



EL SALVADOR SERVICE PARTNERSHIP

*Sample 11-Day
Student Program*



Summer 2005



Friday

USA → EL SALVADOR

✚ Departure from US Point of Origin

✚ Late Afternoon Arrival
in San Salvador, El
Salvador



✚ Accommodation at
Comfort Hotel Real or Similar

(Check in this evening for 9 nights.)



*Saturday –
Sunday*

EL SALVADOR: ECOLOGY & CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

✚ Weekend Events



Saturday's activities promote appreciation for the regional ecology, with an emphasis on exercise and exploration. We'll take a guided day-hike along a spectacular 18-kilometer trail. "Residents" of this lovely expanse include deer, raccoon, paca, and the torogoz, El Salvador's national bird.



Or, we may visit an iguana farm – to interact with these strange creatures whom Salvadoreans revere. A farm in San Luis Talpa breeds these ancient lizards in an effort to stave off species endangerment.

Sunday’s activities promote understanding of Salvadorean history.

In the early afternoon, we’ll meet with students from the Universidad Centroamericana. We’ll hear from these passionate young adults about the conflict that plagued El Salvador during the 1980s, and we’ll learn its root causes.



We’ll visit the chapel where Archbishop Oscar Romero was assassinated, as well as a well-organized museum commemorating the conflict. We’ll have ample chance to ask questions, and to reflect on El Salvador’s progress as a developing nation since those difficult days.

Monday

STUDY OF CONTEMPORARY ISSUES & TEAMBUILDING WITH PARTNERS

 Morning Overview of Issues Facing Local Communities



Zacatecoluca is a typical southern El Salvador town, the closest to the capital among a string of similar municipalities. It’s a commercial center surrounded by fertile farmland. Many residents manufacture textiles, baskets, and wood products.



This morning, we'll receive an overview of the region's prevailing issues, with an emphasis on food & economic security and the plight of children. We'll interact with experts from the Universidad Centroamericana.

- ✚ Afternoon Teambuilding & Orientation
With Group of Local Partner Students

*Tuesday –
Sunday*

ZACATECOLUCA SERVICE PARTNERSHIP

- ✚ Community Service Learning Partnership
(Six Days)

Primarily this week, we'll serve an orphanage and a home for the elderly in Zacatecoluca town. Together, these two institutions serve the region's most vulnerable residents – small children and community elders.



The orphanage is home to 43 children, whose twin beds, school uniforms, and shoes are paid for largely by Salvadorean expatriates living in the United States.



The elderly home meets the needs of 80 frail men and women. Roman Catholic sisters care for and comfort the residents, some of whom have been abandoned by their families and others who were found homeless on the streets of San Salvador.

Specifically, from Tuesday through Sunday, service consists of the following activities, through which we and local-partner students will rotate:

- *At the orphanage, help staff to prepare, cook, and serve hot meals for 43 children daily; help to clean up afterward (AM meal & PM meal).*



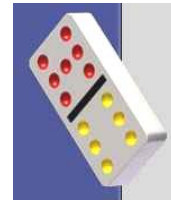
At a local primary school, provide computer instruction to school-going children (and adults, as requested); assist with English language classes & art classes; assist at AM/PM Kindergarten classes.

- *At the orphanage, assist attending doctors & nurses with necessary non-medical activities (e.g., health screening tasks, distribution of prescriptions & other, as requested).*





At the orphanage, organize soccer sessions & other physical education activities for the children as a complement to their daily studies.



At the elderly home, organize games, walks, and other structured leisure to assist staff in keeping residents' minds and bodies as sharp as possible.

Assist with meal preparation & cleanup, and generally offer human warmth to elders who are eager for companionship and a listening ear.



Cultural activities with partner students may be planned over certain evening meals during the period of service.

Monday

COMMUNITY SEND-OFF & RETURN TO USA

Farewells With Local Partner Students



This morning, prior to departure, we'll engage for a final, festive period with our local partners – to relax a bit, say our farewells, and reflect on our accomplishments during the past 6 days.

Depart San Salvador for US Destination Point