

PLEASE NOTE:
*fees,
deadlines &
paperwork!*



Contact Info:

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Mixed Jr/Sr. High School Week 2024

Sunday – Friday

June 9 – 14, 2024

***We are excited you have considered joining us in God’s mission in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas!
We are a ministry of the El Valle District of the Rio Texas Conference in South Texas.***

WE PROVIDE

1. A meaningful, planned and coordinated Christ-centered mission experience
2. A relational experience with families we go to serve, your church youth and sponsors, other church youth and sponsors and local servant volunteers
3. A local host church, meals, and t-shirt
4. A mission experience site, materials and coordination (building and/or other)
5. A daily Devotion Guide – specific to the week’s activities

YOU PROVIDE

1. One to three teams with 8-12 youth and at least 2-3 adults (depending on group size).
2. Your transportation to Host Church and to mission experience each day
3. \$275 per missionary/person **Mission Participation Fee**
4. Your transportation to Host Church and to mission experience each day
5. At least one person that is knowledgeable with some construction work.
6. Your own bedding, air mattress, toiletries, etc.
7. Bring your own tools and ladders. Other simple “tools” may be needed depending on the mission site. You will be notified.
8. PAPERWORK NEEDED: Completed Team Application and Team Commitment Questions, ALL individual missionary’s/ person’s paperwork, including insurance for each team member. Additionally, for adult leaders (18 and older) the Supervision and Care of Youth and Children/Child Protection/Safe Sanctuaries Training Certificate and evidence of approved Background Checks.

Due May 10: \$75 per Missioner/Person DEPOSIT and TEAM APPLICATION

Finalized t-shirt sizes & count (order goes in this date).

Team/Participant deposit is no longer refundable after this date.

Due May 24: Re ma in der of \$200.00 per Missioner/Person PARTICIPATION FEE and COMPLETED PAPERWORK – (\$275 non-refundable) – No additions after May 24.

**ALL CHECKS should be made payable to the EL VALLE DISTRICT OF THE UMC and mail to:
c/o Susan Hellums, First UMC, 4200 N. McColl Rd, McAllen, TX 78504**

HISTORY of Mission Service Project (MSP)

The Mission Service Project (MSP) is a ministry of the El Valle District of the Rio Texas Conference in South Texas. It began as a home repair project that was started in 1981 by the First United Methodist Church of Mission, Texas. It is an ecumenical partnership of churches and community agencies/ministries in the area. With the help of volunteers, MSP has been able to make substantial repairs to the homes of severely disadvantaged families in Mission, McAllen, Pharr, San Juan, and Alamo and the surrounding area and make lasting relationships with the families.

In past years, this project was for Senior High students, only. HOWEVER, in 2015 we extended the age to include Junior and Senior High students. Not only does this mean we will be doing home repairs, but we have extended our missional outreach to include other places to join in God's work. We will provide other opportunities which will be determined by age of the youth on the team, needs, and gifts of service brought by the team. Safety is a huge consideration of the assignments of the mission experience sites. Ages, experience, as well as the safety of the sites are taken into consideration.

MSP is supported by donations of funds and services from numerous local businesses, civic organizations, service groups, church groups and individuals. In addition to this support, it was recognized as a Presidential Point of Light in 1990.

The project is first and foremost a *Christian ministry based on love*. Years of experience have gone into developing the goal of MSP, which is to serve in our communities, sharing the love of God, while presenting a life-changing experience for the youth and adults who participate.

We pray that God continues to lead us as we move forward, working towards God's Kingdom!

WHAT WE DO

Mission Service Project (MSP) is first and foremost a youth ministry sharing God's unconditional love in His mission in the world. It is often a life changing experience for youth and adults alike, no matter how many times they may have attended MSP in the past. Over the past years, MSP has been a wonderful "home repair" ministry forming relations with the families receiving assistance and each other. Today, MSP has grown into an even more intentional relation building mission experience, joining in God's mission in our communities in new ways. The experience is now available to a wider range of gifts of service brought by those who come to serve. We have also extended the age group for the time of the mission.

It is our prayer that those who come to serve are dedicated not only to sharing their God-given gifts but also to receiving the gifts of those they come to serve.

Groups are expected to participate in **all MSP planned activities**. They are also expected to arrive on time and remain until the program is completed. Each missionary is required to sign a Conduct Commitment form.

