

Your Personal Code

Nicaragua: **HS2002-**_____

Boston: **HS2006-**_____

2019-2020 High School Mission Trips



NICARAGUA

Feb 15-22, 2020



BOSTON

June 20-27, 2020

Registration begins October 2, 2019

westridge.com/students

High School Student,

We are excited that you want to be part of our Mission Trips to Nicaragua and Boston this year! This packet is designed to give you all the details you need about the trips and what we are asking of you! Whether you're a freshman or senior, these trips are designed with you in mind. While each trip is very different, both of them will stretch you and put you in situations where you get to serve people ahead of yourself. Most importantly, you will have opportunities to share the hope and love of Jesus Christ with men, women, and children!

We work with some of the best organizations in the world on these trips. These organizations are staffed by local pastors and people who have a heart and burden to see their cities and communities thrive.

As you are making your decision about being part of our team, please read everything this packet says and pay close attention to the details.

NOTE: Even though these trips are at separate times, registration for both trips will happen at the same time.

You can register online at westridge.com/students beginning October 2nd at 12pm. The registration deadline is October 30th, but the spots are limited and we encourage you to sign up quickly. \$150 is due at registration.

We have a great team of leaders helping with both trips and we look forward to serving with you. We hope you're excited and we believe whatever trip you choose will change your life!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

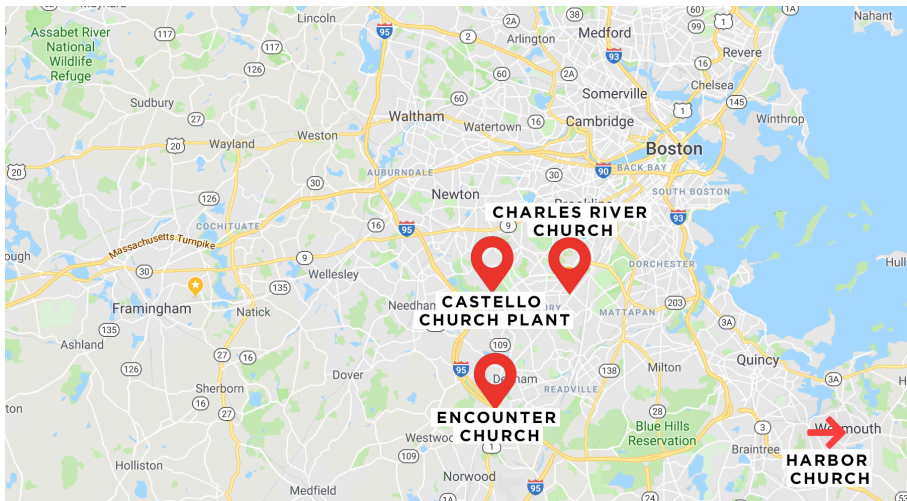
Todd Hampton
High School Pastor
West Ridge Church
(770) 222-2125

WHY BOSTON?

There are cities all throughout the United States that need help, so why did we choose Boston?

- The greatest issue facing Boston is spiritual. ***Boston is the most unreached metropolitan area in the country.*** That is the biggest reason why we are going to Boston. We want to take the hope of Jesus where it is needed most!
- Despite the lostness of Boston, God is doing a special work. Churches are being planted, the Gospel is being taken into the darkest parts of that city, and people are coming to salvation. We want to join God in His work there.
- We have a unique opportunity to partner with several of our church plants and partners, as well as other local organizations to reach a major city in the United States. These churches and organizations are helping tackle many of the issues that city faces including poverty, addiction, etc.

Downtown Boston & Potential Church Partners



BOSTON

Financial Deadlines

The following amounts need to be turned in by the dates listed:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. AT REGISTRATION | \$150.00 (deposit) |
| 2. JANUARY 22, 2020 | \$375.00* |
| 3. MAY 6, 2020 | \$375.00* |

TOTAL COST - *TBD (Approx \$900.00)

**NOTE: The plane ticket and hotel accommodations for Boston are still being negotiated at the moment. This could change the price listed above. Hopefully this change will be minimal. Once the final price is set we will update westridge.com/students and notify parents and students.*

Mandatory Team Trainings

The following Pre Trip Trainings are **required** for all members of the team. Trainings will be in the Multi Purpose Theater.

Sunday, June 7th - TEAM TRAINING #1, 2:30-4:30pm

Sunday, June 14th - TEAM TRAINING #2, 2:30-4:30pm

NICARAGUA

Why?

