



¡FELIZ NAVIDAD!

A PILGRIMAGE TO MEXICO

PRESENTED BY:



REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION
KANE COUNTY



REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION
KANE COUNTY

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REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION
KANE COUNTY

ALEJANDRA “ALEX”
MORENO

Youth Outreach

 amoreno@kaneroe.org



WHERE IN THE WORLD IS



REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION
KANE COUNTY

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





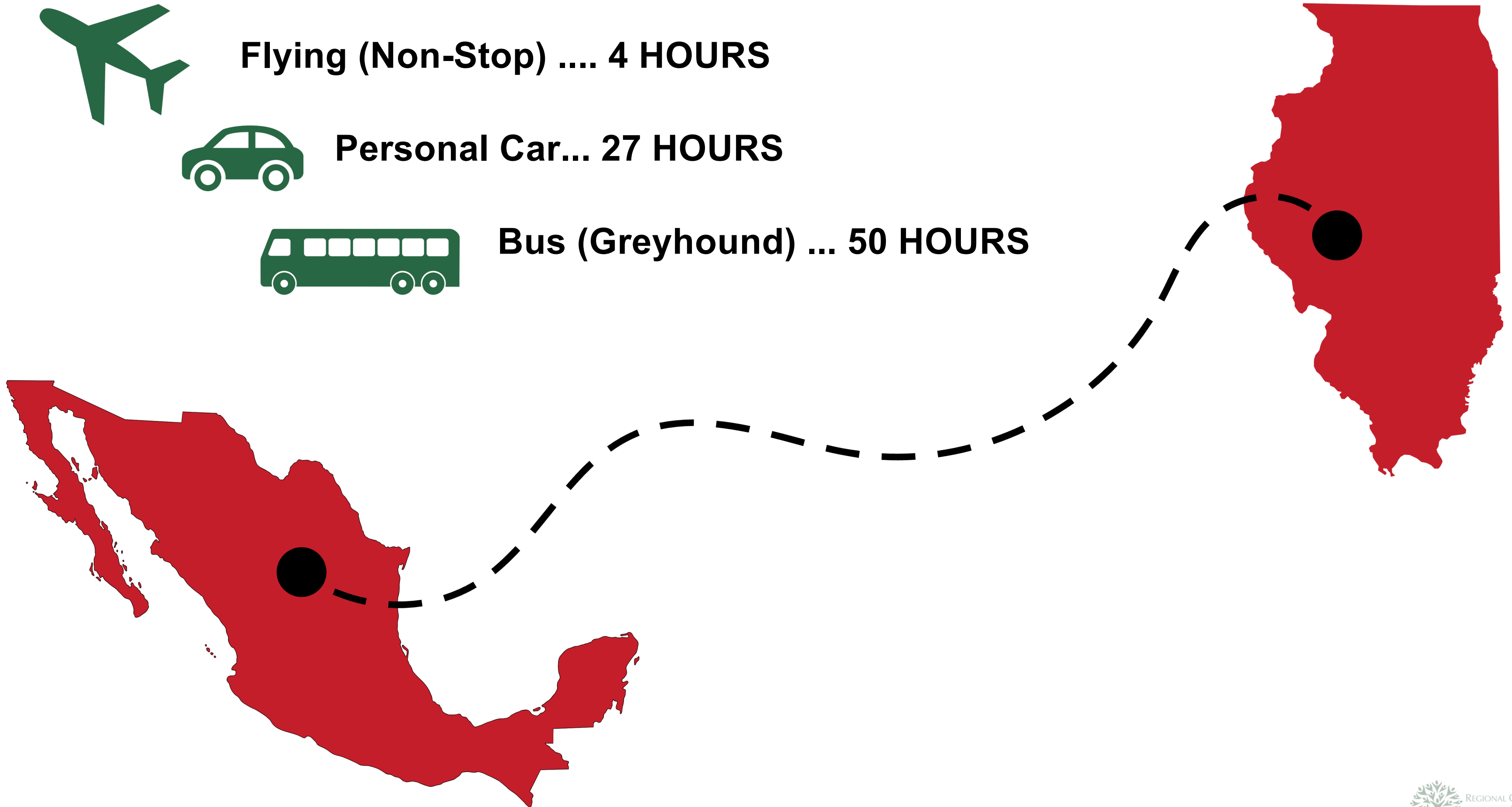
Flying (Non-Stop) 4 HOURS



Personal Car... 27 HOURS



Bus (Greyhound) ... 50 HOURS



FUNDRAISING

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



Banda baile 12/28/22	\$	60,000.00
Grupo 12/29/22	\$	7,500.00
Misas	\$	3,000.00
Cantante 11/29/22	\$	5,700.00
