

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

ANYONE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE PROJECT TEAM TRIP TO XICOTEPEC, MEXICO IN MARCH, 2007 SHOULD READ THIS CAREFULLY.

**Trip Dates: Week One, March 10 – 18, 2007
Week Two, March 17 – 25, 2007**

Guidelines for all prospective team members:

The Xicotepec Project is a humanitarian, community development project sponsored by the Rotary Club of Xicotepec and Rotary District 6000 of Iowa. The project began in 2002. Project team participants should have a commitment to humanitarian service and should be willing to demonstrate their commitment throughout the week they are in Mexico and Xicotepec.

The main purpose of the March 2007 project team trip to Xicotepec is to complete work on selected community projects sponsored by the Xicotepec Rotary Club. You may be asked to perform several different jobs during the week. You may or may not be assigned to the job(s) of your choice, but you are expected to perform the assignments that are given to you. Service-learning students will divide their time between service activities and related academic endeavors according to a pre-established plan.

Other purposes of the trip include experiencing, enjoying and learning about a culture different from your own, promoting fellowship and friendship among people with different cultural, economic, educational, racial and religious backgrounds, and learning more about Rotary in an international context. Service-learning participants will also have specific academic goals which they will have developed together with a supervising professor or faculty member.

Application forms and other important documents will be available on The Xicotepec Project website – <http://www.xicoproject.org> – around mid-September. Both E-mail and the website will be used to communicate with applicants and – later on – with project team members. You will need Internet access and an E-mail account that you check regularly and that will not fill up or be unavailable. Announcements of general interest will be mailed to Rotary D6000 club presidents and secretaries, all previous (2003-2006) project team members, D6000 Interact and Rotaract clubs, U of I service-learning faculty and anyone who asks to be included in mailings (E-mail the Project Coordinator to be added to the mailing list).

All instructions, deadlines, etc. for applying are given on the Project Team Application Form. You must complete an application form and submit it by the given deadline. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted without the prior approval of the Project Coordinator.

The number of participants in each week will be limited to 50; in addition, there are limits to the number of Rotarians who can go in a given week. Preference will be given to:

- a) early applicants
- b) first-time applicants
- c) applicants from D6000 Rotary Clubs that have never had one of their members go to Xicotepec
- d) applicants with well-developed project plans

---Please apply early if you want to go to Xicotepec in March 2007 ---

Safety and health of the project team are two prime concerns of everyone involved in the Xicotepec Project; you will not be asked to do anything that is unduly risky or to tolerate unhealthy conditions, and you may refuse to do anything that you believe is unsafe or damaging to your health or the health of others. However, please understand that there are inherent risks in traveling to and staying in a developing country and that environmental and sanitary conditions often do not meet customary standards found in the US.

You must be in reasonably good health. In particular, you should be able to walk up to a mile at a time and up to three miles per day and to negotiate uneven terrain. You should be able to perform steady, moderate work under a variety of weather conditions ranging from very hot and humid to cold and damp. You must have health insurance that provides coverage while you are in Mexico (supplemental insurance is available if your normal health care coverage is not adequate in this respect).

You must travel with the rest of the project team unless you have made alternate arrangements which have been approved by the Project Coordinator prior to the beginning of your trip. While in Xicotepec you must participate in the planned work or other activities as directed by the Project Coordinator or other supervisor; you will not be allowed to travel or sightsee on your own during the week you are in Mexico with the project team.

The estimated cost of the trip is \$1,100 for each Rotarian/adult and \$1,000 for each youth participant based on double occupancy. Trip costs are subject to change and will vary according to the actual costs for airfare, lodging, meals, etc.

Guidelines for Rotarians and other adults:

District 6000 Rotarians and their families are eligible to apply. Please contact the Project Coordinator before applying if you want to bring children under 15 years of age. University-level service-learning faculty who have participating students are eligible and are encouraged to apply.

Other non-Rotarian adults should contact the Project Coordinator before applying.

Adults (Rotarians and non-Rotarians alike) who are accepted will pay a \$100 project fee as part of their trip costs; these funds will go toward project expenses in Xicotepec.

IN ADDITION, each participating Rotarian must bring with him/her at least \$200 to be used for a humanitarian purpose identified by that Rotarian during his/her week in

Xicotepec. Rotarians are encouraged to solicit their club for all or part of this money or to raise it from their friends, family, church, etc. Each Rotarian will determine how the money s/he bring with him/her is used – but it must be used for some humanitarian purpose by the end of her/his week in Xicotepec. Transportation and other logistical issues will be addressed so that each Rotarian will have the opportunity to employ “his” or “her” money in the way s/he decides (for instance, transportation to a Sam's Club, Home Depot or other large store may be provided for those wishing to purchase items to donate to a school, orphanage, etc.).

Rotarians and their spouses will be housed with other Rotarians in Xicotepec. Children of Rotarians may be housed separately from their parents. Your hosts may not speak English; you may or may not be able to choose the host family you would like to stay with. You should be prepared to adapt to the customs and routines of the household where you are lodged.

Non-Rotarian adults will be housed with Rotarians whenever possible. If this is not possible, dormitory-style lodging will be provided.

Guidelines for Youth:

Youth (high school and college students) are eligible to apply if they:

- a) are **active** members of an Interact or Rotaract Club, or
- b) have been nominated or sponsored by a Rotary District 6000 Rotary Club, or
- c) are enrolled in a college-level service-learning course and have the prior approval of their supervising faculty member and the Project Coordinator, or
- d) have obtained prior approval from the Project Coordinator

Interact, Rotaract and Rotary-sponsored youth participants are eligible for a **one-time**, partial reimbursement of their trip costs to Xicotepec, provided they fulfill all the other requirements described here and in the application form.

Reimbursements for subsequent trips taken by previously reimbursed participants will be limited and will be awarded based on:

- a) merit of an applicant's planning and execution of specific projects and/or activities in connection with The Xicotepec Project, and/or
- e) demonstrated leadership in the area of humanitarian service, and/or
- f) need, and/or
- g) other criteria established by the Project Coordinator

Leading up to the March 2007 trip to Xicotepec, all youth participants must actively participate in a club, individual or academic project which is being executed in connection with the project team trip. If you do not have a project of your own or do not know of one in which you can participate, you should contact the Project Coordinator.

There are various restrictions regarding the consumption of alcohol, curfew, conduct and travel procedures for youth. These will be presented and explained in detail prior to departure for Mexico.

Additional conditions and requirements may apply to participating service-learning students.

For additional information, contact:

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