There are many countries with needs, so why did we choose to be involved in the country of Nicaragua? Here are some facts to consider:

- Nicaragua is the 2nd poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.
- Almost 80% of the population lives on less than \$2/day
(www.hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/NIC)
- Less than 30% of the country is considered Evangelical Christians
(www.joshuaproject.com). The need for the Gospel is great!
- The two biggest physical needs in the Nicaraguan villages where we visit are food and water. Many of these villages don't have clean drinking water and children can sometimes go days without food.
- The organization we work with is one of the most dedicated, organized, and missional ministries in the entire country. They keep the team safe but also provide us opportunities to make a significant impact on the people.
- Because of our involvement over the last 8 years, we've been part of bringing transformation to a specific village known as The Flags, one of the poorest villages in the entire country. We've helped build a church, a school, a feeding station, a well, given financial resources to send over 150 kids to school, and provided resources to help them develop an agricultural system. Best of all, we've seen over 200 people trust Jesus as Savior!

Map of Nicaragua



NICARAGUA

Financial Deadlines

The following amounts need to be turned in by the dates listed:

1. AT REGISTRATION	\$150.00 (deposit)
2. DECEMBER 11, 2019	\$900.00
3. JANUARY 15, 2020	\$945.00

TOTAL COST - \$1,995.00

**Please note that these are hard deadlines due to purchase of plane tickets and other expenses. If amount is not turned in by date listed, the student's spot on the trip could be forfeited.*

***All Paperwork and Passports due by December 11, 2019**

Mandatory Team Trainings

*The following Pre AND Post Trip Trainings are **required** for all members of the team. The Trainings will be in the Student Theater.*

Sunday, January 19th - TEAM TRAINING #1, 2:30-4:30pm

Sunday, January 26th - TEAM TRAINING #2, 2:30-4:30pm

Sunday, February 2nd - TEAM TRAINING #3, 2:30-4:30pm

Sunday, February 9th - TEAM TRAINING #4, 2:30-4:30pm

Sunday, March 1st - POST TRIP MEETING, 2:30-4:00pm

NICARAGUA

Passport Information

For New Applications:

Visit http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first_830.html

You will need to apply in person if:

- You are applying for your first U.S. passport
- You are under age 17
- Your previous U.S. passport was issued when you were under age 16
- Your previous U.S. passport was lost, stolen, or damaged
- Your previous U.S. passport was issued more than 15 years ago
- Your name has changed since your U.S. passport was issued and you are unable to legally document your name change

For All Minors Age 14-17: Each minor child shall appear in person. If the child does not have identification of his/her own, the parent/guardian needs to accompany the child & present identification, proof of relationship, as well as give parental consent.

To Apply in Person for a U.S. Passport you MUST:

- Provide application for Passport, Form DS-11.
- Present Proof of U.S. Citizenship.
- Present Proof of Identity.
- Provide 1 Passport Photo (*Walgreens can take Passport photos*).
- Pay the Applicable Fee (approximately \$165 for adult/\$120 if under Age 16)
- Your name has changed since your U.S. passport was issued and you are unable to legally document your name change

**You can apply for a passport at the Paulding County Court House or Post Office.

For Renewal Applications:

Visit <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/passports/renew.html>

Vaccines

No Vaccines are required for entry into Nicaragua, but several are recommended.

In addition to your routine vaccines (*including Tetanus and Measles*), the CDC recommends getting the following shots/vaccines: Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Hepatitis B (*low risk*), Malaria (*low risk*), and Yellow Fever (*low risk*). You can go to <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/nicaragua> to check for up-to-date vaccine information leading up to the trip.

RAISING SUPPORT

One reason why many students don't sign up for a Missions Trip is because they don't have the money. The truth is not many families can write a check for the full amount. That's why one of the key aspects of your involvement in these trips is raising funds to help underwrite the cost of the trip. And it is possible!

All gifts are tax deductible (**checks should be made payable to West Ridge Church, noting your assigned code in the memo.**) In accordance with IRS Contribution Code, these funds, though tracked for administrative purposes in association with your personal code, are not funds specifically for you to use or for your own benefit. These funds will be solicited as contributions, and as such, are **non-refundable to either the team member or donor**, even if you are unable to participate in the trip for any reason. Funds are to remain in an account for this trip alone, and are non-transferrable towards other trips. NOTE: West Ridge Church does not organize or put on fundraisers, nor is fundraising allowed during services or events.

