

## Social Entrepreneur Corps Summary Country Overview and Program Itinerary

Country: Guatemala  
Program: KSU Custom Guatemala DRAFT  
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## 1. Country Overview

### Country Introduction

It is difficult to imagine that any other country in the world can offer such a diversity of wonders as Guatemala. Despite its relatively small size, (roughly that of Tennessee) Guatemala boasts landscapes ranging from tropical beaches to highland sierras, jungles to dry lowlands. Sharing this land are dozens of ethnic groups, all with unique cultures and customs, speaking over 20 different languages. The wonderful strength and vibrancy of Mayan culture has survived remarkably well, and its richness and colorfulness will delight any visitor. Between its dramatic landscapes and warm inhabitants, Guatemala will be a country you will never forget.



The majority of the population lives in the Highlands of the western part of the country where we will be working. The highlands offer incredible mountain ranges, interspersed with towering volcanoes upon which fall clouds and mists. Here is your opportunity to truly live 'above the clouds'. The average altitude in the Highlands is over 1500 meters above sea level, producing a climate ideal for the cultivation of all sorts of crops, especially maize, the sacred corn of the Mayans. This altitude also ensures a delightful climate of warm, sunny days and cool evenings, earning Guatemala the name "Land of Eternal Spring". One could spend years exploring the highlands and still not tire of its scenery and cultural richness. Guatemala is truly a special place.

### Country Quick Facts (Source: [www.cia.gov](http://www.cia.gov))

**Background:** The Mayan civilization flourished in Guatemala and surrounding regions during the first millennium A.D. After almost three centuries as a Spanish colony, Guatemala won its independence in 1821. During the second half of the 20th century, it experienced a variety of military and civilian governments, as well as a 36-year guerrilla war. In 1996, the government signed a peace agreement formally ending the conflict, which had left more than 200,000 people dead and had created, by some estimates, some 1 million refugees. In January 2012, Guatemala assumed a nonpermanent seat on the UN Security Council for the 2012-13 term.

#### Geography

**Location:** Central America, bordering the North Pacific Ocean, between El Salvador and Mexico, and bordering the Gulf of Honduras (Caribbean Sea) between Honduras and Belize

**Geographic coordinates:** 15 30 N, 90 15 W

**Area:** *total:* 108,890 sq km

*land:* 108,430 sq km

*water:* 460 sq km

**Area - comparative:** slightly smaller than Tennessee

**Climate:** tropical; hot, humid in lowlands; cooler in highlands

**Terrain:** mostly mountains with narrow coastal plains and rolling limestone plateau

**Elevation extremes:** *lowest point:* Pacific Ocean 0 m

*highest point:* Volcan Tajumulco 4,211 m

**Natural resources:** petroleum, nickel, rare woods, fish, chicle, hydropower

**Land use:** *arable land:* 13.22%

*permanent crops:* 5.6%

*other:* 81.18% (2005)

**Irrigated land:** 1,300 sq km (2003)

**Environment - current issues:** deforestation in the Peten rainforest; soil erosion; water pollution

**Geography - note:** no natural harbors on west coast

## People

**Population:** 14,099,032 (July 2012 est.)

**Population growth rate:** 1.948% (2012 est.)

**Birth rate:** 26.48 births/1,000 population (2012 est.)

**Death rate:** 4.92 deaths/1,000 population (July 2012 est.)

**Net migration rate:** -2.08 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2012 est.)

**Infant mortality rate:** *total:* 26.02 deaths/1,000 live births

*male:* 28.26 deaths/1,000 live births

*female:* 23.67 deaths/1,000 live births (2011 est.)

**Life expectancy at birth:** *total population:* 70.88 years

*male:* 69.03 years

*female:* 72.83 years (2011 est.)

