



Corazon House Build Project in Tecate, Mexico April 30, 2022

The members of the San Marino, San Gabriel Next-Gen, Pasadena and South Pasadena Rotary Clubs have arranged for a joint international project that will take place on April 30, 2022. Working with Corazon, Inc, a non-profit organization in Santa Ana, we will be building a house in Tecate, MX in one day for a deserving family that has donated hundreds of hours to qualify for a new home.

For those that have participated in a Corazon project in past years, this will contain information you already know. It has information for everyone interested in going, veteran or new member of the team.

The project is on Saturday, April 30. We will travel to Chula Vista on Friday and check-in to the Chula Vista La Quinta Hotel. While it's not mandatory to travel on Friday and stay at the same hotel, it's strongly encouraged.

On Saturday morning we will meet at 6 am sharp in a shopping center parking lot near the hotel. After a briefing from lead builders, who are long time Corazon leaders, we will caravan to the Tecate border crossing, cross into Mexico and drive about 15 miles south of the border to a village where we will be met by the family receiving the house. We will find a 16 by 20-foot concrete slab and all the materials to build a house. After another safety briefing from the lead builders, the work will begin.

Everyone works at their own skill level and own pace. We will have more than enough help and even if you have no experience, you can still help by picking up a paint roller and painting anything that doesn't move. The lead builders provide good supervision and direction, so you'll know what to do.

The family will provide lunch and the house will be finished by 5 pm. After a short ceremony where the keys to the house are turned over to the new owners, we will caravan as a group back to the hotel.

Everyone is encouraged to stay Saturday night and return home on Sunday. One reason is you'll be tired and the other reason is you don't want to miss the fun fiesta at a local Mexican restaurant where we'll celebrate that we changed the lives of our new friends and no doubt a few of us will be changed as well.

The clubs are picking up the cost of the materials. The only cost to participants is 2 nights in a moderately priced hotel and transportation to and from Chula Vista.

Travel to Mexico:

You must have a passport or passport ID to travel to Mexico except those under age 16. Anyone under 16 who doesn't possess a passport may present a copy of their birth certificate, school ID, a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, a Naturalization Certificate, or a Canadian Citizenship Card. You must be at least 12 years old to go.

COVID-19 Information

Guidelines during the COVID-19 epidemic vary. This is the current information as of January 1, 2022, and we will keep everyone apprised should the conditions change.

From the US Embassy:

<https://mx.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information-for-u-s-citizens-in-mexico/>

Starting January 2022, all inbound foreign national travelers crossing U.S. land ports of entry (POEs) or ferry terminals – whether for essential or non-essential reasons – must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and provide related proof of vaccination.

U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents (LPRs) may enter via land ports of entry or via ferry regardless of vaccination status and are not required to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test.

From Corazon:

https://www.corazon.org/volunteer_covid_19_protocols

excerpt:

We trust that volunteers registering to participate in a project will only register if they are fully vaccinated or hold a valid negative COVID test.

Sign-up Process:

1. Contact your Rotary Club representative who will keep a list of participants. If you are willing to drive from Chula Vista to the build site and how many total passengers can go in our car. (The roads are in good condition. Once we get to the village the roads are dirt, but in good condition. It's recommended that you get 1-day Mexican insurance, about \$30.)
2. Register with Corazon.
3. Make Hotel Reservation. We have reserved a block of rooms at the La Quinta Inn and Suites at 150 Bonita Road, Chula Vista. I strongly encourage reserving a room for both Friday and Saturday night. I will make arrangements for them to have breakfast ready starting at 5 am Saturday morning.

What to Bring with You

BRING YOUR PASSPORT OR PASSPORT ID CARD! If you forget to bring it, you will not be doomed to living in Mexico for the rest of your life, but you may be delayed crossing back into America.

BRING YOUR COVID-19 PROOF VACCINATION! Proof of vaccination or current negative test is currently required for border crossing and to participate at Corazon.

FOOD, SUNDRIES, TOOLS.

Lunch will be provided by the family that will be receiving the house. But it's a good idea to bring some snacks like fruit and granola bars. If you bring fruit, leave it in Mexico otherwise you will be on the 'fruit fly watch list' if you bring it back across the border.

Bring masks to wear. It's a good idea to bring some bottled water and toilet paper. Toilet facilities may be pretty spartan. Sanitized hand wipes are also good to bring along.

Bring any old paint brushes, rollers or paint pans that you no longer need. Bring a hammer and nail pouch if you plan on pounding nails. Do not bring any power tools! We will be under the supervision of experienced lead builder volunteers from Corazon and they will arrange for the cutting.

Bring a folding chair and if you have a pop up, bring that. The weather could be anything from cool and cloudy to hot and sunny. There are plenty of volunteers, so there's no reason to push yourself. Take plenty of breaks.

Wear old clothes that you don't mind getting dirty and paint on them. You will experience paint regardless of what you do.

DO NOT BRING ALCOHOL OR FIREARMS. The alcohol won't get you in legal trouble, but alcohol is not allowed on build sites. Firearms will create a major legal problem for you.

Most of all, bring a positive attitude and be ready to have a fun filled and rewarding day.