



NICARAGUA TEAM COMPOSITION

General guidelines for putting together a successful team

We welcome groups of all ages. However, we ask that all teams take into consideration the following guidelines when compiling a team. These guidelines will help ensure that your group is equipped to complete the project in the specified amount of time.

Nicaraguan home:

15-25 workers*

*The term "worker" indicates an individual age 12 or older that can be counted on to work the entire duration of the project. Children and those responsible for childcare should not be counted as workers. This does not mean that they are not able to join in the building process; however, they should not be counted when evaluating whether or not your team has enough members for a project.

We strongly urge that you stay within the boundaries of the specified group numbers. With more than a decade of experience, we have learned that these numbers work best.

Too Few:

Teams with fewer than the recommended number will have a difficult time completing the project. It will also place greater physical demands on each of the participants.

Too Many:

For teams with more than the recommended number, there will not be enough work to keep everyone busy for the duration of the project.

Youth Teams:

It is our strong recommendation that all youth teams have one adult per 3-4 students. We urge these teams to aim for the higher end of the recommended group sizes.

Children:

It is the desire of Casas por Cristo to allow families the opportunity to serve together in the Dominican Republic. We do not have a policy against bringing children on a Casas mission trip. However, there are some variables that need to be considered.

- We consider a child to be anyone under the age of 12. Children should not be counted in your "worker" count. If there are children on the worksite, it will be the responsibility of an adult to supervise them. Additionally, this adult caregiver should not be counted as a worker. There will be some jobs that the children are more than welcome to join in and help on. However, these jobs will also require some adult supervision and guidance.
- As with any participant in a foreign mission trip, there are risk factors involved. It is extremely important that no child be unsupervised at any time. As with every member, under no circumstances should a child play with the animals. They will also need to be monitored so that they do not drink the water. Please bring the name and phone number of their pediatrician and/or doctors in the event that an emergency arises.

The Terrain:

Our location in Nicaragua is coastal. Prepare for temps up to the 90's and a humid climate. Sometimes we will be building in sandy areas but most everywhere is flat. Nicaragua is our location closest to the equator. Hydration and sun protection will be imperative. Purified water will be provided and you should have your water bottle on hand at all times. Hats, sunscreen, thin long sleeve shirts, and sunglasses are all highly recommended to protect yourself from the extreme sun conditions.

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