**Total fertility rate:** 3.18 children born/woman (2012 est.)

**HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:** 0.8% (2009 est.)

**HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:** 62,000 (2009 est.)

**HIV/AIDS - deaths:** 2,600 (2009 est.)

**Children under the age of 5yrs**

**underweight:** 17.7% (2002 est.)

**Nationality:** *noun:* Guatemalan(s)

*adjective:* Guatemalan


**Ethnic groups:** Mestizo (mixed Amerindian-Spanish - in local Spanish called Ladino) and European 59.4%, K'iche 9.1%, Kaqchikel 8.4%, Mam 7.9%, Q'eqchi 6.3%, other Mayan 8.6%, indigenous non-Mayan 0.2%, other 0.1% (2001 census)

- Religions:** Roman Catholic, Protestant, indigenous Mayan beliefs
- Languages:** Spanish 60%, Amerindian languages 40% (23 officially recognized Amerindian languages, including Quiche, Cakchiquel, Kekchi, Mam, Garifuna, and Xinca)
- Literacy:** *definition:* age 15 and over can read and write  
*total population:* 69.1%  
*male:* 75.4%  
*female:* 63.3% (2002 census)
- School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):** *total:* 11 years  
*male:* 11 years  
*female:* 10 years (2007)
- Education expenditures:** 3.2% of GDP (2008)

## Government

- Country name:** *conventional long form:* Republic of Guatemala  
*conventional short form:* Guatemala  
*local long form:* Republica de Guatemala  
*local short form:* Guatemala
- Government type:** constitutional democratic republic
- Capital:** *name:* Guatemala  
*geographic coordinates:* 14 37 N, 90 31 W  
*time difference:* UTC-6 (1 hour behind Washington, DC during Standard Time)
- Administrative divisions:** 22 departments (departamentos, singular - departamento); Alta Verapaz, Baja Verapaz, Chimaltenango, Chiquimula, El Progreso, Escuintla, Guatemala, Huehuetenango, Izabal, Jalapa, Jutiapa, Peten, Quetzaltenango, Quiche, Retalhuleu, Sacatepequez, San Marcos, Santa Rosa, Solola, Suchitepequez, Totonicapan, Zacapa
- Independence:** 15 September 1821 (from Spain)
- National holiday:** Independence Day, 15 September (1821)
- Constitution:** 31 May 1985, effective 14 January 1986; note - suspended 25 May 1993 by former President Jorge SERRANO; reinstated 5 June 1993 following ouster of president; amended November 1993
- Legal system:** civil law system; judicial review of legislative acts; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction
- Suffrage:** 18 years of age; universal; note - active duty members of the armed forces may not vote and are restricted to their barracks on election day
- Executive branch:** **chief of state:** President Otto Fernando PEREZ MOLINA (since 14 January 2012); Vice President Ingrid Roxana BALDETTI Elias (since 14 January 2012); note - the president is both the chief of state and head of government  
**head of government:** President Otto Fernando PEREZ MOLINA (since 14 January 2012); Vice President Ingrid Roxana BALDETTI Elias (since 14 January 2012)  
**cabinet:** Council of Ministers appointed by the president



(For more information visit the World Leaders website )

**elections:** president and vice president elected on the same ticket by popular vote for a four-year term (may not serve consecutive terms); election last held on 11 September 2011; runoff held on 6 November 2011 (next to be held in September 2015)

**Legislative branch:** unicameral Congress of the Republic or Congreso de la Republica (158 seats; members elected through a party list proportional representation system)  
**elections:** last held on 11 September 2011 (next to be held in September 2015)

**election results:** percent of vote by party - PP 26.62%, UNE-GANA 22.67%, UNC 9.50%, LIDER 8.87%, CREO 8.67%, VIVA-EG 7.87%, Winaq-URNG-ANN 3.23%, PAN 3.12%, FRG 2.74%, PU 2.70%, other 3.59%; seats by party - PP 57, UNE-GANA 48, LIDER 14, UCN 14, CREO 12, VIVA-EG 6, PAN 2, Winaq-URNG-ANN 2, FRG 1, PU 1, VICTORIA 1; note - changes in party affiliation now reflect the following seat distribution: as of 2 March 2012 - PP 62, LIDER 25, UCN 18, Independents 12, CREO 11, GANA 9, UNE 8, VIVA 3, EG 3, PAN 2, FRG 1, PU 1, Winaq 1, URNG 1, VICTORIA 1

**Judicial branch:** Constitutional Court or Corte de Constitucionalidad is Guatemala's highest court (five judges are elected for concurrent five-year terms); Supreme Court of Justice or Corte Suprema de Justicia (13 members serve concurrent five-year terms and elect a president of the Court each year from among their number; the president of the Supreme Court of Justice also supervises trial judges around the country, who are named to five-year terms)

