

February 19, 2016

Sierra Service Project
San Diego Program Site

Dear San Diego Group Liaisons or Individuals,

I hope you are excited as we are about our [San Diego](#) location! This letter contains **important information** about some unique activities we have planned for this summer in San Diego.

First, we are eager to be working with [Brooke Collins](#), our new [Border Coordinator](#) who is committed to planning thought-provoking, safe, and exciting experiences for our San Diego volunteers on Adventure Wednesday this summer. **Second**, we are very excited to partner, for the second year in a row, with the [San Diego Canyonlands](#), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve and enhance the natural canyons in the San Diego area. Because the City of San Diego owns the canyons, we need each volunteer to sign a special **waiver**, which you will find in this packet.

Lastly, all participants have received special permission from the U.S. Border Patrol to begin the day on either the Tijuana or San Diego side of the border wall at Friendship Park, where we will have a shared experience from different perspectives of what it feels like to be separated from friends and loved ones across the border. We will hear from a local Customs and Border Patrol Agent, a young U.S. mission volunteer with experience living and working in Tijuana, and the Mexico Methodist Church pastor, who works on the front lines in Tijuana with deportees and migrants. He will lead the group in a binational devotion and communion service similar to what occurs every Sunday at the park. All volunteers will then travel to a social service agency, either in Tijuana or the U.S., to meet and interact with people in varying statuses of immigration. This may include unaccompanied minors, undocumented immigrants, deported US Veterans, deported parents of DREAMers, migrants from Central America, and others.

All volunteers have a chance to cross the border into **Tijuana, Mexico** if so desired. To take part in the Tijuana visit, participants must bring a valid [passport or passport card](#), a **photocopy** of the passport or card, and those under 18 must bring **signed permission** from **both** parents or legal guardians (form on page 7).

Please complete all items in this packet to ensure your group is prepared for your San Diego trip! Let us know if you have any questions. We look forward to serving with you!

Blessings,



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Sierra Service Project

Building faith and strengthening communities through service to others.

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San Diego Canyonlands

In this packet you will find the necessary forms and information to prepare your youth and counselors for some of the work you'll be doing for the community of City Heights. One of these projects is working at the San Diego Canyonlands, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve and enhance the natural canyons in the San Diego area.

The city encourages public use of these beautiful, undeveloped spaces, and they are a wonderful resource for the residents of City Heights, the community where we will be completing our various other work projects throughout the week. Our volunteers made great strides in 2015 through [SSP's partnership with the Canyonlands](#):

"With their hard work spread out over eleven different urban canyon sites, and with 20+ volunteer days, this contribution of over 1,500 service hours will have a lasting benefit for the underserved community of City Heights."

– Freddy Arthur, Field Supervisor for San Diego Canyonlands



We are excited to return to work to the Canyonlands and impact more of the City Heights community again in 2016! This summer, you will likely spend about one day working in the canyons. The work we will be doing is mulching, trash removal, planting native shrubs, and removing invasive species. Remember, when your group is working at the Canyonlands, it will be **hot** and **sunny**. Pack work clothes accordingly: **hats**, **sunglasses**, and **sunscreen** are especially important to prepare for this day of outdoor work. **Long pants** are **highly** recommended by the San Diego Canyonlands staff, as we will be working in terrain with bristly underbrush, and wearing shorts could contribute to minor injury.

To find out more information on their history, programs, and conservation practices, please visit the San Diego Canyonlands web page at www.sdcanonlands.org.

*Because the City of San Diego owns the canyons, we need each participant to sign a special **waiver** in order to work there. Please distribute the Canyonlands waiver, found on page 6, to **all** of your youth and adults, and include it in the packet of forms you will be bringing to the site. The forms will be collected upon your group's arrival.*

Items Required to Work at San Diego Canyonlands:

1. **Waiver and Release of Liability Form** (page 6). Please bring the *original signed* form and *one copy*.