Cuetes		\$3,200.00
Bolas de luces	\$	10,400.00
Estudiantina/Musica para misas	\$	4,500.00
Limpieza/Ayuda	\$	2,000.00
Total Gastos en pesos		\$96,300.00

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 despues de gastos en pesos	\$7,036.00
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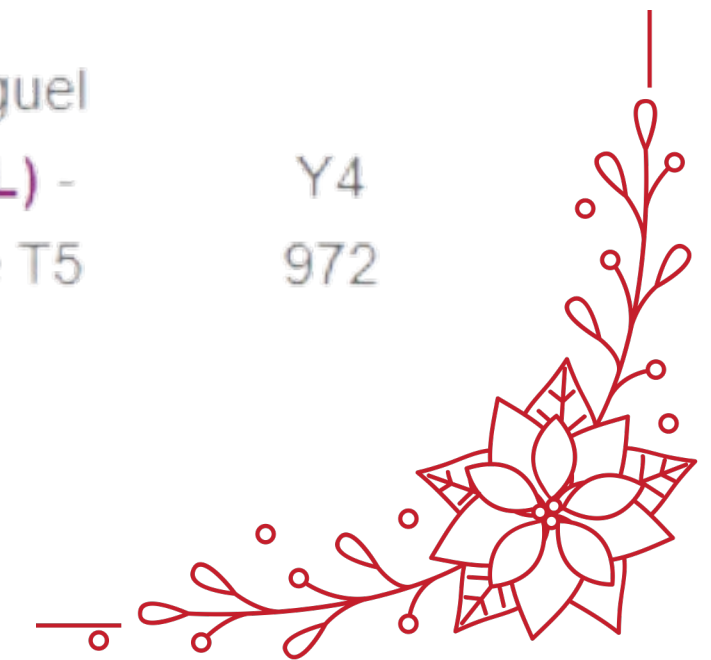


EXPENSIVE FLIGHTS



Reservation details

Flight date	Departure / Arrival time	To / From	Flight
Monday 26 Dec 2022BGB113DORDGDL	01:11 AM☾ / 05:34 AM☾	Chicago, O'Hare T5 (ORD) - Guadalajara, Miguel Hidalgo T1 (GDL)	Y4 973
Wednesday 04 Jan 2023BGB113DORDGDL	07:40 PM☾ / 11:39 PM☾	Guadalajara, Miguel Hidalgo T1 (GDL) - Chicago, O'Hare T5 (ORD)	Y4 972



\$2,672 for 2 Plane Tickets

TRAVEL CONCERN

- Safety
- Travel Delays
- **Difficult Road Conditions**
- Group Travel



You finally arrived in Mexico...
that must mean...



