

LATCOM 2011 Work and Ministry Team Application

I am interested in Team # _____ Location and dates: _____

Name as it appears on my **passport** and home address:

Birth date: _____ Passport number: _____

Telephone number: _____ E-mail: _____

Your Church (address and telephone number):

In case of emergency, notify (name, address, telephone no.):

Beneficiary for insurance purposes (name, address, telephone no.):

Do you have a medical condition that would limit you? _____

Please list any prescription medications you take: _____

If you take medication, you should be prepared to take it with you.

What skills or experience do you have that would be useful? _____

Do you speak Spanish? _____

Signed _____ date _____

Parent or guardian signature, if a minor _____ date _____

The cost for a two-week work and ministry team is \$2,400 per person. Advance Team, extra trips, or longer stays will be more. Contact LATCOM for these prices.

One application per person, please. Photocopy more if needed. Make checks payable to LATCOM to receive a tax-deductible receipt. Return this application with the Personal Covenant and Liability Release Form and **a check for the \$100 per person fee needed to reserve your airline ticket.**

LATCOM, 4133 Ellwood Rd. New Castle PA 16101

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Work and Ministry Teams Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need a passport and visa? Yes, you need a passport. Allow at least two months for the process of getting one. No advanced visa is needed for Bolivia; however, the visa costs \$130.00 and will be granted upon arrival in the country. This fee will **NOT** be covered out of your total team funds. You will need the following things to take with you and have readily accessible upon arriving in Bolivia: Two passport size photos, two photo copies of your passport, an application form filled out that can be downloaded from the Bolivian embassy web site, \$135 dollars for the visa, and a letter of invitation that we will provide for you from EPLABOL our mission in Bolivia.

Do I need to speak Spanish? Speaking their language is not essential. Many South Americans speak English, however, Bolivians will appreciate any attempt you make to speak Spanish. You may want to become familiar with common greetings and phrases.

How much luggage is allowed? You are permitted two pieces of check-in luggage, each weighing no more than 50 lbs., and two hand luggage pieces (one of which may be a purse or computer or camera bag). The less you carry, the easier it will be to get around. Some prefer to take clothing to leave with the people in the country after their stay, so they can fill their suitcases with souvenirs.

Should I get inoculations? Yes, they are necessary. Call your physician or local health department to arrange for shots. These will include: **Yellow Fever (required), Typhoid (required), Tetanus (required)**, and Hepatitis A & B (recommended). Malaria pills are advisable for Zapocó teams.

What kind of clothing and other personal items should I bring? This depends on the time of year and where in the country you are going. March is hot and humid in the jungle (Zapocó) and is moderate in the mountains (Monte Blanco at Tambo). June, July, and August are usually the dry months, with low humidity and the temperature ranging in the 70s to the 80s. From May – August it is possible to have cold weather in the 40's and 50's. Like most places, the weather can be unpredictable. Once we receive your application, we will send you a thorough equipment list that is appropriate for your team.

Should I take travelers' checks? It is difficult to get travelers' checks cashed. The best way to carry money is in U.S. Dollars, such as \$20 and \$50 dollar bills. Bolivians will exchange bills in these denominations but not \$1 or \$5 dollar bills. Also, the bills **must** be in good condition, without any ink-spots, rips, or holes. They will refuse to accept any imperfections in the bills due to their fear of counterfeit dollars.

How safe is Bolivia? We will not knowingly place a team or any of its members in danger! If events show potential risks we will either cancel a team or if already in country will seek to have them removed to safety as soon as possible. As a traveler, the biggest problems, if any, you will most likely encounter are petty thievery and an occasional crooked official. LATCOM will always keep abreast of potentially dangerous political unrest and will act accordingly for your safety. When you send in your application, we will send you a list of simple precautions for traveling.

LATCOM Short Term Summer Work and Ministry Teams Personal Covenant and Liability Release Form

The guidelines listed below are recommended for those participating in this journey. You go, not as a tourist, but as a guest of another country. Bolivia is considered a LDC- less developed country - and does not have the same conveniences you are used to at home. It is very important to be flexible and willing to adjust to the expectations of your host.

