



GROUP GUIDE

KINGDOM ECHO INTERNATIONAL

ECHOING CHIRST'S COMPASSION, HOPE AND TRANSFORMATION

ABOUT: KINGDOM ECHO INTERNATIONAL

Kingdom Echo International is a ministry dedicated to echoing Christ's compassion, hope, and transformation in low-income communities. With a strong presence in Guatemala, KEI provides holistic support in order to alleviate poverty and transform low-income communities, equipping them to become self sustaining and mature in their relationship with Christ.

Through collaboration with local leaders, churches, and organizations KEI addresses physical and spiritual needs through compassion, generosity, and empowerment so that low-income communities will be transformed and then invest in the transformation of others.

Kingdom Echo International partners with Morning Glory Christian Academy, a local private school with a strong presence in the area. Morning Glory Christian Academy exists to educate, equip, and encourage the community.

We invite you to join us in echoing Christ's compassion, hope, and transformation in Guatemala!

Eladio and Elizabeth serve as our missionaries. Elizabeth moved from USA to Guatemala in 2018. In 2022, Eladio, who was born and raised in Guatemala married Elizabeth. In May 2023 they welcomed their daughter, and later in the year Eladio received his seminary degree. As a family, Eladio and Elizabeth were convicted during the global pandemic to do outreaches in local villages. These outreaches were the foundation for Kingdom Echo International.



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PROJECTS:

KINGDOM ECHO INTERNATIONAL HAS SEVERAL WAYS THAT GROUPS CAN MINISTER TO THE COMMUNITY. YOU CAN SEE SOME EXAMPLES AND DESCRIPTIONS BELOW.

DISTRIBUTION OF DONATIONS:

We ask each group to donate items to the families we serve.

Options to give are:

- Solar Panel House Lights - \$55
- Eco filter (Water filter) - \$50
 - Mattress/Bed - \$45
 - Food Basket - \$25

You can decide to give one or multiple options. Quantities of donated items vary depending on family size.

If you have other donations you'd like to provide, please let us know.



VILLAGE BIBLE SCHOOL:

This can consist of a number of elements, including worship, Bible skits, arts & crafts, games, etc. You can include several elements, or keep it simple, depending on your schedule and location availability.

We suggest including worship and a teaching moment as a minimum. Donations may be provided to children that we serve during VBS.

We will lead worship with music and motions. Your group can present a Bible story in a fun, creative way. We will be happy to help guide you on how to best present your story or teaching.



HOUSE/CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS:

Help better the living conditions of the families.

Some ideas are:

- Installing doors and windows
- Replace damaged tin
- Build storage furniture



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SAMPLE SCHEDULE

OUR MINISTRY OPTIONS ARE FLEXIBLE AND CAN BE TAILORED TO YOUR TEAM'S SKILLS AND INTERESTS. YOU CAN CHOOSE TO SPEND THE FULL DAY IN THE VILLAGE OR SERVE AT OUR PARTNER MINISTRY, MORNING GLORY. BELOW ARE SAMPLE SCHEDULES FOR EACH OPTION:

OPTION 1: FULL DAY VILLAGE

VBS

7:30-8:00- Arrival & set up
8:00-11:00- Bible classes/activities at village school
11:00-11:30- Set up for distribution of donations
11:30-12:30- Distribution of donations/devo/prayer
12:30-1:30: Lunch

HOUSE/CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

7:30- Arrival to village
7:30-8:00- Walk to house
8:00-11:30- Work on projects
11:30-11:40- Wrap up project
11:40-12:00- Devo/Prayer with family
12:00-12:30- Walk back to village school
12:30-1:30- Lunch

OPTIONAL:

1:30-4:45- Afternoon activities with children
Continue house/construction projects
Work projects at village school

OPTION 2: FULL DAY MORNING GLORY

Our Partner Ministry
Morning Glory Christian Academy

BIBLE CLASS

7:30- Arrival
7:30-8:00- Tour of Morning Glory
8:00-11:00- Bible classes
11:00-12:30-Spend time in classes/playing with kids

Note: Bible classes can be with Pre-K to 9th grade
Your group will lead the Bible classes
There is an option to do games/rally in the afternoon
If you choose this option we can discuss further details

WORK PROJECTS

There are options to do work projects at Morning Glory.
A few examples are:
Painting classrooms
Installing doors and windows
Building teacher/staff desks

Note: Other options are available for work projects.
If your group would like to do a work project we can discuss further details.