Tijuana, Mexico Visit

After breakfast on Wednesday morning, volunteers will be divided into groups based on whether they are traveling to Tijuana or staying in the US. We ask that everyone maintain an attitude of flexibility, as this division will result in work teams and church groups being reorganized to form new groups for the day. Here are some important details about the visit to Tijuana:

1. [Brooke Collins](#) will lead the team into Tijuana, accompanied by SSP staff. We will be met at the border by bilingual United Methodist mission volunteers who live and work in Tijuana.
2. The visit will be **on foot**. We will drive to the border, park on the US side, and walk into Mexico.
 - a. Participants are required to fill out a basic customs form and provide it along with their passport or passport card to Mexican officials. There will be knowledgeable guides present to help with any questions. In a group, this process can take 10-30 minutes.
3. We will be picked up by passenger vans in Tijuana that will transport us throughout the day, then meet the U.S.-based SSP group at Friendship Park for a binational devotional and communion service. There we will hear from several people who live and work in the border areas, including a pastor from the Tijuana United Methodist Church (see page 1 letter).
4. We will break to eat lunch at a Tijuana shelter for deportees and migrants. There will be ample time to meet and hear stories from unaccompanied minors, deported US Veterans, migrants from Central America, and others.
5. After spending time at the shelter, the group be dropped off at the pedestrian crossing with the general public at the border to cross back into the US on foot. Be prepared for a potentially long wait; the process of crossing back into the US can take anywhere from 30 minutes to several hours. Participants will be required to present their passport or passport card to U.S. officials upon re-entry but no forms are required.
6. Following the border crossing, we will conclude the day at a beach for swimming and our evening barbecue. The U.S.-based group will join us there.

For those concerned about the risk of visiting Mexico, please note that violence in Tijuana has **decreased** significantly in recent years. Daytime visits to the Tijuana border zone are considered very safe. For any questions or concerns regarding safety in Tijuana, please contact director@sierraserviceproject.org, or call our office at (916) 488-6441.

Items Required to Visit Tijuana:

1. A **valid passport or passport card**. We will verify this when your group arrives on Sunday. See [how to apply](#).
2. A **copy of your passport or passport card**.
3. Each participant *under* the age of 18 must complete the **“Consent for International Travel by Minor” form** (page 7). This must be signed by **both** parents or guardians. Please bring the *original signed* form and *one copy*.



The “pinky kiss” across the border fence at Friendship Park

Volunteers Not Visiting Tijuana

After breakfast on Wednesday morning, volunteers will be divided into groups based on whether they are traveling to Tijuana or staying in the US. We ask that everyone maintain an attitude of flexibility, as this division will result in work teams and church groups being reorganized to form new groups for the day.

We understand that not everyone will choose or be able to go to Tijuana on Wednesday, and are planning an alternative set of very engaging and impactful activities for our volunteers who remain in the U.S. While we are still awaiting confirmation from a few community organizations, this is our general plan for the day:

1. The U.S.-based group will drive to the California Border Field State Park and hike 1.9 miles (about 30-45 minutes) through the Tijuana River Estuary Preserve and along the Pacific Ocean (flat ground and sandy beach) to Friendship Park, where they will meet the SSP volunteers that crossed the border that morning into Tijuana.
2. We will have a binational devotional and communion service. There we will hear from several people who live and work in the border areas, including a pastor from the Tijuana United Methodist Church (see page 1 letter).
3. Volunteers break for lunch.
4. After lunch, we will travel to a social service agency such as a school or shelter, where volunteers will interact with various border populations such as children who immigrated to the U.S. without their parents or undocumented immigrants. Activities might include tutoring children, leading games and sports, gardening, or a community project.
5. Following these activities, we will conclude the day at a beach for swimming and our evening barbecue. The SSP volunteers who spent the day in Tijuana will join us there.
 - a. **No passport** is required for any of the above activities. Although SSP has special permission from the U.S. Border Patrol to walk to Friendship Park (located on the border), we will not be crossing into Mexico.