POSADAS

DECEMBER 16 - 24

- **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



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

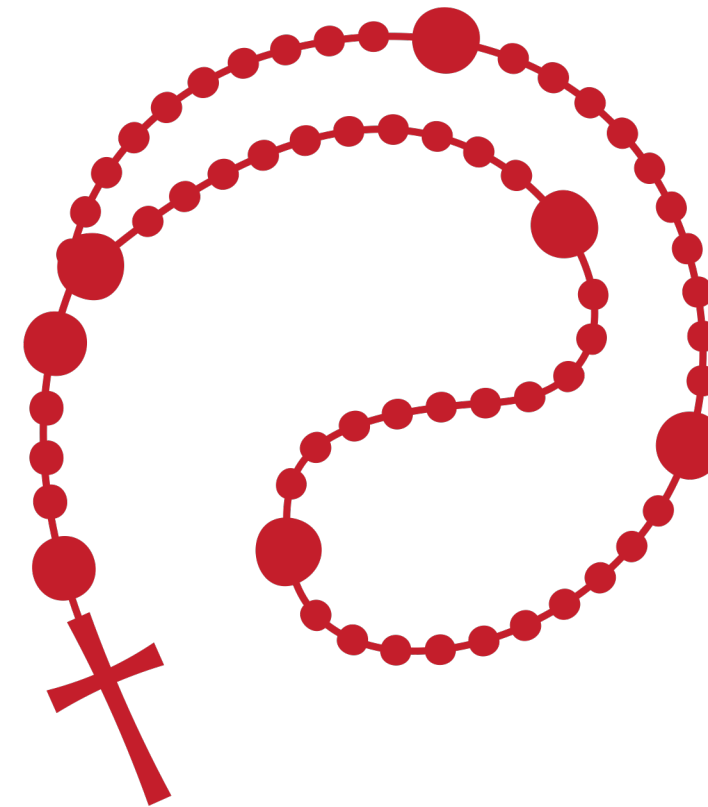
DECEMBER 20 - 28

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 Folklórico, 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)*