WHILE YOU'RE HERE

FOOD & OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

FOOD & DIETARY RESTRICTIONS:

Kingdom Echo Staff will offer a mix of Guatemalan and American foods. There will always be the classic PB&J if a particular meal is not appetizing to some individuals.

We can accommodate any special dietary needs. If a member of your group will be needing a special diet let us know immediately. Groups commonly make the mistake of not telling us about special dietary needs until they are already here. Buying more vegetables for a vegetarian is fairly easy, but making sure all of the food we've already purchased is free of peanut oil is more difficult. Let us know ahead of time, and we'll ensure that everyone's dietary needs are met.

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS:

Background checks are required for members 18 years or older. Every member of the group must fill out certain documents for your trip. If 17 years old or younger a parent/guardian must fill out these documents on your behalf.

WIFI AND CELL PHONES:

We recommend that you make arrangements to be without internet, as this frees your time up to spend with your team and in ministry. We don't want you to lose a second of your experience in another culture through the internet. However there is internet available at the house.

You may or may not have cell phone signal while you are in Guatemala. Unless you subscribe to an international calling plan, it is not recommended you make calls home with your U.S. cell phone. The call will likely be very expensive.

SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS:

You will most likely stay in "Casa Juana," a two-story house with dorm-style arrangements in bedrooms. The house is right behind the central park and has an excellent view on the roof. Pictures are below.

The house is equipped with indoor bathrooms that include sinks and toilets. We strive to make sure you have at least warm water in your housing, but it is not guaranteed.

DOWNLOAD DOCUMENT HERE!

Every cross-cultural experience leaves a mark on both guests and hosts. We ask that your team come ready to listen, observe, and learn. If you do, your time in Guatemala will be unforgettable.

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CASA JUANA



PACKING & PREPARATION

THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IS JUST A GUIDELINE. YOU MAY WANT TO ADD THINGS THAT AREN'T LISTED OR FEEL LIKE SOME ITEMS MAY NOT BE NECESSARY FOR YOU. IT IS BY NO MEANS COMPREHENSIVE FOR ALL TRIPS, AS TRIPS ARE CURATED FOR YOUR GROUP.

ESSENTIAL ITEMS

- Passport
- Bible
- Reusable Water Bottle

OTHER ITEMS

- Backpack (to carry your personal items into the village and around town)
- Sunglasses
- Games for down time
- Your favorite snacks from home
- Wet wipes
- Spending Money

CLOTHING

- Work Clothes (clothes that get dirty)
- Church Clothes
- Sturdy Work Shoes (closed toes)
- Comfortable Shoes (walking around town)
- Pajamas and/or lounging clothes
- Warm sweatshirt / Jacket
- Rain Jacket
- Hat, hair ties, headbands
- Swim suit

NOTE: We ask you to wear pants/capris or skirts while in the villages. Please no spaghetti straps or tank tops. During fun events and at the house you can wear shorts. We ask that shorts & skirts be at least knee length.

NOTE: Please keep jewelry simple and avoid anything flashy that may draw attention.

TOILETRIES

- Sun protection – sunscreen, bug spray
- Hair & body – shampoo, conditioner, soap, face wash, towel, hairbrush/comb
- Oral care – toothbrush, toothpaste
- Personal care – feminine hygiene products,
- Prescription Meds

NOTE: There are pharmacies in San Raymundo to get common medicines (Tylenol equivalents, cold medicine, stomach meds, etc.). There are no required vaccinations for visiting Guatemala. If you would like to know the vaccination recommendations you can visit [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

LINENS (CASA JUANA)

Standard linens are provided.

Bring a twin-size sheet, extra towel, personal blanket, or pillow if you prefer your own.

NOTE: At the end of your trip, you can take them back to the U.S. with you or donate them to Casa Juana.

DATES

CONTACT KINGDOM ECHO INTERNATIONAL TO SCHEDULE DATES FOR YOUR GROUP TO COME AND SERVE IN GUATEMALA. DATES CAN FILL UP QUICKLY, ESPECIALLY IN THE SUMMER MONTHS. IT IS COMMON FOR GROUPS TO SCHEDULE A YEAR OR MORE IN ADVANCE.