**Political parties and leaders:** Center of Social Action or CASA [Eduardo SUGER]; Democracy Front or FRENTE [Alfonso CABRERA]; Democratic Union or UD [Manuel CONDE Orellana]; Encounter for Guatemala or EG [Nineth MONTENGRO]; Grand National Alliance or GANA [Alfredo VILLA]; Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity or URNG [Hector NUIA]; Guatemalan Republican Front or FRG [Efraín RIOS Montt]; National Advancement Party or PAN [Juan Guillermo GUTIERREZ]; National Unity for Hope or UNE [Juan Jose ALFARO Lemus]; Nationalist Change Union or UCN [Mario ESTRADA]; Patriot Party or PP [Ret. Gen. Otto PEREZ Molina]; Unionista Party or PU [Fritz GARCIA-GALLONT]

**Diplomatic representation in the US:** **chief of mission:** Ambassador Francisco VILLAGRAN de Leon

**chancery:** 2220 R Street NW, Washington, DC 20008

**telephone:** [1] (202) 745-4953

**FAX:** [1] (202) 745-1908

**consulate(s) general:** Atlanta, Chicago, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Phoenix, Providence, San Francisco

**Diplomatic representation from the US:** **chief of mission:** Ambassador Arnold A. CHACON

**embassy:** 7-01 Avenida Reforma, Zone 10, Guatemala City

**mailing address:** DPO AA 34024

**telephone:** [502] 2326-4000

**FAX:** [502] 2326-4654

## Economy

**Economy - overview:** Guatemala is the most populous country in Central America with a GDP per capita roughly one-half that of the average for Latin America and the Caribbean. The agricultural sector accounts for 13% of GDP and 38% of the labor force; key agricultural exports include coffee, sugar, bananas, and vegetables. The 1996 peace accords, which ended 36 years of civil war, removed a major obstacle to foreign investment, and since then Guatemala has pursued important reforms and macroeconomic stabilization. The Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) entered into force in July 2006 spurring increased investment and diversification of exports, with the largest increases in ethanol and non-traditional agricultural exports. While CAFTA-DR has helped improve the investment climate, concerns over security, the lack of skilled workers and poor infrastructure continue to hamper foreign direct investment. The distribution of income remains highly unequal with the richest 20% of the population accounting for more than 51% of Guatemala's overall consumption. More than half of the population is below the national poverty line and 13% of the population lives in extreme poverty. Poverty among indigenous groups, which make up 38% of the population, averages 73% and extreme poverty rises to 28%. Nearly one-half of Guatemala's children under age five are chronically malnourished, one of the highest malnutrition rates in the world. Given Guatemala's large expatriate community in the United States, it is the top remittance recipient in Central America, with inflows serving as a primary source of foreign income equivalent to nearly two-fifths of exports or one-tenth of GDP. Economic growth fell in 2009 as export demand from US and other Central American markets dropped and foreign investment slowed amid the global recession. The economy gradually recovered in 2010-12.

**GDP (purchasing power parity):** \$78.42 billion (2012 est.)  
\$70.31 billion (2010 est.)  
\$69.57 billion (2008)  
\$66.89 billion (2007)