The U.S. side of the U.S.-Mexico border

The details of these activities may change as we learn of more cultural and educational opportunities that allow us to further develop our plans. No additional forms are required for the U.S.-based Wednesday activities at this time. Please email director@sierraserviceproject.org or call the office at (916) 488-6441 if you have further questions.

All San Diego Volunteers: Forms Checklist

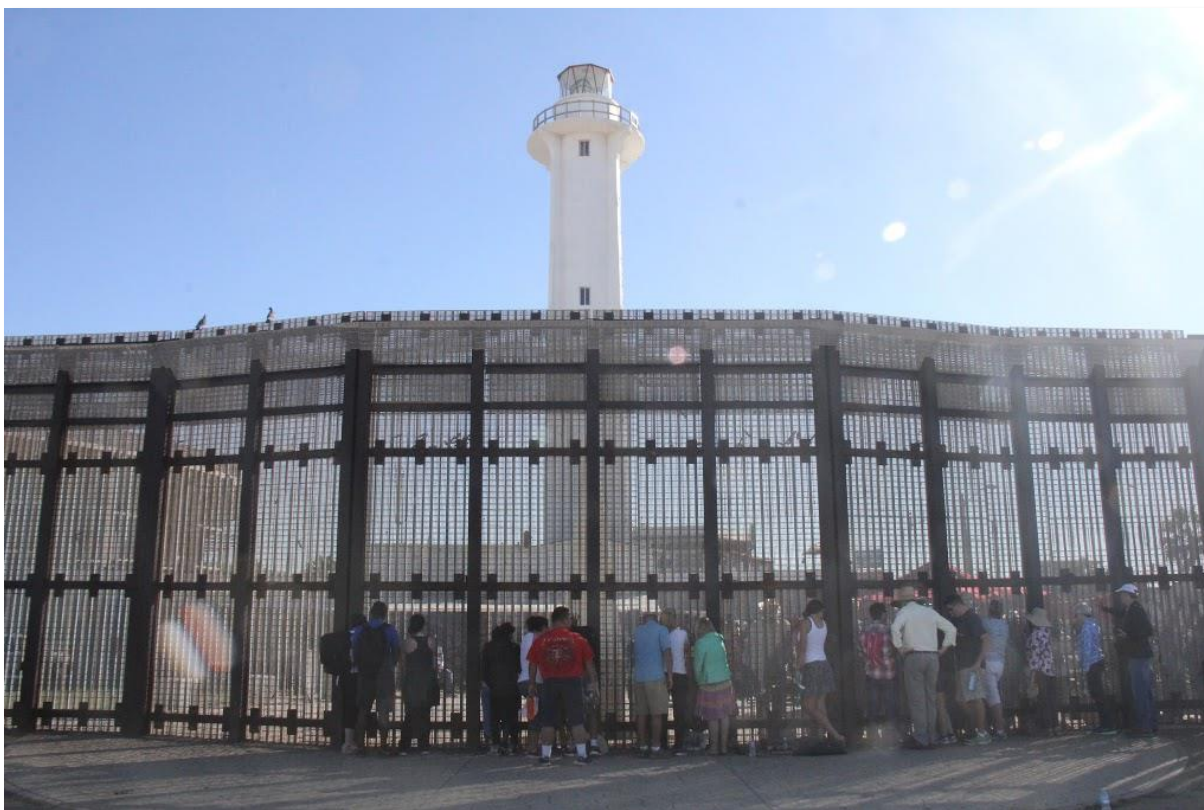
*Please note that these items are **not** due in advance to the SSP Office. They should be brought with you to San Diego and turned in to your Site Director upon arrival.*

All San Diego Participants:

- ☐ Waiver and Release of Liability Form – City of San Diego – Page 6 – *original & one copy*

For Those Visiting Tijuana:

- ☐ Passport or Passport Card (see [how to apply](#)).
- ☐ Photocopy of passport information page or passport card
- ☐ Consent for International Travel by Minor – Page 7 – *original & one copy*



Families meeting one another across the border fence at Friendship Park.