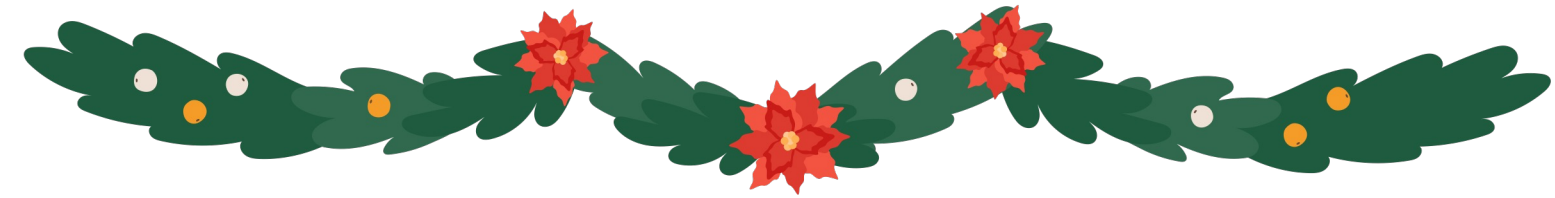


CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 25

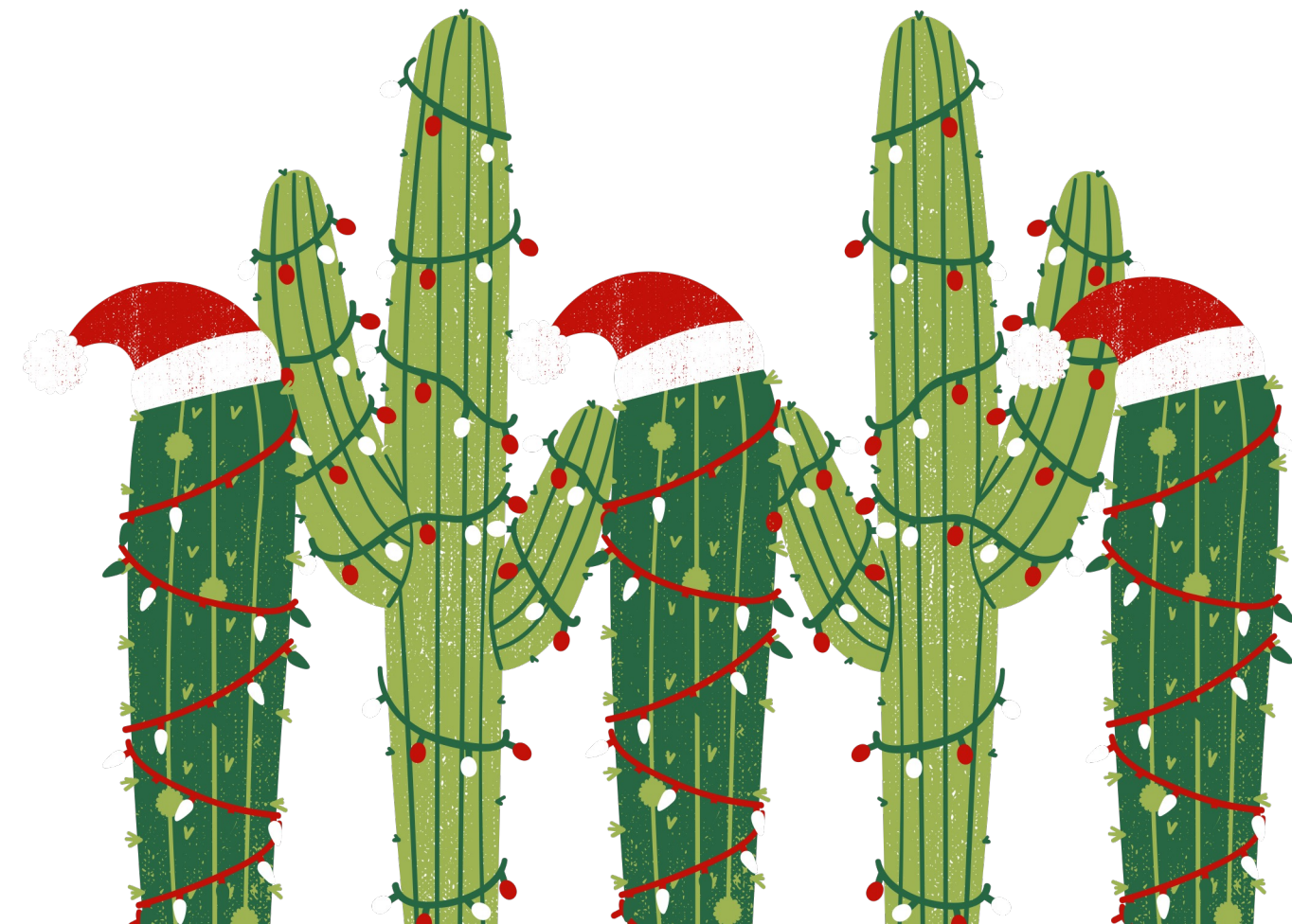
- The godparents gather at the church to give all the children in the village a gift





