

GUATEMALA

2026 SOCCER CAMPS



VOLUNTEER MISSION PACKET

Dear soccer camp volunteers and leaders,

On behalf of our staff and board of directors, welcome! We're excited about your interest in Champions in Action and our summer soccer camps for Guatemalan youth. This will be a life-changing experience for them-and for you as well.

This packet is designed to help you understand more about Champions in Action and our summer mission trips. It's divided into two sections. The first will give you an idea of who we are, what we do, and what a mission trip with us is like. The second will tell you how to begin preparing once you've decided to come. Please read through this information, and don't forget to sign up for your camp session online at **www.championsinaction.org/camp**. If you have any questions between now and your trip, don't hesitate to get in touch with your team leader (if applicable) or me. This will be another great summer in Guatemala, and we're excited to have you along!

Emmy Sagastume-Munoz

Guatemala Country Director
emmy@championsinaction.org



www.championsinaction.org

PROLOGUE

In November 2010, we brought 100 teenagers from Guatemala City's inner city to the beach for our very first camp. It was a wild idea: six days of soccer, the Gospel, and a vision to equip local mentors to walk with these youth for a full year afterward.

We were just a small team of Guatemalan and American volunteers with soccer balls, seed funding, and a bold dream — what if soccer could connect disadvantaged youth to Christian mentors in their own communities? What if those mentors could help them make better choices, discover their purpose, and follow Jesus?

That vision became reality. Since then, over 3,300 youth have come through our program, guided by dozens of mentors living out Christian leadership. Together, they've shared over 155,000 hours of mentorship.

Guatemala has nearly 18 million people — half under 18. In Guatemala City alone, 3.2 million people live in or around the capital, many facing violence, poverty, and a lack of positive role models. But we don't just see statistics — we see opportunities.

Are you ready to be part of this? New opportunities are in front of us - starting now.



BOYS CAMP 2025 VIDEO*
click to watch the video



GIRLS CAMP 2025 VIDEO*
click to watch the video



THE BASICS

Join us for a week packed with unforgettable experiences! From the moment you arrive, we've got you covered. Your camp fee includes a full day of onboarding and training, where you'll connect with your team and prepare for an amazing adventure. We'll take care of all transportation to and from the Guatemala City airport, and you'll enjoy delicious meals and a comfortable stay in the city before and after camp.

How much does it cost? All for **\$1,350** (plus airfare).

Experience a Full Week of Faith, Friendship, and Fun, and Wrap It Up with a Journey to Antigua Guatemala!



Where is the camp at?

Camps take place at El Faro, a Christian retreat center six hours northeast of Guatemala City, halfway between the seaside towns of Livingston and Puerto Barrios.



Okay, but I don't speak Spanish... No problem! Some of our staff are bilingual, and your group will have a translator at all times so that you can communicate with mentors and kids.

...Or play soccer. That's fine too! There's a place for everyone to serve; don't worry.

BOYS CAMP 2026

\$1,350 + Airfare

A Full Week of Adventure Awaits—Wrap Up Boys Camp with an Unforgettable Journey to Antigua Guatemala

June 19-28th

GIRLS CAMP 2026

\$1,350 + Airfare

Empower Your Spirit at Girls Camp and Top It Off with a Spectacular Trip to Antigua Guatemala!

July 17-26th



STEPS TO PREPARE

Your camp fees not only cover
your experience—they also
make it possible for **two**
Guatemalan youth to attend
camp.

November and December are when you have to:

- Read mission packet.
- **Sign up** online (www.championsinaction.org/camp)
- **Pay \$250 deposit** to reserve your spot at Camp.
- Check your passport's expiration date or start the process of renovating it.

In January and February, you should begin preparing:

- Research and book flights to get the best deals.
 - Email flight itinerary to Champions in Action staff to plan logistics.
 - Make your second payment (\$550 per individual).
 - Complete the appropriate Health and Release forms.
- *Receive your passport. (If applicable)*

In March and April, you are almost there:

- Ensure to make your final \$550 payment of camp fee (\$1,350 total per individual). All flights should be booked + forms submitted.

