



Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School Spring Break El Salvador Immersion Trip 2026

A delegation from Brebeuf will travel to El Salvador during Spring Break 2026. We will be hosted by CRISPAZ, a faith-based organization that has been leading trips for school groups in El Salvador for over 30 years. During the immersion trip, students will experience the food, culture, and people of El Salvador. We will learn about the history of the country, the role of the Jesuits in that history, and current social issues impacting the Salvadoran people. We will visit significant cultural sites and museums, spend time at the Jesuit University of Central America in San Salvador, and participate in a two day homestay in a rural village a couple hours outside of San Salvador. Our accommodations will be modest as we will be staying in simple guesthouses.

Daily reflection, discussion, and journal writing are all essential aspects of the trip. Upon returning to Brebeuf, the delegation will be involved in various activities during the following school years to share their experiences with the entire Brebeuf Community. This will be Brebeuf's eleventh spring break trip to El Salvador.

The overall cost of the trip will be between \$2300-\$2500 (depending on airfare) per student. The cost includes all travel expenses, food and lodging, and program fees. Students who qualify for financial aid through Brebeuf may also apply for scholarships. Our tentative travel dates will be Friday March 20th to Friday March 27th, although those may change with availability and cost of flights.

Applications can be picked up in the Community Service Office and should be returned by Monday, November 18th. Once all of the applications are submitted, a selection committee will meet to decide which students will represent Brebeuf on this trip.

A word about the trip from CRISPAZ:

The CRISPAZ El Salvador Encounter is for people who are willing to have their lives touched and forever changed. During your time in El Salvador you will have the opportunity to meet with Salvadorans, hear their stories, and accompany them for a short time in their daily lives. As a group of North Americans, you will also have the opportunity to reflect together on the challenge this experience offers personally, politically, and spiritually. We hope that the stories you hear and the experiences that you have will lead you to continue to work towards justice and peace in El Salvador and in your home community. To participate in an El Salvador Encounter is to enter into an ongoing dialogue with the people of El Salvador and with other North Americans; a dialogue, which we hope, will challenge and change your heart, mind, and spirit.

Please answer the following questions and return them to the Community Service Office (Student Commons) no later than **3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 18.**

**2026 BREBEUF JESUIT EL SALVADOR TRIP
APPLICATION**

STUDENT INFORMATION	
Student Name	Date of Birth (<i>mo/day/yr</i>)
Home Address	Home Phone
Student E-Mail	Student Cell Phone
Mother's Name & Address (if different from above)	Mother's E-Mail
Mother's Home Phone	Mother's Cell Phone
Father's Name & Address (if different from above)	Father's E-Mail
Father's Home Phone	Father's Cell Phone
SCHOOL INFORMATION	
Present Year/Grade at Brebeuf Jesuit	Cumulative GPA
Extracurricular Activities in School	
Extracurricular Activities Outside of School	
Community Service (please include dates and activities)	
Describe your personality addressing both strengths and weaknesses (5-6 sentences):	

Students:

1. In two to three paragraphs, describe your experience with an obstacle you faced while trying to successfully complete a project. Choose any academic, community service or extracurricular activity that you have worked on in the past two years. Your essay should address the following questions:

- What was the goal of the project?
- What obstacles occurred and why did they occur?
- How did you respond to these obstacles?
- What was the ultimate outcome?

2. Write an essay (500 words) that explains your reasons for applying to the 2024 Brebeuf/El Salvador trip and how you see your possible participation helping you to become more (a) open to growth; (b) intellectually competent; (c) religious; (d) loving; (e) committed to promoting justice.

3. Please ask one Brebeuf Jesuit teacher to complete the enclosed recommendation form in your behalf.

Parent(s)/guardian(s):

Please write a paragraph including the following information:

- Why have you agreed to allow your son or daughter to apply for this trip?
- What do you hope he or she will learn from this experience?
- What strengths and weaknesses will he or she bring to the group?

Students and Parent (or Guardian) Signatures:

By signing this agreement you acknowledge the responsibility to participate in:

- Two-Three mandatory preparation meetings that will occur between January and March.

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Signature

Date

Student Signature:

Signature

Date

This application form, along with the required essays and teacher recommendation, must be returned to the Community Service Office no later than Tuesday, November 18. Please see Mr. Klingler if you have questions.

TEACHER RECOMMENDATION

Thank you in advance for your willingness to write a letter of recommendation for the following student: _____ . This student is applying to participate on a trip to El Salvador as part of Brebeuf's commitment to global diversity. Your opinion is a critical piece to assessing this individual's readiness to participate in such a program.

It is important for you to know these students will be traveling to a developing-world country that lacks many of the conveniences to which many of us are accustomed. They will be witnessing extreme poverty and illness. We are looking for individuals who are mature, flexible, sensitive to differences in cultures and traditions, and willing, if need be, to set aside their personal needs in order to accommodate the overall needs of the group.

On the checklists below, please evaluate the applicant according to the listed criteria, using the student's peer group as a reference point.

	E X E M P L A R Y	A B O V E A V E R A G E	A V E R A G E	N E E D S I M P R O V E M E N T	N O B A S I S F O R J U D G M E N T
Achievement: achieves goals, obtains results	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Perseverance: persists when times are stressful and remains positive in the face of obstacles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adaptability: adjusts to new task demands without becoming overly frustrated and/or shutting down	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Integrity/Maturity: exhibits honest and ethical in behavior; assumes responsibility for mistakes; behaves in a respectful manner; respects authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please describe this student's strengths and weaknesses based on the information described above. Please indicate whether you would feel confident and comfortable in this student's ability to spend two weeks in a foreign environment.

Length of time you have known this student: _____

Teacher's Name: _____