Some mission experience related to construction include:

- Light Repairs
- Roofing Repairs & Re-roofing
- Flooring repairs
- Weatherproofing Homes
- Construction of Steps
- ADA Wheelchair Ramps or Home Modifications
- Hanging Doors
- Installing or Repairing Window Screens
- Sheet Rocking
- Interior and Exterior Painting
- Repairs to Siding
- Other mission experiences TBA

An assessment of your team and adult leader's skills is requested on the Team Application. Each team should have at least one leader with various construction skills depending on the mission experience. Every attempt will be made to match the experience level of the teams to the appropriate job sites. *One of the most important talents of the team and its leader is flexibility and creativity in using available materials to accomplish the needed repairs.*

***The age of the youth participating will determine some of the mission experiences they will be allowed to participate. Safety is a huge consideration in the decision of the type of mission experience chosen for your team. We ask that the teams respect these decisions.*

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE and WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

YOUTH – Jr. & Sr. High School and ADULT Leaders

Several teams made up of mixed age Jr/Sr. High School youth and their adult leaders will be coming to Mission Service Project. These teams will be housed and fed in the sponsoring local churches in the Mission/McAllen area. The number of volunteers housed at any one church will depend on the size of the teams and what the hosting churches can accommodate. All of the teams, no matter what denomination or in which church they are housed, will be a part of the *total group ministry* and the program is set accordingly. **Each youth and their adult leaders are expected to participate fully in the entire program, arriving by 3:00 p.m., Sunday, June 11, and not departing until the program is finished after Thursday evening CLOSING WORSHIP! Teams are welcome to stay until Friday, June 14 morning. We will have a light breakfast if you do choose to stay (times are on the schedule). If your team leaves after CLOSING WORSHIP on Thursday, they will still be expected to clean their areas.**

*The mission experience is **not** an 8am to 5pm “job or project.”* The experience will be one of learning, reaching out to new friends and growing together. Expectations placed on the youth and adults are very high. Each youth and adult must be emotionally mature and physically fit. They must be able to put in hard work with physical labor under difficult conditions in the extreme heat of South Texas.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Junior/Senior High Youth must be entering into the 7th Grade to graduating High School seniors (NO EXCEPTIONS).
2. Each church is allowed a maximum of three work teams. Each team must have at least one adult that has “do-it-yourself skills.”
3. MSP asks for *at least* one male and one female adult with each team, depending on size of team. (Please see **Safe Gatherings, Safety Certification**)
4. The ideal number of youth per team is 10 with at least 2-3 adult leaders.
5. Each team of adults and youth should train together. While here, they will spend each day at the assigned mission experience site and should be prepared to function as a well-trained, cooperative unit with each one prepared to individually show initiative during the mission.
6. At least, one adult team leader MUST remain on site at all times. *IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO NOTE, Adult leaders: DO NOT EVER leave your team unsupervised at a mission site, nor EVER ALLOW them to go **anywhere** without adult supervision. This means at the mission site or off the mission site!*
7. **Youth are NOT allowed to drive to or from the job sites.**

ADULT LEADER’S DUTIES

The adult leaders are responsible for the safety, well-being and behavior of their youth 24 hours a day. They have a responsibility to the parents they represent and the project staff. They should know the whereabouts of the youth at all times. Adults who accompany youth should be chosen far enough in advance that they will be integrated into the total group and be well aware of their responsibilities for guidance and direction of the youth. All rules apply to local church/District teams. Adults must follow ALL standards set forth in the **Trusted Con Confianza/SAFE GATHERINGS Certification!**

MSP STAFF

The “Project Staff” for Mission Service Project, consists of one overall Construction Coordinator/Trouble Shooter and one or more supply truck driver, assigned to your site, who will take material orders, buy and deliver them to the job site. The Construction Coordinator/Trouble Shooter will assist leaders with technical “how to” problems, if needed. **EACH TEAM SHOULD HAVE A LEADER WITH SOME CONSTRUCTION SKILLS. The Construction Coordination/Trouble Shooter has the final authority** when problems at sites occur and their expertise is required. Their work experience and expertise are to be respected. REMEMBER: they are also volunteering their time.

It is important to note, that some things have to be done by required “specs” or regulations. The MSP Construction Coordinator will advise the Team Leaders of those things. These instructions MUST be followed. For example: ADA Ramps, etc.

Although safety is of utmost concern, the “Project Staff” cannot be responsible for the individual welfare of the the missionary/participants. *It is therefore important that each church team have adult members who are familiar with their youth and know their responsibilities to their team.*

SCHEDULE

May 10

DEPOSIT of \$75 per Missioner/Participant and COMPLETED TEAM APPLICATION Finalized t-shirt sizes & count (order goes in this date). - No refunds of DEPOSIT.