I recognize and accept the following conditions which will further the usefulness and safety of our short-term mission. If accepted as a member of this LATCOM team, I agree to:

1. Release and discharge the organizations and individuals which helped make these arrangements, including LATCOM, my church _____, their agents, employees, officers, and volunteers, from all claims, demands, actions, judgments, or executions that I have ever had, or now have, or may have, or which my heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns may have, or claim to have, against these organizations, their agents, employees, officers, and volunteers, and their successors or assigns, for all personal injuries, known or unknown, and injuries to property, real or personal, caused by or arising out of this journey. I intend to be legally bound by this statement.
2. Adopt an attitude that I am on this team to try to understand the host culture, not to convince them of my own viewpoint or style. I go, knowing that there are many different ways to accomplish the same objective, and knowing that my way is not necessarily the best.
3. Abstain from making derogatory comments or arguments regarding people, politics, sports, religion, race, or traditions.
4. Go as a servant-disciple of Jesus Christ, and will adopt that attitude when dealing with my fellow team members and the people I meet during the trip.
5. Accept and submit to the leadership role and authority of the team leader, and promise to abide by his or her decisions as they concern this mission trip.
6. Acknowledge that by engaging in this journey, I am subjecting myself to certain risks voluntarily, including and in addition to, those risks that I normally face in my personal and business life, including, but not limited to, such things as health hazards due to poor food and water, diseases, pests, and poor sanitation; potential danger from lack of control over local population; potential injury while working; and inadequate medical facilities.
7. Understand that our team's work is but a tiny speck on the bigger picture that our mission partners are trying to accomplish. I promise not to be overly demanding, to do my best not to offend or cause embarrassment for the local mission host, and to do my best to help them attain their long-term goals.
8. Attend all team meetings possible, both prior to departure and during the mission trip.
9. Expeditiously follow up on all requirements for passports, visas, financial obligations, vaccinations, travel insurance, etc.
10. Refrain from meddling, complaining, and obscene or insensitive humor. I realize that others on my team, during the journey and while on site, will look at me for an example of how a Christian acts, and I will not treat that responsibility lightly. I understand that travel, especially to remote locations, can be difficult, and I promise to adopt a flexible attitude and to be supportive, as plans may need to be changed. I understand that I must travel with the rest of the team, unless other prior arrangements have been made.
11. Regard the differing styles of worshipping with respect. I promise that where I see the need, I will witness my faith, but without a superior, colonial attitude.
12. If a loved one or dear friend is traveling with me, we agree to interact with all members of the team, not just one another. I promise not to initiate or seek new romantic relationships with team members during the trip.
13. Avoid any actions that might be perceived as amorous attentions toward indigenous people I meet.

14. Refrain from using tobacco or alcoholic beverages while in the host country. Abstain from any illegal drugs or prohibited activity while on this trip.
15. Remember we are the new Christians from another part of the world, and we will be watched very closely. I will not take lightly this important responsibility of setting an example.
16. Refrain from giving gifts, such as money, clothes, jewelry, equipment, etc. Although the intent of the giver is good, the result has been that (after we leave) the gift will cause problems for our host, and arouse envy and bitterness among those locals who received no such largesse. If I feel compelled to give a gift to someone I have met, I will consult first with the team leader before I promise or give this gift, and I promise to let him or her make the final decision on this matter. This covenant does not apply to small fellowship tokens we will discuss and have approved before we leave home.
17. Act as a servant-disciple of the local pastor or mission organization. I will respect the advice I am given concerning attire, eating and drinking, and other such traditions, which will help me to assimilate into the local community.
18. I agree that in the event my conduct is considered so unsatisfactory that it jeopardizes the success of the trip, and that mediation during the trip has failed to correct my behavior, that my services in connection with this mission shall end and that I shall return home immediately at my own expense.
19. I agree to allow my likeness in photos or video (taken as a participant in a LATCOM Work and Ministry Team) to be used by LATCOM for promotional or fund-raising purposes.
20. In signing below, I represent that I am eighteen years of age or older, or my parent/guardian will sign also, accepting the above conditions on my behalf.

Participant's signature: _____ DATE: ____/____/____

If participant is less than eighteen years of age, parent or legal guardian's signature: _____

Participant's name (please print)

Address:

Daytime phone: (____) _____

Evening phone: (____) _____

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