FIESTA PATRONAL

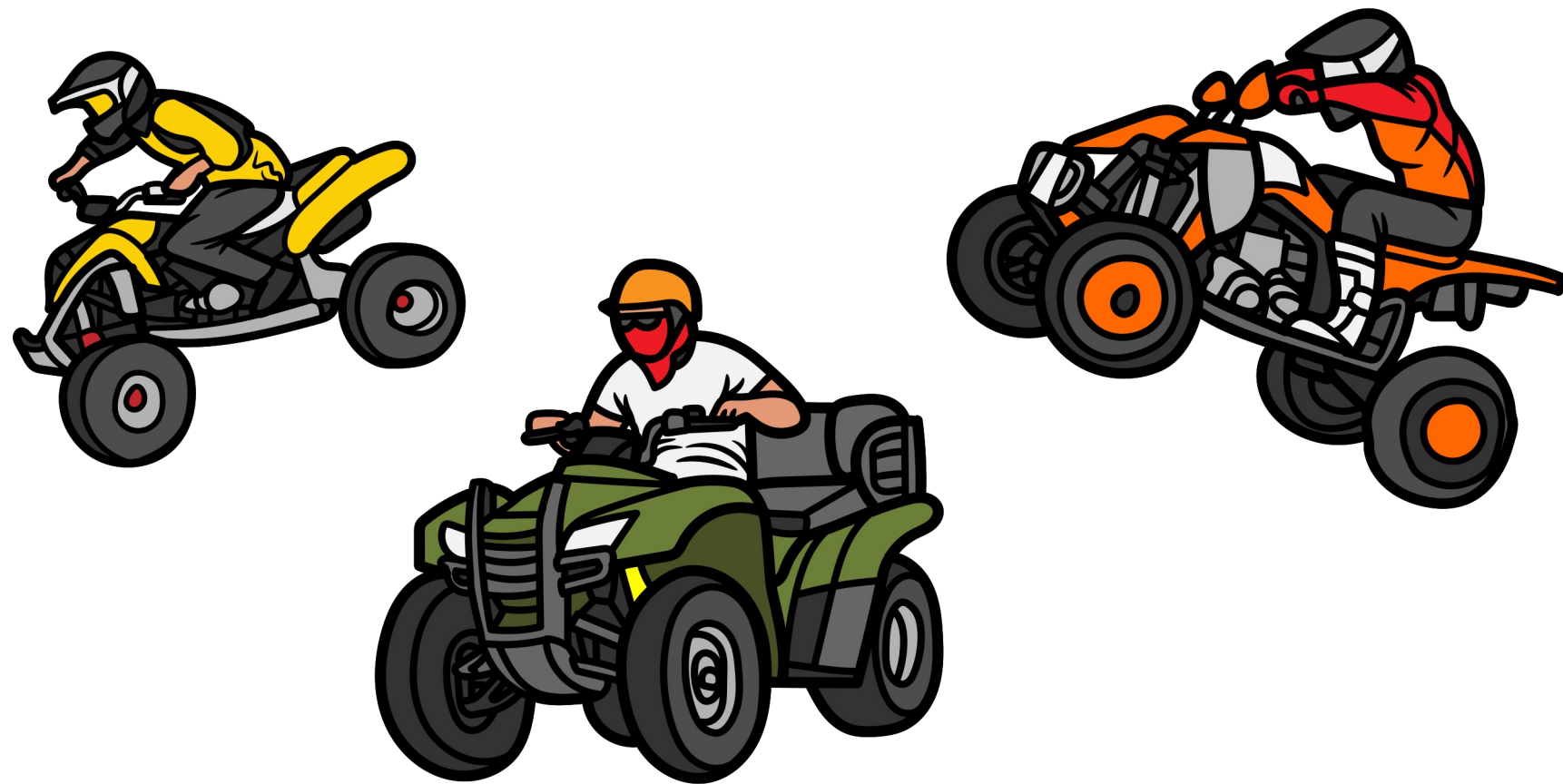
- A Mexican tradition of honoring their patron saint
- Both a traditional religious activity and a lively secular celebration centered around the village church and plaza
- Give thanks to the Virgen de Guadalupe for the blessings given upon the people and the village



ENTERTAINMENT RACES

DECEMBER 26

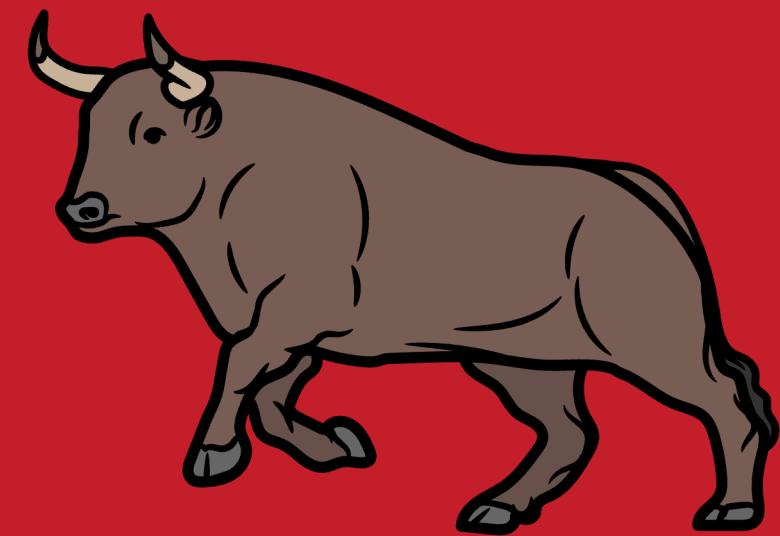
- Family friendly event
- Adults and children race ATVs or Horses