May 24

\$200 MISSION PARTICIPATION FEE per Missioner/Participant along with ALL completed PAPERWORK for EACH ADULT AND YOUTH – no refunds after this time.

Sunday, June 9

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Check-in

NOTE: In order for the team construction coordinator to visit the mission site for an orientation to the mission experience, the adult construction leaders need to be check in by 3:00 p.m.

At this time:

- ✓ Unpack and settle in.
- ✓ Please arrive no later than 4:00 p.m. to avoid problems with the Orientation, Opening Worship and Evening Meal.

5:00 p.m.

Whole Group - Orientation Meeting/Housekeeping

6:30 p.m.

Duties Welcome Meal

7:00 p.m.

Opening Worship

7:45 p.m.

Adult Leader Orientation

8:15 p.m.

Group Meetings for planning first day of work

9:00 p.m.

Evening Devotions (by group)

10:30 p.m.

Lights Out

Daily (Monday – Thursday), June 10-13

6:30 am

Devotions, pack lunches, housekeeping chores, load vehicles (host church)

7:00 am

Breakfast (host church)

7:30 am

Depart for mission site

8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Serve. Have lunch. Lunch plans are determined by the mission experience. Instructions will be provided for each experience.

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Showers. Relax before dinner.

6:00 pm

Dinner

7:00 pm

Activities – There will be two free nights for the Teams. Adult leaders will plan these with their Team

(no youth may be left behind without proper supervision)

8:30 - 9:00 pm

Group time for reflection / planning

9:00 - 10:00 pm

Care and Share

10:30 pm

Lights Out

This schedule WILL change, please be flexible!

Thursday Evening AFTER WORSHIP – if your team will leave at this time to go home, arrangements need to be made at time of Registration. Areas must still be cleaned and preparations for leaving made!

Friday a.m., June 14: a light breakfast will be provided. Pack, clean host facility and depart by 9:00 a.m.

OTHER MISSION EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITIES

It is the plan of the MSP mission experience to allow for other opportunities to join in God's mission here in our area, other than construction. The age, experience and gifts of a particular group will help formulate those plans. Therefore, the schedule above may be different for some. ***Please remember to be flexible.***

Throughout this mission experience there will be time for sharing and learning. Some will be through a group experience and some will be personal. God will be working around, in and through us this entire week!

HOUSING

Teams will be housed in available space at the host church. Participants will need to bring their own sleeping bag, as well as sheets and pillows, if desired. *For extra comfort, MSP strongly recommends that each person bring a cot or air mattress, as beds are not provided.*

Each night a different host church arranges the evening meal. The host church where you stay prepares your breakfast and furnishes the "fixings" for a sack lunch to be taken with the missionaries to the site.

Groups living in close quarters, without the conveniences we are accustomed to, require a personal commitment to the group and to MSP, by everyone. The MSP network looks forward each year to living, sharing and working together with the volunteers and to develop an exciting Christian community. It is expected that in spite of the inconveniences, or perhaps because of them, we will all grow in commitment to one another and to the responsibilities of group living.

Because mission servants will be taking part in serious and strenuous work during the day, MSP wants to emphasize that the hours from 10:30pm to 6:00am are set aside for REST! MSP asks the cooperation of all in showing consideration for one another. Leaders will be responsible for enforcing this quiet time in their own groups.

DRESS – IMPORTANT!

At the "mission experience site:" *please dress appropriately on the mission site.* If the mission experience requires you to be outside for any length of time, white cotton, long-sleeved, button-up shirts are great for keeping safe you from sunburn. Jeans are the MOST appropriate at any worksite with no spaghetti straps. **NO SHORT SHORTS! SHORTS (if worn) MUST BE FINGER-TIP LENGTH OR LONGER!!!** Closed-toed shoes, hats and sunscreen are a must for missionaries. **All these are for safety, as well as modesty! We must remember who we represent!**

In the evenings: You will be staying at a church and even though males/females will be properly housed there will be times (such as going and coming from showers) that you will need to be appropriately dressed. **AT ALL TIMES EVERYONE MUST WEAR shirts, shorts and sandals at this time, modesty is important!** *Remember at all times, why you came for this mission experience...that should always be the focus!*

PREPARING YOUR GROUP

All groups are expected to spend time together in study and preparation for the experience. Prepared group leaders and youth are an important ingredient in building a mountain top experience. Time will be spent by each group in raising funds, assembling tools and other materials and making travel arrangements. Groups will also need time for studying the area, the people, the culture and different life styles that they will encounter, as well as their own motivation for serving.