**GDP (official exchange rate):** \$50.3 billion (2012 est.)

**GDP - real growth rate:** 3.1% (2012 est.)

**GDP - per capita (PPP):** \$5,200 (2012 est.)

**GDP - composition by sector:** **agriculture:** 13%

**industry:** 23.8%

**services:** 63.2% (2012 est.)

**Labor force:** 5.571 million (2011 est.)

<b>Labor force - by occupation:</b>	<b>agriculture:</b> 38%
	<b>industry:</b> 14%
	<b>services:</b> 48% (2011 est.)
<b>Unemployment rate:</b>	4.1% (2011 est.)
<b>Population below poverty line:</b>	54% (2011 est.)
<b>Household income or consumption by percentage share:</b>	<i>lowest 10%:</i> 1.3%
	<i>highest 10%:</i> 42.4% (2006)
<b>Distribution of family income - Gini index:</b>	55.1 (2007)
<b>Investment (gross fixed):</b>	14.6% of GDP (2012 est.)
<b>Fiscal year:</b>	calendar year
<b>Public debt:</b>	29.9% of GDP (2012 est.)
<b>Inflation rate (consumer prices):</b>	4% (2012 est.)
<b>Agriculture - products:</b>	sugarcane, corn, bananas, coffee, beans, cardamom; cattle, sheep, pigs, chickens
<b>Industries:</b>	sugar, textiles and clothing, furniture, chemicals, petroleum, metals, rubber, tourism
<b>Industrial production growth rate:</b>	2.6% (2010 est.)
<b>Electricity - production by source:</b>	<i>fossil fuel:</i> 51.9%
	<i>hydro:</i> 35.2%
	<i>nuclear:</i> 0%
	<i>other:</i> 12.9% (2001)
<b>Current account balance:</b>	-\$1.345 billion (2010 est.)
<b>Exports - commodities:</b>	coffee, sugar, petroleum, apparel, bananas, fruits and vegetables, cardamom
<b>Exports - partners:</b>	US 37.9%, El Salvador 10.5%, Honduras 6.8%, Mexico 5.1% (2011)
<b>Imports:</b>	\$12.65 billion f.o.b. (2010 est.)
<b>Imports - commodities:</b>	fuels, machinery and transport equipment, construction materials, grain, fertilizers, electricity, mineral products, chemical products, plastic materials and products
<b>Imports - partners:</b>	US 36.46%, Mexico 10.5%, China 5.8%, El Salvador 5.14% (2009)
<b>Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:</b>	\$4.709 billion (31 December 2009 est.)
<b>Debt - external:</b>	\$17.47 billion (31 December 2010 est.)
<b>Currency (code):</b>	quetzal (GTQ), US dollar (USD), others allowed
<b>Currency code:</b>	GTQ; USD
<b>Exchange rates:</b>	Quetzales (GTQ) per US dollar -8.0789 (2010) 8.1613 (2009), 7.5895 (2008 est.), 7.6833 (2007), 7.6026 (2006), 7.6339 (2005), 7.9465 (2004)











## Country – Human Development Index Ranking (Source: [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org))

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a comparative measure of life expectancy, literacy, education and standards of living for countries worldwide. It is a standard means of measuring well-being, especially child welfare. It is used to distinguish whether the country is a developed, a developing or an under-developed country, and also to measure the impact of economic policies on quality of life. The index was developed in 1990 by Pakistani economist Mahbub ul Haq and Indian economist Amartya Sen.<sup>[1]</sup>

This is an abbreviated list of countries by Human Development Index as included in a United Nations Development Program's Human Development Statistical Update released in 2010. The HDI covers 180 U.N. member countries (out of 192), along with: Hong Kong (SAR of China) and PA-governed territories.





















Guatemala ranks 131st on the HDI.

Rank		Country	HDI	
2011 data	Change compared to 2010 data		2011 data	Change compared to 2010 data
127	—	 Tajikistan	0.607	▲ 0.003
128	—	 Vietnam	0.593	▲ 0.003
129	—	 Nicaragua	0.589	▲ 0.002
130	—	 Morocco	0.582	▲ 0.003

Rank		Country	HDI	
2011 data	Change compared to 2010 data		2011 data	Change compared to 2010 data
131	—	 Guatemala	0.574	▲ 0.001
132	—	 Iraq	0.573	▲ 0.006
133	—	 Cape Verde	0.568	▲ 0.002
134	—	 India	0.547	▲ 0.005



2011 HDI Data from the Americas:

10 highest HDIs			10 lowest HDIs		
Rank	Country	HDI New 2011 estimates	Rank	Country	HDI New 2011 estimates
Very high human development			Low human development		
1	 United States	0.910	1	 Haiti	0.454
2	 Canada	0.908	Medium human development		
3	 Chile	0.805	2	 Guatemala	0.574
4	 Argentina	0.797	3	 Nicaragua	0.589
5	 Barbados	0.793	4	 Honduras	0.625
High human development			5	 Guyana	0.633
6	 Uruguay	0.783	6	 Bolivia	0.663
7	 Cuba	0.776	7	 Paraguay	0.665
8	 Bahamas	0.771	8	 El Salvador	0.674
9	 Mexico	0.770	9	 Suriname	0.680
10	 Panama	0.768	10	 Dominican Republic	0.689

## 2. Program Overview

Through participation in innovative rural development work within a challenging cultural, language learning and grassroots environment, Social Entrepreneur Corps ensures that participants will:

- Gain insights into the opportunities, inherent risks and limitations involved in third world development
- Have ample opportunities to significantly increase language proficiency
- Observe, learn and live in a diversity of cultural settings
- Experience home stay living with local families
- Have the opportunity to visit an array of development and relief organizations
- Be offered the opportunity to make a significant contribution in a highly structure manner working side by side with field based social entrepreneurs

It is the mission of Social Entrepreneur Corps that the selected interns participating in this exclusive program leave the program 100% satisfied in their time and financial investment having gained the desired knowledge and experience in a secure, enjoyable and truly enlightening manner. Through classes, case studies, discussions, analysis, living with the local population, as well as through visits and active participation with local NGO's and social entrepreneurs, interns will make a profound community impact whilst gaining an in-depth knowledge of rural economic development. The desired outcomes for the program are that interns:

### **Social Entrepreneurship**

- Will have gained an understanding of the key differences, advantages and disadvantages of varied international relief and economic development models
- Will feel knowledgeable with regards to the challenges and opportunities inherent in the creation of successful social entrepreneurship models, implementation strategies and tactics.
- Will have learned and practiced effective strategies for training, mentoring and supporting local social entrepreneurs
- Will have contributed to the identification and design of new social entrepreneurship opportunities for local constituents



### **Culture**

- Will have gained an understanding of the challenges confronting the rural population specifically
- Will feel comfortable interacting with the local population on a general, family and individual level
- Will have gained an understanding of the cultural and professional "do's" and "don'ts" of living and working in a rural development environment such as Guatemala
- Will understand how the rural population lives, works and what they aspire to achieve

### **Spanish Language**

- Will have significantly improved their conversational Spanish capabilities
- Will have gained an understanding of the nuance of language in developing country environments

### 3. Social Entrepreneur Corps Site Overview

#### Site Map



### Headquarters: Antigua - "Colonial Capital"

Antigua is an exquisitely pretty colonial town situated in a spectacular setting, nestled below the three imposing volcanoes of Agua, Fuego and Acatenango. It is one of the finest surviving examples in Latin America of colonial town planning, laid out on a grid pattern emanating from the central park, whilst the many fine examples of Spanish colonial architecture have earned it the position of UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its pretty cobbled streets are filled with old churches, theatres and houses built around courtyards, all painted in delightful pastel colors. As well as being full of fascinating historical sites, Antigua is also a lively, international town where you'll never tire of exploring the restaurants and bars filled with food from around the world. If all this weren't enough, we should add that Antigua also boasts a wonderful climate of warm, sunny days and cool evenings.



### Satellite Site: Nebaj - "Mountain Hideaway"

Nebaj is the home of the Ixil group, one of the most distinct Mayan cultures. The Ixiles are world famous for their stunning, intricately woven traditional clothing. The local culture feels uniquely traditional and vibrant in this region. Nebaj is far from the cosmopolitan sophistication of Antigua, but it is also a bustling, lively town. The people are warm, and offer participation in traditional customs such as the local sauna, a tamascal, or the cooking of the traditional food, boxboles. Nebaj is a heavenly place to visit for those who enjoy hiking, sitting as it does in a beautiful valley surrounded by verdant mountains. Exploring the villages around Nebaj will take the intrepid visitor to some of the most remote places in the Americas. The combination of spectacular landscapes and local culture makes Nebaj the favorite spot in Guatemala for many visitors.





### Satellite Site: Lake Atitlan - "Nature's Gift"

For many, there is no more spectacular site in the world than the sun setting over the Lake Atitlan as the evening mist descends. English novelist Aldous Huxley described the lake as like "Lake Como with the added embellishment of several immense volcanoes" and decided it was the most beautiful lake in the world. Once one gets their breath back after the first look at the incredible view of the lake, you can begin to explore the trails and nature parks that surround it. The lake itself is great for swimming. Dotted around the shore of the lake are dozens of towns, from busy Panajachel, with its international scene and restaurants, to sleepy indigenous towns such as San Juan La Laguna. Whether for a short visit or a longer stay, the beauty of the Lake will stay with you forever.



