Site: _____

If this site is unavailable, would you be interested in visiting one of our other sites? Yes No

Is your school/chapter/organization applying for other MPI trips as well? Yes No

Area(s) of Interest:

Building Projects Healthcare Microfinance & Business

Education Other _____

Dates of your trip: _____

Please note: All trips must arrive and depart on a Sunday-to-Sunday basis.

Do you have any questions or need more information? Explain below.

Group Leader:

Name _____

Academic Status: Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior Post-Grad

Street Address _____

Phone number _____ Email address _____

Previous MPI Experience? _____

Submit this form by email to springbreak@mannaproject.org.
If unable to submit document online, please fax to 615.296.4120.



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Spring Break Trip Information

Manna Project International's mission is to foster communities of young adults and encourage them to use their passions and education in service to communities in need. Our vision is to ultimately establish a global network of Manna Project communities where young adults live and work alongside one another in underserved communities to initiate positive change.

As part of our mission, we offer spring break trips to our three international sites. The purpose of these spring break trips is to provide service opportunities to college-aged students who desire to spend their Spring Break volunteering internationally. Through service trips, MPI's goal is to expand world perspectives, raise awareness of international issues, and instill a desire to serve on a deeper level.

Location

In Nicaragua, MPI works on the southwest outskirts of Managua. MPI also has programs in La Chureca, the community within Managua's municipal dump. In Ecuador, MPI operates in the semi-rural Chillós Valley, which is located southeast of Quito, Ecuador's capital. And in Guatemala, MPI works in the Western Highlands in the small rural community of Chaquijyá, a short bus ride from the city centers of Sololá and Panajachel.

Trip Overview

MPI's Spring break service trips include a mix of cultural, educational, and service opportunities while also giving a taste of who MPI is and what we do. Spring break volunteers can expect opportunities to engage the developing world in the following ways:

1. Service Outreach:

Be active and get your hands dirty. Build something, teach classes, lead a sports clinic or run a kid's camp.

2. Higher Education:

Learn the 'ins and outs' of an area of interest in a real-world, international setting. Experience first-hand topics such as micro-finance and public health education

3. Cultural Focus:

Immerse yourself in another culture and learn more about its history, economy, family dynamics, etc.; Spend time in the community building personal relationships.

4. MPI Overview:

Attend MPI's programs, have discussions with current Program Directors regarding their experience abroad with MPI and how their perspectives have changed.

An overnight excursion at the end of the week serves as a time of debriefing and cultural immersion, with everyone hopping on a bus and/or boat for a trip to the destination of the group's choice. Options in Nicaragua include the beaches of San Juan del Sur, the island of Ometepe, the crater lake of Laguna de Apoyo, Granada, Leon, and hiking the Cerro Negro volcano. In Ecuador, trip options include the rainforest towns of Tena and Baños, the cloudforests of Mindo, or hikes at Quilotoa or Otavalo. In Guatemala, trips may include visiting beautiful Lake Atitlan, hiking three nearby volcanoes, exploring Sololá's vibrant markets, zip lining through Panajachel's forests, and absorbing the Mayan culture in one of the many small lake towns.



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Leader Incentives:

- Trip leaders from universities organizing a spring break group for the first time will receive a free trip for organizing a full team (10 – 12). Half price will be given to the leader for a team of 8-9 participants.
- Trip leaders from MPI chapters or universities who have previously sent a team to a Manna site will receive a \$100 discount for getting their team's money in by the given deadline.
- Only one person per team can qualify for the "trip leader" incentive.

Make Your Mark!

We recognize the importance of allowing each group to 'make their mark' by focusing on a specific field of interest during their short stay. Participants select their area of focus when applying, and once accepted, further define a specific program or project based on the current opportunities at the given site.

Focus areas include:

- Education
- Sports & Recreation
- Construction
- Health
- Business/Microfinance
- Agriculture & Environment

Trip Coordination

Groups are organized at their respective universities. The group's leader(s) communicate with MPI to plan the trip, select the focus of their trip, and, following from this, their fundraising requirements. Collaboration with MPI's Program Directors in Nicaragua, Ecuador, or Guatemala ensures an experience that will make a lasting impact—for the volunteers and for those they are serving.

Dates

February-April. All trips will be from Sunday to Sunday of the University's Spring Break vacation.

Individual Costs

\$375/person/week (Sunday-Sunday). Price includes all meals, lodging, in-country transportation, activities, an overnight trip, project costs and travel insurance. Airfare is not included. Individual costs do not cover project expenses during the trip

Project Costs

\$500-\$6000; varies depending on the focus of the trip (ex. Buying art supplies to do art classes vs. building a basketball court). Groups are encouraged to work together to fundraise in order to meet these costs. Upon request, MPI can provide you with resources to assist with your group fundraising efforts.

How to Apply

Applications can be found on our website at: www.mannaproject.org/short-term. Only groups of six or more individuals can apply. Groups from MPI campus chapters as well as unaffiliated universities may apply.

Application Timeline

Applications due	Sept 20
Acceptance & site placement notification	Sept 30
Confirmation form with project selection & \$250 deposit due*	Dec 1
Flight itinerary and participant list due	Feb 1
Total group money due (participant fees & project fundraising)**	Feb 1

*Deposit will count toward total cost of trip.

** A late fee of \$20/individual applies if not postm

Questions? Contact us at info@mannaproject.org



mannaproject.org or at 615.746.7487.