

HOUSE-BUILDING TRIP WITH PROYECTO ABRIGO

Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, Mex.

January 26-28, 2018

Organization

Local contact: David Spence, 469-233-5088 cell, david@goodspace.com
Host: Proyecto Abrigo, www.proyectoabrigo.org, Rev. José Luis Portillo, (915) 474-1951 (cell, bilingual), proyectoabrigo@hotmail.com
Participating churches: Kessler Park United Methodist, Cliff Temple Baptist

Preferred Flights (\$281 base)

D/FW to El Paso, Friday, Jan. 26, American Airlines #5740, 7:50 a.m. – 7:52 a.m.
Return, Sunday, Jan. 28, AA #5890, 6:15 p.m. – 8:57 p.m.
\$281 base

Alternative Flights (\$282 base)

Love Field to El Paso, Friday, Jan. 26, Southwest Airlines #6, 9:10 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Requires group split into two pick-up times, with second group possibly missing Fri. a.m. work shift
Return, Sunday, Jan. 28, SW #3648, 6:15 p.m. – 8:55 p.m.

Weather

Average low, 32°; average high, 57°. Windy and arid.

Clothing

2 sets of work clothes that you don't mind getting soiled and possibly torn.
Study shoes are a must; work boots aren't required, but no flimsy footwear.
Work gloves, handkerchief, hat with brim.
Cold-weather gear, flip-flops for showering.
1 set of casual clothing for church and dinner outing.

Other Stuff to Pack

PASSPORT, flashlight or headlamp, soap & shampoo, towel, sunscreen, lip balm, lotion, ibuprofen, earplugs (snoring common), day pack or pouch, phone/camera, sunglasses, pocket knife or multi-tool (only if you check a bag), reading material, pillow, sleeping bag. You might bring a soccer ball to play with the locals and then give away. Strip your wallet down to driver's license, insurance card, credit or debit card, and \$20 to \$50 in cash. And your **PASSPORT**.

Food

The menu includes simple dishes like tacos, eggs, pancakes, sandwiches, etc. Vegetarians might want to augment what'll be available. Bring decaf coffee or hot chocolate if that's your preference. Teens might want to bring filling snacks. You do not need to pack bottled water or purification tablets.

Payment

Participants book and pay for their own flights. Each participant pays a total of \$160 directly to Proyecto Abrigo – \$100 for administration, \$30 for room & board, and \$30 for transportation – either by cash or check at the El Paso airport or via PayPal on the "donate" page of PA's website. To contribute toward the \$3,200 that each house costs, contact your church office.

Minors on the Trip

This is a great experience for youngsters, especially those seeking to practice their Spanish, but make sure they're clothed well enough to stay warm when not working, and admonish your child not to stray far from the work site (easy to do if they're playing with a pack of local kids). The other risk is cuts and bruises from falls.

Safety

Cellular service is typically constant, and Proyecto Abrigo's compound features wifi, so there are opportunities to check in at the office, call home, and post on social media. Proyecto Abrigo agrees with the U.S. State Dept's recommendations for travel in Ciudad Juárez, revised 8/22/17: <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings/mexico-travel-warning.html>. All participants must sign a waiver of liability.

For lots of photos, see Proyecto Abrigo's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ProyectoAbrigo/>