Each group will be sent a packet of materials which will guide them through information about this area, its unique culture, etc. The importance of being well prepared when you arrive cannot be too strongly stressed. It will have a direct relationship to your mission experience.

MSP seeks to serve the people of Mission/McAllen and surrounding areas with humility and with sensitivity. The Christian guidelines of this ministry are:

1. We see all people as our brothers and sisters, made in the image of God, having intelligence, will, freedom, a sense of beauty, compassion, a sense of values and creativity.
2. We go to our brothers and sisters and accept them right where they are and just the way they are, different as they may be.
3. We will earnestly seek to bear witness to God's unconditional love.
4. We seek to work in glad cooperation and mutual support with other workers, and we are prepared to remain sensitive and helpful to the needs of others.
5. We pray you will come desiring to serve the people of Mission/McAllen and surround areas in the Christian sense of God's Word. When you commit yourselves to serve, you are making a covenant with God to put your own needs and desires aside in order to share your talents/gifts, love and concern with others.
6. Each of us and those we serve, bring God-given gifts, whether spiritual, physical or mental, tangible or intangible, which will be honored and appreciated equally.
7. You come to serve in God's mission where you will touch other's lives where they live and often serve with you. All people need love, a sense of ownership, an avenue of creativity and a need to belong. You may encounter someone who does not seem to appreciate the work you have done, remember, you are there to show God's unconditional love.
8. With your commitment to serve in God's mission here, comes a responsibility to those you come to serve, to the community you come to serve, to the community YOU are live and work in, to your own team, to others serving, to the staff, to the project and to its ongoing ministry. *You are Christ's representative doing God's work in God's world.* The commitment to service and its responsibilities means you may have to sacrifice some of your own wishes to become able servants in the Christian sense. Your self-sacrifice will include sleeping on the floor for a week, sometimes taking a cold shower, working late in the heat of south Texas, and helping where needed.
9. As guests and members of the community you serve, you are expected to act responsibly and respectfully the entire time you are in the community.
10. There is one rule that we, as a mission team representing Christ, must observe beyond community rules. **THE POSSESSION OR USE OF ALCOHOL OR OTHER ILLEGAL DRUGS IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN! THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE!** Any person who chooses not to abide by this rule will separate themselves from MSP and will be sent home.

WHAT YOU NEED FOR MSP!

FEES & COSTS

Each person of a team will be asked to pay a total of \$275 per missionary/participant. This consists of \$75 due on May 10. This fee is non-refundable. On May 10th we MUST have all finalized t-shirt sizes and counts (order goes in on that day)! *The remaining \$200 Participation Fee and all PAPERWORK are due no later than May 24th. ALL FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.*

At the time that the \$75 per missionary/participant DEPOSIT is made the Team Application and Team Commitment Questionnaire is also due. This date is May 10. If a church has more than one team, we ask that you fill out the appropriate number of **TEAM APPLICATIONS** so that we have an idea of how many teams you would like to have and their makeup.

It is very important that all paperwork is COMPLETE prior to sending it and that it arrives to the MSP staff by May 24th. Paperwork may also be scanned and e-mailed if more convenient! There is an option to do the paperwork online, as well. We just need ALL paperwork completed by EACH PARTICIPANT! If parents filling out paperwork online, please send a list of all participants so we know that we have everyone's paperwork.

The cost of repairing the homes varies from approximately \$1,200 to \$2,000 depending on the work to be done and the needed materials. The Participation Fee covers all supplies for project, missionary (person) housing, meals, snacks, etc. In order to operate, MSP relies heavily on donations by other churches, church organizations, local civic and service clubs, local businessmen and individuals.

Your sponsoring church may wish to add more to this amount through the United Methodist Church Rio Texas Conference Advance Program #2007. This money is used to buy materials.

Please make **checks payable to El Valle District of the UMC** and mail them to:

Susan Hellums
c/o First United Methodist Church
4200 N. McColl
McAllen, TX 78504

OR you may pay by CASH APP with QR Code here:

TOOLS

Each group must provide its own tools if doing construction. After your **Team Application** and **Team Commitment Questionnaire** has been accepted, you will be sent a list for each member of the team, as well as what the group will need to bring. We will contact you in advance as to what your mission will be so that you can better prepare your group.