### Satellite Site: Xela - "The Highlands"

Quetzaltenango, or Xela as it is more usually known, is fast becoming one of the most popular places in Latin America to learn Spanish and do volunteer work. Offering the advantages of a city, with cinemas, good restaurants, bars and entertainment, Xela has much more the feel of a large town-easy to navigate and get to know. It's a friendly place, with the typical bustle of highland Guatemala very much present, and the beauty of the surrounding mountains is always visible. What's more, within easy reach are many beautiful rural areas, such as to the hot springs of Fuentes Georginas. Many even attempt to climb Central America's largest volcano, Tajumulco.



### Satellite Site: Huehuetenango - "Off the Beaten Path"

Huehuetenango sits at the foot hills of the majestic Sierra Cuchumatanes Mountains. It is one of the largest regions in Guatemala and an agricultural and industrial hub with coffee plantations, mining, and sheep raising as the principle sources of income for the region. Historically the area was a Mam Maya region until the 15<sup>th</sup> century when the K'iche' pushed them out. However, there are still plenty of Mam traditions in the many surrounding towns. Just outside of Huehuetenango, the Mam Mayan ruins of Zaculeu can be found. Zaculeu occupies a strategic defensive location that helped defend the Mam Mayans from the Spanish Conquistador Alvarado until it final fell in 1525. Today, it is a very popular tourist destination.





#### 4. Rules and Regulations

Following is an outline of some of the key rules and regulations for participants which Social Entrepreneur Corps maintains and which have contributed to the well being of participants in the past. All rules and regulations are covered in-depth during the orientation month and continuously throughout the participants' time in country. Violation of any of these policies could result in Social Entrepreneur Corps ending the participant's service and returning him/her to the United States. Social Entrepreneur Corps participants must agree to these rules and regulations and sign a document acknowledging so to participate in the program.

##### *Travel and Healthcare*

Social Entrepreneur Corps requires all participants to have travel/health insurance while in country paid at the participant's expense. All travel/health insurance information as well as standard health insurance information must be provided to Social Entrepreneur Corps leadership before arrival in country.

Participants must not be treated by a local doctor without first consulting with the Social Entrepreneur Corps leadership.

Should any medical emergency arise which precludes the participants ability to consent to emergency treatment when such authorization is required, Social Entrepreneur Corps leadership will endeavor to communicate with the person(s) previously designated by the participant as the "Emergency Contact" to request permission for any necessary treatment. If Social Entrepreneur Corps personnel believe, in their sole discretion, that time or circumstances do not permit such communication, the participant authorizes Social Entrepreneur Corps to consent on his or her behalf to any medical treatment, including all types of medical examinations, diagnosis, medication, treatment, or physician or hospital care, that is deemed advisable by, and is to be rendered under, the general or special supervision of any physician and surgeon.

##### *Transportation*

Participants fly into Aurora International Airport in Guatemala City where they will be met by a staff member and driven to Antigua in a rented microbus.

Participants shall not operate vehicles. Participants may be passengers in a car upon prior consent, but are forbidden from being passengers on motorcycles or riding bicycles without prior consent. Participants are forbidden from visiting Guatemala City except as a potential transit point.

##### *Alcohol*

Inappropriate or unprofessional behavior resulting from misuse of alcohol may be cause for the participant to be terminated from Social Entrepreneur Corps.





### *Firearms*

Participants are not allowed to possess or use firearms at any time.

### *Sexual Harassment*

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination prohibited by Social Entrepreneur Corps.

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when:

- Submission to or rejection of such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly;
- Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for programmatic decisions or decisions regarding a participant's status or service; or
- Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's program or performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

Sexual harassment may be physical, verbal, or graphic. It may result from the actions of supervisors, co-workers, participants or affiliated individuals. It may occur during program hours or during designated free time. It may victimize members of either sex. It includes conduct that is not intended to be harassing by the person who acts, if such conduct is reasonably perceived by the recipient to be harassment.

All Social Entrepreneur Corps managers, supervisors, employees, contractors, volunteers, and participants are responsible for ensuring that their own actions do not constitute or contribute to sexual harassment. Managers and supervisors are responsible for correcting behavior that may constitute sexual harassment; taking immediate action to investigate all allegations of sexual harassment; protecting against retaliation against any individual who raises a complaint; and taking appropriate remedial and/or disciplinary action, which may range from a reprimand to removal.

### *Political Expression*

Participants shall not participate in political activities or manifestations while participating in the program.

