

# manna project international

## communities serving communities

### **Spring Break Trip Information for Individual Participants**

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 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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### ***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***

Individual participants communicate with MPI to plan the trip, select the focus of their trip. MPI will work to coordinate with all the individual participants coming within a given week to set up a schedule or schedules for the group. 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***

\$425/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.

### ***How to Apply***

Applications can be found on our website at: [www.mannaproject.org/short-term](http://www.mannaproject.org/short-term).

**Please submit applications by January 5th, 2012.**

\*Deposit will count toward total cost of trip.

***Questions? Contact us at [springbreak@mannaproject.org](mailto:springbreak@mannaproject.org) or at 615.746.7487.***

