



## Red Knights: Planting Seeds of Change July 13-July 21, 2026 The God's Child Project: Antigua, Guatemala

"This is what we are about: We plant the seeds that one day will grow.  
We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise."

-Archbishop Romero

service learning immersion - students earn 50 service hours (meets NHS application and fall semester requirements)

- pack donations in the spring (required Saturday afternoon in the spring - date to be determined)
- stay with middle-class families in Antigua (minimum two students per family)
- work with families to build a home, kitchen and bunk beds by hand (ratio ~ 8 students/BSM chaperone)

cultural excursions

- Antigua – walking tour of the original capital of Guatemala with bilingual guide
- Iximché – tour Mayan pyramids with bilingual guide
- Lake Atitlán – scenic boat ride across dormant volcanic lake
- Pacaya National Park – hike & roast S'mores

paperwork due January 9 to Mr. McMerty-Brummer in the main office

- written application and signed BSM permission slip
- passport copy valid through January 31, 2027

paperwork due March 6 to Mr. McMerty-Brummer in the main office

- notarized travel form signed by both parents/guardians (may email Julia Peacock for appointment)
- additional BSM paperwork and copies of both sides of insurance cards

BSM eligibility requirements

- open to ***all*** students currently in grades 9-11 (there is no language requirement)
- good academic and behavioral standing
- current tuition account

cost & vaccinations

- \$2,995 billed through tuition: \$1,045 non-refundable deposit in February and \$650 in March, April & May
- includes transportation, food, lodging, fees, building materials & excursions
- students responsible for additional spending money: airport food, souvenirs, snacks
- Although no vaccinations are required to enter Guatemala, we recommend you consult with your doctor and the GCP recommends the following vaccinations or boosters before going to Guatemala: Tetanus Toxoid or DT (combination of tetanus and diphtheria) & Hepatitis A and B Vaccines

Parent/guardian meetings

- informational meeting - December 15 at 6:00 in the BSM library
- ***required*** safety meeting and donation packing for students & families - Saturday, April 18 1:00-4:00

With a wealth of history, culture and natural beauty, Guatemala possesses many riches. The Mayan civilization flourished for thousands of years before the arrival of the Europeans, and intricate weavings, traditional dress, native languages, ancient pyramids and unique religious ceremonies all stand witness to the historical and cultural wealth of this nation. Lush rainforests, pristine cascading waterfalls, rugged mountain ranges and majestic smoky volcanoes paint the canvas of the Guatemalan landscape.

Yet within all of this beauty, many people live in poverty and struggle to provide for themselves and their families. According to The God's Child Project, Guatemala's annual per capita income is about \$1,000USD. This figure can hide the difficulties faced by families living in extreme poverty, however, as a rural farmer may earn less than \$100USD a year. Unemployment is estimated at 20% nationwide and underemployment is as high as 65%. In the countryside, the rural poor often live in one-room shacks made from cane or corn stalks lashed vertically together, while other families make their homes with adobe mud bricks. In both cases, the homes have hard-packed dirt floors and roofs covered with palm branches or pieces of scrap material.

What is our role in this? What does our Catholic faith call us to do? Join us on our journey to Guatemala to deepen your relationship with others, yourself and God. Immerse yourself in the culture and practice your language skills as we live with host families in Antigua and work with families in the surrounding villages to build homes, outdoor kitchens and bunk beds.

Thank you for your openness to use your hands and your heart to serve and love. We are so blessed to travel with you and pursue our common mission-- to love and serve our God and to answer His call to love and serve each other. Over our nine days you will stretch, grow, love and be loved in ways that today you cannot yet imagine.

We look forward to accompanying you on our journey to Guatemala. It is our hope that this trip will be a fruitful experience and that each of you will grow closer to God by doing God's work. Be flexible, open-minded and prepare your heart, mind, body and soul for the adventure of faith, service and love upon which you are about to embark.

#### Itinerary Draft 2026

Monday, July 13 – arrive, meet host families, welcome dessert

Tuesday, July 14 – orientation, walking tour of Antigua, tortilla making

Wednesday, July 15 – construction begins, reflection

Thursday, July 16 – construction continues, card writing

Friday, July 17 – homewarming shopping, construction finishes, reflection

Saturday, July 18 – Iximché Mayan pyramids guided tour, Lake Atitlán boat ride, cooperatives, salsa lessons (hotel stay)

Sunday, July 19 – Mass, house supplies shopping & Antigua market

Monday, July 20 – Pacaya Volcano hike & S'mores, closing ceremony, packing

Tuesday, July 21 – return home

*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\* While we do not anticipate any significant changes at this time, we may make changes to the program as necessary and everything is subject to change. One of the most important aspects of the trip is flexibility. Thank you in advance for your understanding.*

“We have not had the same past, you and ourselves, but we shall have the same future.

The era of separate destinies has run its course.”

- Cheikh Hamidou Kane