### *Local Law and Customs*

Participants are required to conduct themselves according to the local laws and customs.

### *Religion*

Participants are forbidden from proselytizing.

### *Communication*

All participants will receive a cellular phone upon arrival in country so as to facilitate contact with leadership and other participants as well as with family and friends in the United States. Participants are responsible for maintaining this telephone in good state.

Participants will be assigned a "buddy" whilst in country and are responsible for communicating with leadership if there is any concern as to the "buddy's" welfare. Rules for "buddy's" will be stated upon arrival in country.

### *Emergencies*

Upon any real or perceived emergency or at any time when there is concern with regards to a health or safety situation, participants are required to communicate with one or more of the Social Entrepreneur Corps designated leaders and await instructions. Leadership will communicate with one of the directors of the program to consult and advise as to appropriate next steps. If for any reason a participant is separated he/she will return to the nearest of the office, hotel or home stay and communicate with leadership via telephone. The participant will wait in such place until leadership provides further instructions.

## **5. Emergency Action Plan**

Following is an outline of the Emergency Action Plan for participants which Social Entrepreneur Corps maintains and which has contributed to the well being of participants in the past. During the orientation session risks and risk mitigation procedures are discussed in depth and agreed upon.

### *Conditions that contribute to risk:*

- Being out after dark
- Being alone at night in an isolated area
- Being in a known high crime area
- Being with unfamiliar people
- Being out after a local curfew
- Being intoxicated

### *Strategies to reduce risk:*

- Listening for what is being said around them
- Keeping watch for suspicious people and vehicles
- Knowing what hours of the night are more dangerous than others
- Staying in and walking only in those areas that are well lit
- Avoiding being alone in unfamiliar neighborhoods
- Knowing where to get help (stores, phones, fire station, etc.)

### *Requirements and procedures to follow in at risk situations:*

Social Entrepreneur Corps leadership and participants must at all times:

- Notify all parties involved in Social Entrepreneur Corps of any perceived or real current or potential risk
- Have all participant information on hand including passport, medical and emergency contact information
- Carry a cellular telephone



- Carry a map of the region they are visiting and review the local area with participants
- Have all US Embassy, local hospital, clinic and transportation information on hand
- Have phone numbers of all leadership staff on hand
- Have \$100 in cash on hand

#### *Summary Emergency Action Plan:*

1. Upon the either perceived or real incidence of any risk situation on an individual, group, local, regional or national level, all leadership and participants are to proceed to the nearest designated "Safe Spot" and stand down while contacting the directors of Social Entrepreneur Corps. As such, if the directors of Social Entrepreneur Corps become aware of any risk either perceived or real, they will contact leadership to advise them of next steps. When appropriate the directors will contact the US Embassy and US Peace Corps to receive advice as to how to proceed.
2. Upon communication, leadership and participants will be advised by the directors as to next step and at all times the most cautionary steps will be taken.
3. If necessary, Social Entrepreneur Corps will terminate the program in the most appropriate manner and return participants to their destination of origin on an expedited basis.

## **6. Frequently Asked Key Considerations**

### **Homestay**

All home stay families are trained by Social Entrepreneur Corps. As such, these families understand the needs of the participants and specific expectations of Social Entrepreneur Corps. The home stay is an essential step in helping participants gain an understanding of how local people live and work. It is an invaluable way to improve on classroom Spanish. The vast majority of Social Entrepreneur Corps participants end up forming great friendships during this process.

#### *Criteria for Social Entrepreneur Corps home stay certification:*

- The house is maintained in a clean and orderly state.
- There is a private room for the participant with the minimum of a bed, a dresser, and a light, flooring, a window, and a lock on the door.
- There must be a bathroom with a door.
- The house has an outside door with a lock.
- The family creates a kind, safe, and welcoming, and supportive living environment.
- The family agrees to provide three meals a day, a constant supply of bottled or filtered safe-drinking water, and the participant should be offered to have their laundry done weekly.
- The host mother completes training on safe food handling and preparation, water sanitation, keeping clean and healthy homes; furthermore, they learn how to provide



language, emotional, and cultural support for participants. This training consists of the following key elements:

- Emergency Plan and 24 Communication Chain – Who to call and what to do in an emergency
- Expectations and standards of hygiene and security of the house, and in particular, the room where the participant is living (i.e. each student's room needs to have its own door with functioning lock with key).
- Specific best practices for keeping a healthy and safe participant (i.e. food preparation and curfew)
- Suggestions to help bridge the communication gap and language barrier
- A formal contract in which families agree to provide the participant with the services required. All families must undergo continuous training on an annual basis and receive positive participant/leadership evaluations as a requirement for renewing the contract.
- The family understands the importance of disinfecting fruits and vegetables and preparing food in a way that keeps in mind a participant's stomach.
- The family understands the responsibilities and challenges that come with hosting a foreigner, and is willing, capable, and excited to do so.

### **Risk Management/Safety and Security**

Social Entrepreneur Corps places the highest priority on health and security issues. To date, Social Entrepreneur Corps has been fortunate in that no participants have suffered from any notable health or security problems. Social Entrepreneur Corps continuously maintains leadership in the field with participants to oversee security and health issues continuously. These leaders live and work in the communities and as such have deep knowledge regarding their regions. All participants are equipped with a cell phone upon arrival in country, check in with the proper authorities and are provided with the training and information necessary to appropriately minimize health and security risks. Leadership is available on a 24 hour basis and has a full database of health facilities and police stations/contacts. In addition, Social Entrepreneur Corps maintains strong relationships with the Peace Corps.

### **Money**

With regards to spending money we would suggest budgeting approximately \$400. You may want to add a bit more if you are going to buy a lot of gifts. That being said, you do not need to change money here in the US. As well, you need not bring it all in cash as there are ATM machines in country that are accessible. Our suggestion would be to bring down \$200 or so in cash and bring down an ATM card for the rest. If you do want to bring travelers checks that is fine but not necessary. And no worries, we are with you the whole time so you will not be in a bind if for some reason your budgeting is off.



## **Luggage**

First, no need for a sleeping bag. Second, our suggestion is that you bring a big backpack or duffel and then a day backpack. Suitcases can be a bit unwieldy and rollers don't really work as the streets are not the smoothest.

## **Clothing**

No need for any formal attire whatsoever. As well, few people wear shorts. No short skirts please. The key is to be comfortable. Jeans, pants, collared shirts and the like are the norm. You will need a bathing suit as you will go swimming a few times. You will also want to bring T shirts. In the afternoon it may rain so bring a retractable umbrella and raincoat. Also, bring a few sweaters and sweatshirts. With regards to laundry, you will be able to do it in country so don't over pack. Also, wearing the same clothes a few times without washing is certainly not unheard of in our line of work. The "sniff test" will serve you well.

## **Communication**

Each of you will have your own cell phone when you are in country. You can use this to call locally or call internationally and calls are fairly inexpensive. There are no charges for in-coming calls so we would encourage your parents etc to buy a few phone cards at the local convenience store. Internet is ubiquitous and cheap so you will be able to communicate through this means often.

## **Electricity**

Guatemala is on the same current as the US so no need for adapters.

## **Energy**

Bring lots of it! You will need it and it will serve you well.

## **Immunizations/Vaccinations**

Please consult your physician here. One note, we will not be in areas that have any prevalence of malaria or dengue. That being said, if your doctor recommends that you take malaria pills then we certainly do not want to disagree. Use your best judgment for vaccinations and immunizations but we do not require any. Just make sure you are up to date.

## **Travel Health Insurance**

We do require that you have travel health insurance. If your school is not providing this please purchase this before leaving. There are many plans and they are very inexpensive. [www.imgglobal.com](http://www.imgglobal.com) is one option that we use. There are many others.



## **Donations**

People have asked if we could use any donations. The answer is always "Yes!". From a practical perspective if you wanted to donate the best things would materials for our entrepreneur beneficiaries and for kids. Magic markers, crayons, notebooks, coloring books, pens, pencils, backpacks, toothbrushes etc. As well, games like Candyland, Bingo and the like are great. And of course money never hurts! Remember that we design and run development projects and, unlike much relief work, most of our funding goes to pay people who teach and train. We don't give things away but rather empower people to create sustainable enterprises and institutions.

## **Meeting Friends on Days Off**

Some people have friends who may be in country. You can certainly meet them on your free days. We can work to coordinate that when you are there. More likely than not though they will have to travel to where you are.