CITY OF SAN DIEGO PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY FORM

In consideration of being allowed to participate in the City of San Diego Volunteer Program, I acknowledge and agree that:

1. My child (or I) is volunteering my services for the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department on a voluntary basis without anticipation of payment of any kind.
2. I acknowledge that the City of San Diego has extended its workman's compensation coverage to authorized volunteers and I agree to accept that coverage.
3. My child (or I) will perform tasks that are within his/her (or my) physical capability to the best of his/her (or my) ability, and my child (or I) will not undertake tasks that are beyond his/her (or my) ability. I certify to the best of my knowledge, that my child's (or my) current physical condition is satisfactory for participation in this activity, and that he/she (or I) am free of any health problem that would affect his/her (or my) ability to participate.
4. I agree to inform my child (or I agree) not to use any equipment or tools with which my child (or I) am unfamiliar or do not know how to operate safely.
5. I agree to inform my child (or I agree) to perform only those tasks assigned, observe all safety rules, and use care in the performance of assignments.
6. I agree that my child (or I) may be photographed, videotaped or recorded and that said photographs, videos or recordings may be used for promotional materials. I understand that my child (or I) will not receive compensation for the use of these and that my child (or I) will not be given notice of when these materials are used.
7. I acknowledge that the City will defend and indemnify my child (or myself) in any claim or action arising from my child's (or my) acts that are within the scope of my child's (or my) duties as a volunteer and in compliance with City policies and procedures, in accordance with City of San Diego Resolution No. 286906. I further acknowledge that the City is not required to indemnify my child (or me) against a claim for punitive damages except as authorized by the City Council pursuant to Government Code Section 825 (b). I agree, however, to defend and indemnify the City in any claim or action arising from my child's (or my) acts that are outside the scope of my child's (or my) volunteer duties.
8. I acknowledge that loss or damage to my child's (or my) personal property used while providing volunteer services is not reimbursable under City regulations.
9. I hereby authorize and give my consent for medical care to be given in an emergency situation to the below named child (or to me) while volunteering.
10. THIS AGREEMENT IS BINDING ON MY HEIRS, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES, NEXT OF KIN, SPOUSE AND ASSIGNS.

Volunteer's Name (print) _____ **Date of birth** ____/____/____

Address _____ **Apt. #** _____

City _____ **Zip** _____ - _____ **Phone #** () _____

Emergency Phone #'s () _____ / () _____

Volunteer's Signature (if participant is 18 years or older) _____ **Date Signed** ____/____/____

Parent/Legal Guardian signature required if volunteer is 17 years of age or younger.

This is to certify that as a parent/legal guardian of this volunteer, I do consent to his/her waiver and release as set forth above. My child has my permission to volunteer. I realize that participation in this program is voluntary.

Parent/Guardian Name (print) _____

Relationship to Volunteer _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date Signed** ____/____/____

Approved by City Attorney May 05, 2015

Consent for International Travel by Minor

I/we, _____, attest that I/we are the lawful guardians of:

Child's name: _____ Date of birth: _____

Place of birth: _____ Passport No.: _____

Issued at (location): _____ On (date): _____

My/our child, _____, has my/our permission to travel with the Sierra Service Project of Sacramento, CA to visit Tijuana, Mexico during June, July, and August of 2016.

In the event that my/our child requires emergency medical treatment and I/we cannot be reached, Sierra Service Project, its board members or employees are authorized to make emergency medical decisions in our stead.

Any questions regarding this consent can be directed to me/us at:

Home address: _____

Street	City	State	Zip
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Home phone: _____

Work phone:

Cell phone: _____

Parent/Guardian's signature: _____

Parent/Guardian's signature: _____