Here are some helpful tips about fundraising for this trip:

- Send your support letters out as soon as possible! The longer you wait to do this, the harder it will be to meet the financial deadlines. Deadlines are absolute! Failure to meet deadlines can result in you not being able to participate on the trip. Members with a balance at the time of the trip will be unable to participate.
- You will find a sample letter in this packet. Take the letter, personalize it, copy it, and send it to as many people as you can.
- Also include a self-addressed stamped envelope with every letter your mail out. Put your Code in BIG letters and have it come to the WRC office by using the church's address below. Once you have been approved to be part of the trip, you will be assigned a personal code for accounting purposes. It is important that this code be referenced not only on your outgoing envelopes, but also incoming checks.

West Ridge Church

High School Missions - HS2002 (or) HS2006 _____ (*Your Code)

3522 Hiram Acworth Hwy

Dallas, GA 30157

- If you have any money to turn in please hand-deliver cash or checks to the WRC Office.
- Keep a record for yourself of all gifts you receive.
- Cash and checks are ok to turn in but you can also make donations online. If someone gives you a check they can receive a tax-deductible receipt from the church. You will also be sent a donation link once you register for the trip that people can use to donate online. Anyone who makes online donations will also receive a tax-deductible receipt.
- Never, under any circumstances, mail cash.
- Send each person who sent you money a 'Thank You' note.

RAISING SUPPORT (cont.)

Raising support for this trip starts with forming a Support Team. Your support team is a group of people who join you in ministry through prayer, encouragement, and financial support. Those who give you money and pray for you are just as important as those who go on the trip.

Question: *Who do I send letters to?*

Answer: *Everyone you can think of!*

- Make a list of possible supporters. Pray about who should be on the list. Ask God for wisdom. Have your family help you with a list of people too. Your list could include relatives, co-workers/parents' co-workers, neighbors, friends, teachers, coaches, etc.
- Pray over each letter that you send out. Your faith will increase through this process as you trust God to provide the needed funds.
- ***If you need help writing Support Letters and forming a team, we will have a Support Raising Meeting on Sunday, October 27th at 12:45pm in Discovery A. During this meeting we will help you develop the heart and practices to effectively raise support for the trip.***

SAMPLE SUPPORT LETTER

Dear _____,

I would like to tell you about an exciting opportunity that I have coming up in _____. I am going on a mission trip to _____. For one week, I will be part of a team from West Ridge Church. I will be visiting and ministering with a church, school, and with community outreaches to help impact this area. I will also participate in sharing the Gospel, construction projects, ministering to children, as well as helping serve those struggling with poverty and other issues. My prayer is that I will be an instrument to be used by God.

This trip is being organized and led by West Ridge Church. The pastors leading this trip have had extensive experience in missions and trips to this area.

I would like to invite you to be part of my Support Team. I consider my Support Team to be just as much a part of the trip as I am. Through prayer, encouragement, and financial provision, you are playing a huge role in helping people experience the love of Jesus!

In order for me to be part of this trip, I have a responsibility to raise funds for the trip. I am responsible for raising \$_____ to help pay for the cost of the trip. This is a significant amount of money. But with God's help and provision, I know that this will be met. I can't wait to see what God does as a result of my time serving Him there!

Would you please consider joining my Support Team for this trip? Any gift you could send would help make a big difference to underwrite the cost of this trip. Also, every prayer you commit to praying for me daily will make a huge difference in the lives of the people we will be serving. Please pray that God will bless our efforts as we travel to share God's love.

In Christ,

(YOUR NAME)

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions:

- All gifts are tax deductible (Please make checks payable to West Ridge Church).
- 100% of your gift goes towards underwriting the cost of this trip and the team member will be credited for amount raised. These funds are not transferrable towards other trips in the event the participant is unable to go.
- Each team member is responsible to raise their funds (just like missionaries do).
- My first financial deadline of \$_____ is due _____ to secure my airfare. The balance is due by _____.
- **Please reference the code # (not the name) listed on your return envelope in the memo portion of your check. (PERSONAL CODE: HS2002 (or) HS2006 _____). This is very important!**

EXPECTATIONS

Skills Necessary for All Team Members

- Willingness to grow
- Ability to be flexible and adapt to changes in schedule
- Courage to try something new
- Unity - Focused on building God's Kingdom and nothing else!
- Hard work
- Servant Attitude
- Encouragement
- Selflessness
- Teachable
- Love for People
- Desire to share the Gospel

Commitment for All Team Members

- Attend all Team Meetings and Team Trainings.
- Take on the attitude of a leader in our high school ministry. Lead by example.
- Consistent walk with Christ.
- Regular attendance at Reckless and Small Groups throughout the year.
- Serve/Worship at West Ridge Church on Sunday mornings.



West Ridge Church
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Dallas, GA 30157
Phone: 770-222-2125
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www.westridge.com/students