¡FELIZ NAVIDAD!
A PILGRIMAGE TO MEXICO

PRESENTED BY:
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WHERE IN THE WORLD IS

28 N 1st Street | Geneva, Illinois 60134

Geneva is in Kane County, Illinois - About 40 miles west of Chicago.
Objectives

1. Gain a better understanding of the cultural experience of holiday celebrations in Mexico

2. Obtain a stronger understanding of why the pilgrimage to Mexico is valuable to families

3. Learn how to support students who are absent from school because of the pilgrimage

4. Transfer the knowledge of this presentation to other cultures
Dee’s “AH HA!” Moment
TRIP OVERVIEW & PLANNING

Holiday Dates: December 16 - January 6 (approximately)

Experience Overview
- Multi-day religious and cultural experience
- Different towns in Mexico have varied dates/experiences
- Opportunity for celebration, prayer, faith, and giving to others

Decisions
- Dates of travel
- Method of travel
- Ticket purchase(s)
- Flying (+ airfare cost)
- Driving
  - Caravan Coordination
  - Temporary Vehicle Importation Permit (TIP)
  - Mexican Government Authority-Banjercito
  - Proper Vehicle Insurance
Flying (Non-Stop) .... 4 HOURS

Personal Car... 27 HOURS

Bus (Greyhound) ... 50 HOURS
Funds are Needed For...

- Travel
- Cash in the vehicle
- Event expenses (sponsorships)
- Fiestas Patrias
- Repairs for roads, schools, church, waterlines, etc
- Christmas gifts for children
## FIESTAS PATRIAS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Banda baile 12/28/22</td>
<td>$60,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grupo 12/29/22</td>
<td>$7,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misas</td>
<td>$3,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cantante 11/29/22</td>
<td>$5,700.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuates</td>
<td>$3,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolas de luces</td>
<td>$10,400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estudiantina/Musica para misas</td>
<td>$4,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limpieza/Ayuda</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Gastos en pesos</strong></td>
<td><strong>$96,300.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total recolectado en USA de acuerdo al cambio en pesos: $86,336.00

Total recolectado de rifa y donaciones en Mexico: $17,000.00

**Total the dinero recolectado en pesos**: $103,336.00

**Cantidad restante después de gastos en pesos**: $7,036.00
## Expensive Flights

$2,672 for 2 Plane Tickets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flight date</th>
<th>Departure / Arrival time</th>
<th>To / From</th>
<th>Flight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 26 Dec</td>
<td>01:11 AM / 05:34 AM</td>
<td>Chicago, O'Hare T5 (ORD) - Guadalajara, Miguel Hidalgo T1 (GDL)</td>
<td>Y4 973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 04 Jan</td>
<td>07:40 PM / 11:39 PM</td>
<td>Guadalajara, Miguel Hidalgo T1 (GDL) - Chicago, O'Hare T5 (ORD)</td>
<td>Y4 972</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TRAVEL CONCERN

- Safety
- Travel Delays
- Difficult Road Conditions
- Group Travel
You finally arrived in Mexico... that must mean...
Las Posadas represents Mary and Joseph’s journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of a safe shelter where Mary could give birth to baby Jesus

- Hosted in a different house every night
- Guests are invited to eat a traditional meal, pastries, and beverages. They also enjoy music and piñatas

POSADAS
DECEMBER 16 - 24
Why do we celebrate the Virgen de Guadalupe?

• It is a symbol of Mexico’s Catholic faith
• Represents unconditional love, protection, miracles, and healing
• Mandas = Good time of the year to honor Dirgen de Guadalupe
• Passing on tradition to the next generation
NOVENA/NOVENARIO

DECEMBER 20 - 28

DAY 1 - DECEMBER 20
• 4:30PM Mass
• After Mass, community members walk with the Virgen de Guadalupe to the designated family’s house where the novena will be held for the following 9 days

NEXT 8 DAYS
• At 5:30PM, everyone in the village is welcome to come and pray the Rosary
• After the Rosary, the family hosting the novena will provide pastries and drinks for everyone who attends
• Entertainment is optional (Baile Folklorico, Danza, Music, Mariachi)
CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24

• The last posada is held in the village church
• At Midnight, visit and kiss baby Jesus at each house that has a nativity scene display
• Receive an Aginaldo
  ◦ (Goody bags, grateful to the community, modest treat, equivalent gift for kids, that the Kings brought for baby Jesus upon His birth)
CHRISTMAS DAY
DECEMBER 25

• The godparents gather at the church to give all the children in the village a gift
FIESTA PATRONAL

• A Mexican tradition of honoring their patron saint
• Both a traditional religious activity and a lively secular celebration centered around the village church and plaza
• Give thanks to the Virgen de Guadalupe for the blessings given upon the people and the village
ENTERTAINMENT RACES

