

Red Knights Planting Seeds of Change

The God's Child Project

Antigua, Guatemala

Monday, July 13 – Tuesday, July 21, 2026



Benilde-St. Margaret's

A Catholic, college preparatory school

www.bsmschool.org



The God's Child Project (GCP)

- International, non-profit family of charities
- Cares for and educates orphaned, homeless, poverty-stricken children
- 2026 will be our 10th year of partnership
- 278 students have worked with 40 families to build homes

“Breaking the bitter chains of poverty through education, housing, and healthcare.”



Service Learning Immersion

- April 18 - pack donations
- Students work with families to build a home with bunk beds and an outdoor kitchen with stove - all by hand.
- Students shop for house warming basket of food and supplies.
- Students stay with middle class families (minimum 2 students).
- Students earn 50 service hours (meets NHS application and fall requirement and counts toward the Presidential Service Award).



Host Families

- experienced families in Antigua
- vetted by GCP
- in groups of at least two students
- breakfast & dinner w/host families



Middle class host families



Hot water and electricity



Worksite family



Construction Sites

- teams of ~8 students with 1 chaperone
- GCP foreman guides the process
- each team builds a house & separate kitchen from the foundation up without power tools
- GCP prepares & delivers sandwich lunches
- we provide bottled water
- [slide show](#) and [video](#)



Itinerary - 9 days

Monday, July 13 - depart on American Airlines, meet host family, & 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 - housewarming shopping, construction finishes, reflection

Saturday, July 18 - Iximché Mayan pyramids, Lake Atitlán boat ride, cooperatives, salsa lessons (hotel)

Sunday, July 19 - Mass, walking tour of Antigua, Antigua market

Monday, July 20 - Pacaya National Park hike & S'mores, closing ceremony, packing

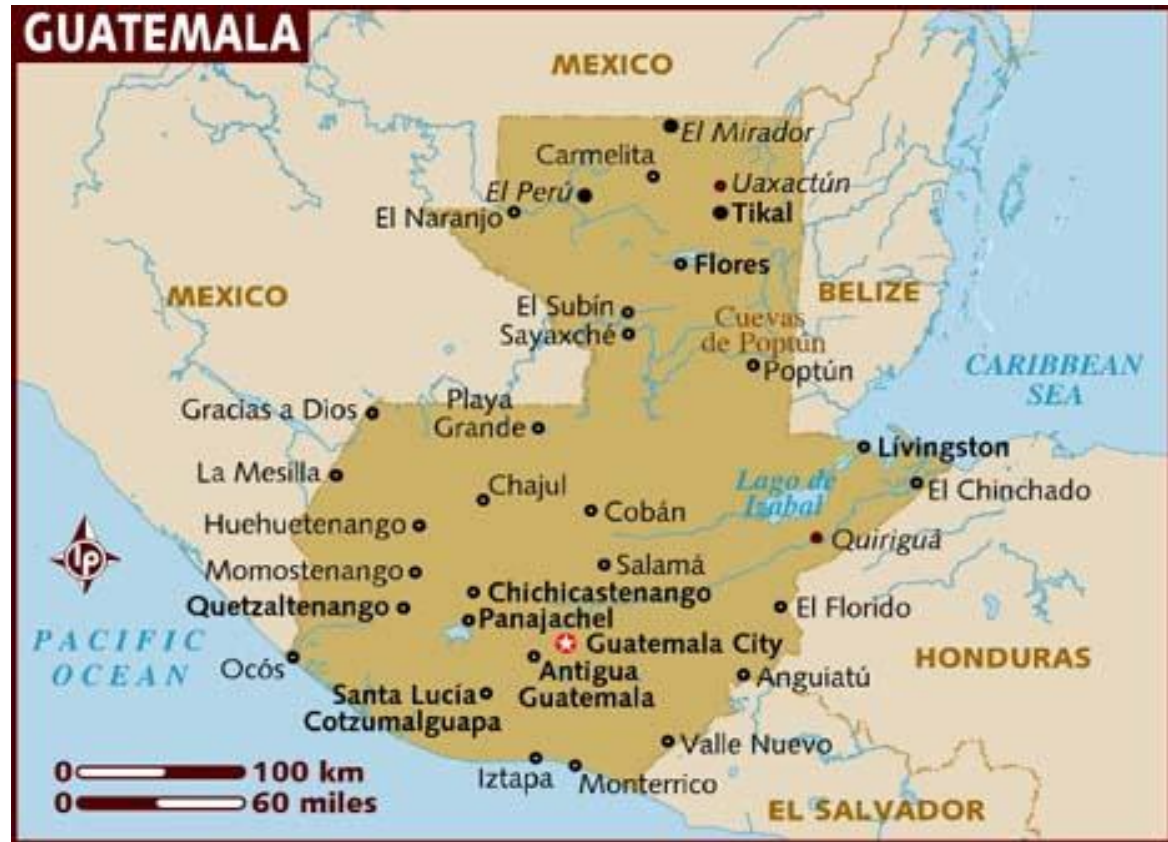
Tuesday, July 21 - return on American Airlines

NOTE While we do not anticipate any significant modifications, we may adjust 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.



Map of

Guatemala



Excursions



Excursions



Health Considerations

Students should be able to:

1. construction work for at least eight hours/day
2. lift twenty-five pounds and work on their feet

If you have problems in high-altitudes (heart, breathing, etc.), be aware that Antigua is at an altitude of 5,600 ft and we walk a lot on cobblestone streets.

We have access to medical facilities and will bill families through student tuition for expenses. We will communicate with families throughout medical visits.



Vaccines

Although no vaccinations are required to enter Guatemala, we recommend you consult with your doctor and have the following vaccinations or boosters before going to Guatemala:

1. Tetanus Toxoid or DT (a combination of tetanus and diphtheria)
2. Hepatitis A and B Vaccines
3. GCP does not recommend malaria pills (low risk)

****NOTE*** We are not health care professionals and are not able to offer medical advice. Please make an appointment with your child's doctor.*



Cost

\$2,995 which includes

- transportation: airfare & busses
- lodging: host family & hotel
- non-travel day meals
- building materials: students both build the house and pay for it
- excursions: Antigua walking tour, guided tour of pyramids, lake boat ride, national park, market visits



Students should have their own money for

- food in the airport on travel days
- souvenirs at the market

***Students should bring their own healthy snacks from home to have at the host family & at the work site. Examples: granola bars, trail mix, etc.

Impact

In the last nine service immersions...

- 278 students participated
- 40 homes built
- \$343,318 donated through construction materials
- \$168,099 donated through suitcase donations
- **\$511,417 TOTAL**



¡Gracias!



Thank you!

Application Process

Submit the following to Mr. McMerty-Brummer in the main office

1. due January 9, 2026
 - application and BSM permission authorizing \$1,045 non-refundable deposit
 - passport copy valid through January 31, 2027
2. due March 6, 2026
 - notarized travel forms signed by both parents/guardians
 - BSM medical paperwork & both sides of insurance cards

Payments billed through tuition - \$2,995

February - \$1,045 non-refundable deposit

March - \$650 installment

April - \$650 installment

May - \$650 installment



**Note that students must be in good academic and behavior standing and tuition accounts must be current.
We will submit a list of applicants to the administration for approval.**