TRANSPORTATION

Each group provides its own transportation to the Rio Grande Valley and to and from mission site each day. A pick-up truck is invaluable to carry equipment! Team members, however, are NEVER allowed to ride in the back of a pick-up truck. Although the staff runs several supply delivery routes, there are times when unavoidable delays occur in the delivery of materials. The ability of teams to take materials with them to the work site each morning can often speed up the work process.

BACKGROUND CHECKS and CHILD AND YOUTH SAFETY Certification

Adults (18 years and older) MUST have had a BACKGROUND CHECK done since last year's 2019 Mission Service Project and have completed either the "Child and Youth Safety" training and have certificate within the last

year...or have a Safe Gatherings Certification. Copies of these MUST be presented with the completed PAPERWORK. If you are from another Conference, please call us to clear their Certification process

Mission Service Project (MSP)
SUPERVISION AND CARE OF YOUTH and CHILDREN

All team leaders and participants must understand and agree to abide by these policies.

1. Two-Adult Rule. During all MSP events, one adult will not be alone with a youth or group of youth during the mission. For small group activities where one adult supervises one group, two or more groups should meet within sight and hearing of each other.
2. Five-Years Older Rule. This rule will apply at all events. Adults supervising youth on a MSP team will be at least four years older than the oldest youth on the team. When college-age persons are participating in a mission with youth, they will be paired with another adult when they are with youth.
3. There will be separate sleeping areas for males and females for all MSP teams.
4. When needed, separate shower times for youth and adults will be designated to prevent adults and youth from showering together (e.g., in facilities with open shower areas).
5. When a MSP team has both male and female youth members, there must be both male and female adults accompanying the youth on the team.
6. There will be at least two adults at each worksite on missions.
7. All youth must have a completed medical release form and a completed parental permission form.
8. No youth MSP team member will be allowed to be alone with an adult from the hosting family during the week of MSP. This includes host pastors, congregation members, homeowners, clients of mission agencies, etc. Likewise, an adult MSP team member is not to be alone with children/youth from the host family.
9. ***It is the responsibility of the Youth Directors/ Pastors of the Rio Texas Conference and other Conferences to do the Certification Process for your Adult Leaders.***
 - Below (Page 11) is the information about Safe Gatherings Background Checks and Safety Certification for those who are in the Rio Texas Conference
 - If you are coming from another UMC Conference, you will find information about Background Checks and this training from your Conference or church.
 - If you are not from a denomination that does not have these policies and procedures in place and have questions, please call or e-mail!

***IMPORTANT for ADULTS ON THE TEAM, 18 YEARS OR OLDER: YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND Mission Service Project unless you provide (1) a Background Check letter and (2) a Child and Youth Protection Certification (within last year) and/or Safe Gatherings, Safety Certification (within the last year) is presented at the time of Registration appropriate certifying group. SEE PAGE 11!**



Safety Certification Step One: Working with Safe Gatherings Details and Instructions

We are excited to announce a new partnership with [Safe Gatherings](#)- an online tool that will help streamline the Safety Certification process for our conference. [Safe Gatherings](#) provides screening (references and background checks) and part of the training for the Rio Texas Trusted con Confianza certification process. Staff at [Safe Gatherings](#) will work with you to make sure all of your staff and volunteers are approved and trained for working with children, youth, and vulnerable adults. Check them out at: safegatherings.com

- I. Set-up your church/ministry account with [Safe Gatherings](#):
 - A. Contact [Safe Gatherings](#) via phone (888.241.8258) or email (info@safegatherings.com) to confirm your contact information and finalize the set-up of your [Safe Gatherings](#) Administration account. Your administration account will help you track your staff's and volunteer's certification process, approval status, and recertification date.
 - B. A [tutorial](#) is available to help you set up your administration account. Check out this [tutorial](#) at: riotexas.org/safesteps
 - C. If you have questions contact [Safe Gatherings](#) at the phone/email above or ask Tanya: tcampen@riotexas.org.