DECEMBER 26

• Family friendly event
• Adults and children race ATVs or Horses
ENTERTAINMENT JARIPEO

DECEMBER 27

- Rodeo & Bull Riding
- A full day event of family friendly entertainment
- Merchants set up to sell food, games, & goods
FIESTA PATRONAL
DAY 1 - DECEMBER 28

• 5:30 PM - Last rosary at the host house
• The community members gather to parade the Virgen de Guadalupe through the entire village, with the last destination being the church
• 7:00 PM - Mass
• 9:00 PM - Dance
FIESTA PATRONAL

DAY 2 - DECEMBER 29

• 7:00 AM - The community members gather at the church, community members will walk through the entire village with a band, firework are set off
• Some people will set up a hot beverage station outside of their house. The band will stop at each house with a station and play music
• The band will circle toward the church (They will likely play for the duration of 12 hours)
• 2:00 PM - Mass
• 7:30 PM - Traditional Dance Performance
• 9:00 PM - “Castillo” - A firework tower display is set off and dancing starts
DIA DE LOS REYES MAGOS

JANUARY 6

• Children place their shoe outside of the door and receive gifts from the Three Wise Men
• A Calvagata de Los Reyes Magos is arranged to symbolize the arrival of the kings (Men ride their horses and parade through the streets of the village)
• Celebrate with Rosca de Reyes (Kings Cake)
• Attend Church
• Levantamiento del Niño Dios Waking Baby Jesus/dressing him up
WHEN IT’S TIME TO GO...

• Prior to returning to the states, community members will sign up for a raffle to determine who will sponsor religious events for the following year–
  ◦ The main prize being the Virgin of Guadalupe at their house
  ◦ Other options include Church decorations, Castillo, Band for the Virgen de Guadalupe, Dance Performance, etc
• All of this to show gratitude to Virgen de Guadalupe

“SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!”
WHAT DO WE DO WITH THIS INFORMATION?

• Share your perspective with others
• Adult decisions are NOT the children’s decisions
• Tradition rooted in Religion & Mexican culture
• Does it really work if you punish the student?
• Not about excused or unexcused absences—this is about the opportunity to learn
• Attendance Policy Equity
• Are children treated equally—parental requests for time out of school including Disney, regularly missing for non-sponsored school activities such as hockey, gymnastics, etc.

EMBRACE & ADAPT!
OPEN LINES OF COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS AND AVOID JUDGMENT

SCHOOLS NEEDS TO BE PREPARED TO HAVE STUDENTS ABSENT-LOOK AT OVERALL STUDENT POPULATION

UNDERSTAND THE LIMITATIONS OF ACCESS TO ELECTRONIC DEVICES

DISCUSS OPTIONS FOR CHILDREN TO PRESENT THEIR EXPERIENCES AT SCHOOL

OFFER SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS RELATED TO TRIP

MANAGE STUDENT’S OTHER ATTENDANCE RELATED ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED OUTSIDE OF THIS ONE TIME A YEAR ISSUE

COMMUNICATION AND UNDERSTANDING IS KEY!
TIPS FOR FAMILIES & STUDENTS

• Avoid other absenteeism throughout the school year
• Communicate in advance with teachers/school about trip
• Discuss challenges of completing standard homework assignments and consider options for sharing their experience
• Incorporate discussions of school content areas into the planning and participation of the trip to Mexico
• Make up required assignments in a timely manner
• Double check supplies before leaving (notebook, highlighter etc)
• Journal the experiences (paper/pencil)
• Research the destination
• Independent reading book for the trip
• Find ways to have children calculate expenses
WHY SCHOOL ACCEPTANCE MATTERS

• Do the school staff provide a feeling of belonging—sense of acceptance, respect, inclusion & support in a learning environment by embracing the culture of the students served?
• Do you perceive that family trips help children to feel connected through a shared experience, exploration, patience, creativity, tolerance, and new learning?
• How is diversity universally accepted or ignored in the classroom?
ADIÓS!

Q&A TIME

OUR CONTACT INFORMATION:

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SOURCES

• Photo Credits: Alex Moreno & Google
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• https://ced.ncsu.edu/news/2021/10/21/why-is-it-important-for-students-to-feel-a-sense-of-belonging-at-school-students-choose-to-be-in
• environments-that-make-them-feel-a-sense-of-fit-says-associate-professor-deleon-gra/
  https://www.scholastic.com/parents/family-life/parent
• child/missing-school-family-vacation.html
2024 National Dropout Prevention Conference

In New Orleans

Location
New Orleans Marriott
555 Canal Street
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130

OCTOBER 13-16, 2024

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