4 weeks before Camp, you should...

- Received the final preparations information.
- Review volunteer policies and rules again.
- Received Team and Group assignments.

***Note About Passports**

Start the process early! You can apply for a U.S. passport on line at www.travel.state.gov. If you already have a passport, make certain that, by the time of your trip, it will still have at least six months before it expires. Otherwise, your airline won't let you board your flight.

TRIP SCHEDULE



SAMPLE TRIP ITINERARY

Friday

Volunteers arrive in Guatemala
Dinner and hotel

Saturday

Orientation with Champions in Action staff
Historical Reflection
Trauma Training
Team breakout sessions

Sunday

Meet kids, load buses, travel to camp Arrive at camp in early afternoon, settle in, begin camp.

Monday-Thursday

Champions in Action Camp

Friday

Closing activities, pack up
Leave camp by morning
Arrive in Guatemala City in the evening Dinner and return to hotel

Saturday

All volunteers join the incredible trip to Antigua Guatemala.

Sunday

Departures - Most volunteers leave by Saturday evening or Sunday morning.

SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULE AT CAMP

6:00 - Physical training and warm up
7:15 - Volunteer team devotional time
8:00 - Breakfast
8:45 - Share a testimony, group announcements
9:30 - Soccer drills and training
12:00 - Free time; beach time for kids and mentors
1:00 - Lunch, share a testimony
2:30 - Soccer games
6:00 - Free time; beach time for U.S. team
7:00 - Dinner
8:00 - Chapel
9:30 - Volunteer team debrief
10:00 - Get some sleep



*Weekly and daily schedules sometimes change. These example schedules are based on past camps.

STILL TO COME...

This Missions Packet isn't the end of our communication with volunteers and team leaders! You'll continue to receive communication for us in the months leading up to camp. And, we are always here to answer any questions or logistical concerns you may have. Here's a preview of what's to come:

REGISTRATION FORM

If you haven't already please complete the registration form. This (plus your **\$250** deposit) is what will [reserve your spot at camp](#). The registration form allows us to get to know you, and your experience, a little better and helps inform us with things like team divisions, job assignments and Team Jersey ordering.

HEALTH AND INFORMATION FORM

All volunteers will be required to submit a health information form through the Champions in Action camp website. Through this form, we will collect information such as emergency contact info, dietary restrictions, health needs, etc.

RELEASE FORM

All volunteers must sign a liability waiver form before arriving in Guatemala. If the volunteer is a minor, his or her parent or guardian must also give permission to participate in Champions in Action's activities.

RULES AND POLICIES

There are a number of rules and expectations that all international volunteers are expected to abide by. They exist to keep everyone safe and to ensure that Champions in Action's ministry is not harmed in any way. These rules will include a dress code, cultural guidelines, safety guidelines, behavior rules, and more.

VOLUNTEER GUIDE

A few weeks before camp, volunteers will receive more information about daily schedules, a refresher on organization rules, social media sharing tips, cultural tips, and more.

GROUP AND TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

Champions in Action staff will work with team leaders to divide volunteers into groups with youth and mentors at camp. We will also work with team leaders to assign each volunteer to one of the work teams (e.g. soccer, water, worship, media, etc) that will serve youth and mentors behind the scenes at camp. We will be sending you your youth team assignments, as well as work teams, ahead of time so you can prepare accordingly.

CAMP PAYMENTS

Please don't forget to stay on track with your camp payments: \$250 upon reserving camp dates and the remaining amount at least 8 weeks before camp (**\$1,350** total per individual, which includes the \$250 deposit. This helps us ensure we're able to reserve everything needed for camp in a timely fashion in order to provide the best experience for you and the kids.

Please note: Our camps are exclusively funded via volunteers' camp fees. No annual operational funding is allocated to covering camp expenses.

SEE YOU SOON!

Thank you again for your desire to serve the Lord and serve kids in Guatemala this summer! As you prepare for camp, please get in touch with us or your team leader (if applicable) if you have questions or concerns.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