- II. Invite your volunteers to register with [Safe Gatherings](#) and complete the three step certification process. A [tutorial](#) is available to help your staff and volunteers set-up their individual accounts and begin their certification process. Check out this [tutorial](#) at: riotexas.org/safesteps

HOW TO SIGN UP

1. FEES AND PAPERWORK:

a. TOTAL \$275 per missionary/participant to be paid in the following way:

- **May 10: \$75 DEPOSIT** per missionary/participant (non-refundable) - t-shirts sizes needed at this time. T-shirts will be ordered on May 19th.
- **May 24: Remaining \$200.00** per missionary/person **MISSION PARTICIPATION FEE, (non-refundable)**

b. TEAM COMMITMENT QUESTIONS

c. COMPLETED PAPERWORK for ALL ADULTS and YOUTH including background checks for anyone over 18 years of age and Safe Gatherings/Trusted Con Confianza Certification

2. Applications postmarked before or after these dates will only be considered if there is space available.
3. The ideal number of youth per team is 8-12. (If you have questions, please call or e-mail).
4. **SMALL GROUPS NOT MAKING UP A FULL TEAM:** If you have a small group of youth, not large enough to make a team, who would like to participate you could be paired up with another team that does not have a full team! The team costs would remain the same. If you do not have a full team, but they wish to be a part of MSP the appropriate number of adult sponsor(s) would still need to accompany the group.
5. The number of adults required per team is at least 2-3 (depending on the number of youth).
6. The number of teams is limited. In the case that applications arrive on the same day, the team that seems best prepared on the basis of the questions answered will be given priority. Screening and scheduling will continue until all spots are filled.
7. A **COMPLETED TEAM REGISTRATION** consists of TWO PARTS. These are due May 24:
 - a. **All FEES PAID**
 - b. **TEAM APPLICATION FORM**
 - c. The answers to the **TEAM COMMITMENT QUESTIONS**. These questions should be answered by the team members, as a group. We will not consider the applications to be completed without the responses to these questions.
 - d. Individual Mission/Participant **PAPERWORK COMPLETELY FILLED OUT**, including adult background checks and Safe Gathering Certification
 - e. ***Every person participating, youth and adult, needs to be aware of the contents of this INFORMATION PACKET and should work with other members of the group in completing the application.**
8. All **Team Applications and Team Commitment Questions** will be screened in order to identify those groups best prepared to commit themselves to the demands of this mission experience. A large part of the decision will be based on the effort each group puts into studying the information paper and planning their commitment to prepare for the project. Try to be accurate and honest to the real commitment your group is willing to make to the work week.
9. No group has been promised a spot for the project. Though many groups may have participated in previous years, they are considered on an equal basis with new applications.
10. There is no scheduling over the telephone.

CANCELLATIONS

If at any time after you send in your application you find you must cancel, **please notify MSP at once**, so that another group may take your place. Housing is limited and usually more teams want to come than we are able to accommodate. There will be **NO REFUNDS** of the \$75 DEPOSIT per missionary/person after May 10th. **NO REFUNDS** of \$275 per missionary/participant PARTICIPATION FEE after May 24th.

INSURANCE

Adult counselors and youth leaders in charge of volunteers are asked to confirm, **BEFORE DEPARTURE**, that each team participant has ample coverage by their own personal primary medical insurance. MSP **DOES NOT** carry accident or medical insurance on volunteers. If your group volunteers are not covered by personal insurance, it is the responsibility of your group to secure a policy that will protect your team during the project. **Proof of insurance IS required when registering.** Please have the group's insurance card and/or the copy of your personal insurance card (both sides) with you at all times! **NOTE: If you need help obtaining a short term policy, please call or e-mail as soon as possible!!!**

The parents of each youth/adult leaders must sign a permission statement listing the youth/adult leader's source of insurance and authorizing participation of the youth/adult, thus releasing MSP from responsibility and authorizing emergency treatment if necessary. **NO PERSON can participate until MSP staff has your forms in their possession. These signed forms MUST be turned in no later than May 24th. Close attention to these details will avoid confusion and problems at the time of your arrival. If there is a question about this PLEASE CALL OR E-MAIL IN ADVANCE BEFORE YOU ARRIVE!**

Work groups can usually obtain short term, low cost, group insurance effective from your date of departure to the date of your return. However, **this is the responsibility of the visiting teams/participants and can in no way be assumed by Mission Service Project, Inc.** *IF you would like information about this type of short term insurance, please contact Susan Hellums, MSP Coordinator, (956)648-8509 or shellums@mcfirst.com .*

FINALLY

We are SO excited that you have chosen to come serve with us! Please do not let this Packet give you the impression that the mission experience is all drudgery, discipline and hard work. This experience will challenge you in your faith and push you past old experiences, but, at the same time, it will be exciting, creative, harmonious and richly rewarding. To join in the spirit of the mission is to have a wholesome, creative and loving relationship with other people including the people of the Rio Grande Valley, the staff of the project, the youth and the adults who come to work.