

## For Everyone

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### CLOTHING

As you pack clothes for your trip, **make sure you've read the page entitled "Clothes to Pack for Your Trip."** It has lots of information to help you pack well!

- ★ Mid-thigh or longer shorts\*
- ★ Long pants  
*for cool nights and/or service project sites*
- ★ Short-sleeved shirts\*
- ★ Long-sleeved shirts, sweatshirts and/or light jacket  
*for cool nights*
- ★ Nice, clean clothes for a possible worship service
- ★ Underwear and socks
- ★ Tennis shoes or work boots (closed-foot)\*
- ★ Swimsuit\*  
*for showering if you wish and/or possibly for an evening activity (ask your Trip Leader)*
- ★ Towel and washcloth
- ★ Shower shoes (flip-flops)

### OTHER STUFF

- ★ Small shower bag or backpack
- ★ Soap, shampoo, deodorant, other toiletries, extra contact lenses, backup pair of glasses, etc.
- ★ Sleeping bag and pillow
- ★ Air mattress or camping pad - Because of space limitations, **mattresses must be twin size or smaller.**

*\*We highly recommend a **foam pad** or **camping pad**. Need to buy something? We suggest the [Coleman Slim Twin](#).*

- ★ Mess Kit (for meals) *Need to buy something? We suggest the [Ozark 2 Person Kit](#)*
- ★ Bible and pen
- ★ Reusable water bottle
- ★ Sunscreen, lip balm, hat, sunglasses
- ★ Spending money for snacks and T-shirt purchases  
*talk to your Trip Leader for further details*
- ★ Insect repellent - bug spray is essential!  
*not every person needs to bring their own; coordinate with others in your group*
- ★ Flashlight

## Notes on Packing

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Because space is limited in the sleeping rooms, everything but your sleeping bag and camping pad or air mattress should fit in one duffel bag or suitcase.

Please check the local weather forecast for the time of year you are visiting to help you know how to pack. Know that South Texas is known to be hot most of the year.

### PLEASE AVOID BRINGING:

- ★ Blow dryers, curling irons or straightening irons because shower time is short and because our housing sites do not have the power to run all of these small electronics at one time.
- ★ Electronic devices, too much cash or other valuables that you would consider to be irreplaceable. Also, consider leaving your phone at home. These items can distract you from others during the week and may be susceptible to theft.

**Border Perspective is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.**

## Church Service Suggestions

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- ★ We will be attending a Spanish speaking church service. It is important to be culturally sensitive with our clothing. Appropriate clothing for church includes:
  - For women: at-least-knee-length skirts/dresses or shorts/capris and a nice loose-fitting shirt with sleeves; please no sleeveless dresses or shirts
  - For men: pants or knee-length shorts, preferably khakis with a short sleeve button-down shirt or polo shirt
  - For everyone: Sandals are appropriate.

## For Groups Crossing the Border into Mexico

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- ★ Bring appropriate documents for border crossing.
- ★ Bring small bills and change your money as you will need to pay toll bridges.
- ★ Please come prepared with 4 QUARTERS to cross into Mexico and 50 cents & passport to come back into the US.

\* See "Clothes to Pack for Your Mission Trip" for additional details.

# CLOTHES TO PACK FOR YOUR TRIP

We want you to be successful in service! It might seem small, but being intentional with what you wear can help you eliminate obstacles when serving others. Because we get to be guests in another place, we want to do everything we can to respect others, including honoring their ideas about apparel. Plus, we'll be doing a lot of different kinds of service, so we want you to be ready for whatever this trip throws at you!

Bringing the following items on your trip will allow you to bypass potential barriers, participate in all sorts of service, and stay safe as you enter into another community and actively love others.

## ***Please Bring...***

### ***Tennis Shoes or Work Boots***

You can bring sandals too, but to keep your feet safe, you'll need a pair of closed-foot shoes that completely covers your feet. Bring footwear that you don't mind getting dirty or wet at service sites and that you can wear in the kitchen.

### ***Mid-Thigh or Longer Shorts or Pants***

Not sure if that's your shorts? Let your arms fall to your side; if your fingertips touch skin, look for a longer pair to bring along.

### ***Shirts with Sleeves***

They don't have to be long sleeves and you can roll them up anytime.

### ***Loose-Fitting Clothing***

During the week your clothes may endure paint, sweat, mud and lots of love from children! Bring clothes that you can work and play hard in.

### ***Swimwear***

If your Border Perspective trip includes a swimming activity:

Guys: Please follow the shorts policy above.

Girls: Please bring a one-piece swimsuit.

If you are bringing a suit for additional privacy in the shower, two-piece suits are OK.

## ***Please Leave at Home...***

- Tank tops or sleeveless shirts
- Short shorts
- Clothing that reveals undergarments, midriffs or chests
- Tight-fitting clothing
- Clothing with obscene, vulgar, abusive or discriminatory language or images
- Attire that represents hate groups, contains threatening language or is gang-related
- Apparel that promotes alcohol, chemicals, tobacco or any other product illegal for use by minors

### ***Why?***

We don't want something as simple as clothing to hurt your opportunity to form incredible connections with other church groups on the trip or our friends in the community.

Instead, we want to honor those relationships by avoiding attire that could possibly conflict with their cultural or organizational norms.

We know that some of the items on this list might not match up with what you usually wear. Sometimes service stretches us beyond what we're used to... and that's OK! Our trips are all about moving into new territory and experiencing something different. Plus, it's kind of incredible that something as simple as how you pack your bags can be part of the way you begin to serve the community you're headed to. Thank you for serving in this way!