**We normally can host 12 months out of the year, however the private school year in Guatemala is from mid January-October and the public school year is from mid February to November.
May to September is rainy season.**

This is important to keep in mind when deciding what dates your group comes. We know travel days are difficult with work and school schedules but many groups have great experiences being in Guatemala all five weekdays, with a fun day either before or after the week.

If you can be in Guatemala six full days, the echo of compassion, hope, and transformation can reach even further. We are roughly 1.5 hours from the airport, so choose your arrival and departure times based on costs and accessibility for your group.

CHECK OUT OUR AVAILABLE DATES HERE!



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TRIP COST

KINGDOM ECHO INTERNATIONAL IS COMMITTED TO OFFERING AN ENGAGING AND AFFORDABLE MISSION TRIP EXPERIENCE. THE EXACT COST OF YOUR TRIP DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU CHOOSE TO DO, BUT HERE'S SOME INFORMATION TO START PLANNING.

AIRFARE

Airfare is the only transportation item you arrange yourself. Other transportation costs are included in the group rates. An average ticket round-trip is approx. \$800-\$1000. Generally, Delta & American Airlines have more options for arrivals and departures. The airport you will fly into is La Aurora International Airport (GUA).

ROOM & BOARD

Room and board is calculated at a daily rate per person. This also includes food and transportation.

**Contact Elizabeth,
elizabeth@keint.net, with any questions!**

OTHER VARIABLE COSTS

include materials/donations for village ministry. We will send an invoice of costs for items that will be purchased in Guatemala. Your group is also welcomed to bring donations from USA.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is not included in our group costs. You can use any insurance your group needs. We do have a very affordable insurance plan available through Good Neighbor Insurance.

FUN DAYS

Fun days are optional, but almost every group opts to go to Antigua, a historical tourist town with plenty of shopping and restaurant options. We highly recommend this experience.

SENDING FUNDS

FOR OUR PURPOSES, IT'S SOMETIMES EASIER TO CONSIDER THE MONEY AS TWO GROUPS: GROUP MONEY AND PERSONAL MONEY.

PERSONAL MONEY

For personal money that your group members want to bring for gifts, snacks, or other personal expenses, you have a few options listed below so your group can get their money quickly and without hassle.

There are local coffee shops, restaurants, crepes, markets, etc that you may want to bring personal money for.

1. Change money at your local bank- *Recommended*

Many banks in the US can change dollars into Guatemalan currency (Quetzales). You will need to ask your bank how long they need to be able to change the money, but many banks can change the money with 2-3 weeks notice. This option gives you the best exchange rate and takes care of some important details ahead of time, so you can focus on your group's goals when you arrive.

2.) Transfer personal money- You can also choose to transfer your personal money to the same account as the group money. If you choose to do this, make sure you send an email to Elizabeth (elizabeth@keint.net) detailing how much money is personal and how much is allocated for your group expenses. When you arrive, your money will be waiting for you in Quetzales.

3.) Changing money locally- Due to local laws and regulations, we cannot change cash money locally. However, local ATMS are available for those who need a little extra currency. Most banks charge a fee per transaction.

GROUP MONEY (ROOM & BOARD, TRANSPORTATION, ETC)

A bank transfer is our preferred method of paying trip costs. If this is an option for you, we will send you our account information. Alternatively, you can make a donation through a card on our website. To do this, we will set you up with a clear giving option for your group. You can also send a check.

All funds must be received a month before your trip.

Check may be sent to: (Designate "Group Name" - Trip)

Kingdom Echo International
14905 Knox Ferry Road
Bastrop, Louisiana 71220

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS,
PLEASE CONTACT ELIZABETH!**

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We are so thankful that you are interested in joining us in serving the “least of these” in Guatemala. To make best use of your talents, abilities, and resources, all ministry options and times are flexible, so we can take full advantage of the doors God opens.

**If you have any other ideas or possibilities not mentioned here, please contact us to see how we can assist you best!
We can't wait to see how God reveals His will for your group and the village you serve.**



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**WE LOOK FORWARD
TO SEEING YOU SOON!**

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