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

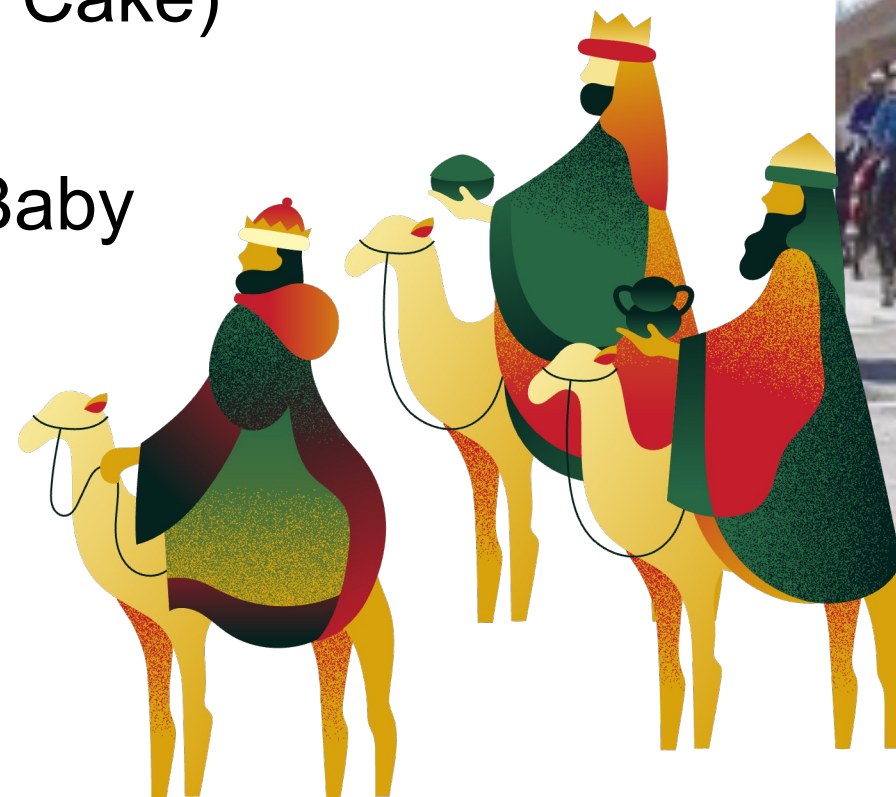
**FIESTA
PATRONAL -
DAY 2
DECEMBER
29TH**

- **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!

TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL LEARNING

- 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



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?

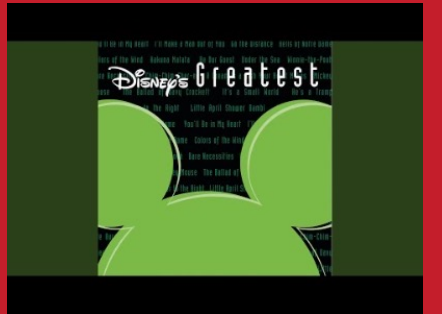
ADIÓS!

Q&A TIME

OUR CONTACT INFORMATION:

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SOURCES

- Photo Credits: Alex Moreno & Google
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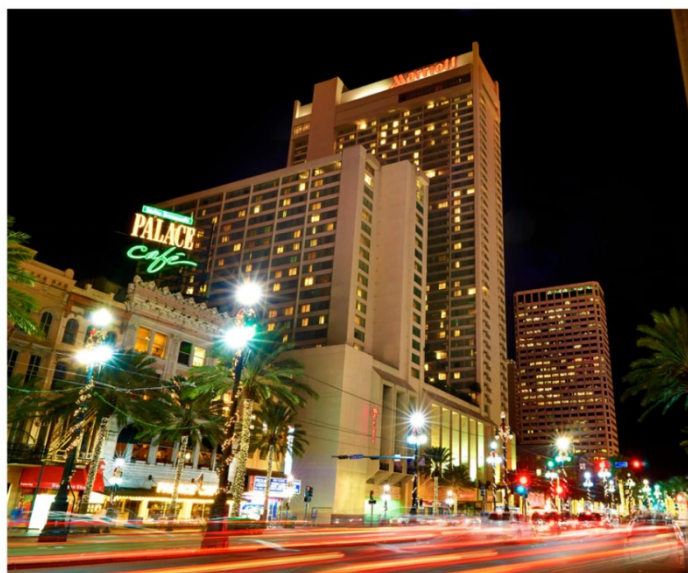


2024 NATIONAL DROPOUT PREVENTION CONFERENCE

In New Orleans



LOCATION



New Orleans Marriott
555 Canal Street
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130



OCTOBER
13-16, 2024



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