

# **LIVE DIFFERENT – MEXICO**

*"We believe in a generation of youth who are not limited by the status quo, who are not intimidated by impossibilities, who will be the voice of change, who will speak out against injustice and alter the course of history."*



**Dates: Spring Break 2018**

**Teacher Sponsors: Mr. Garraway + Mme. Soetaert**

Due to the large number of interested participants, we will be completing an application process. Applications will be accepted through **January 13, 2017**. The application consists of a minimum **500 word essay**. Essay requirements are attached.

**Costs:** Approx. \$1400 per student. Final costs will be calculated once we have a confirmed number of participants and decide on our fundraising goals.

## **Program Summary:**

Live Different believes that this generation of youth has the capacity to affect change on the Earth. Throughout the year, they provide opportunities for high school students to participate in humanitarian relief projects by bringing practical assistance to those living in extreme poverty. Activities will include building homes, distributing supplies, providing food, and interacting with members of the community. This program allows them to see first-hand how two-thirds of the world live, expands their world view and gives them an opportunity to become educators on world poverty by sharing their experiences.

## **What will I be doing during Live Different?**

Every day is an adventure! For those of you who cope best with a structured, up-to-the minute planned schedule, get ready to have your world stretched just a little bit! Working in a different culture is an adventure in itself. Things don't always go as planned, so be prepared for last minute changes, delays, weather complications and so on. However, here is what you can expect: to take part in a building project that provides a school for the community or homes for families, getting involved in community outreach opportunities such as food and supply distribution, and sometimes even helping out with children's homes and other community opportunities. Anything else is a surprise! Many times when we go into a community, we begin to see other needs as well, and it's pretty cool to make some last-minute changes in the schedule in order to help where we can. Many times, the diversions end up being the highlight of the week!

### **Will we have opportunities to act like tourists or is it all work?**

Although you will be working very hard, we also make sure you have opportunities to participate in some fun activities. The specific project location will determine what extra-curricular activities are available.

### **What will the food be like?**

In Mexico we hire a cook who makes the best Mexican food (tacos, fajitas...) you have ever had in your life, breakfast is quite normal and we pack a lunch, usually sandwiches and snacks, for the work site each day.

### **Can I get community hours for school?**

Yes. We will have forms available during the projects. You may also bring your own form from your school.

### **What security measures are in place?**

The safety of our participants is our number one focus. We have a minimum of one adult to each 7 students. We are located in an extremely secure compound while in Mexico and we are in an area with little to no crime. No Live Different participant, whether adult or student, will be permitted to venture anywhere alone, day or night. We are also very safe and secure on the drive from San Diego to our location in Mexico.

### **Do I need any special immunizations?**

The list of recommended immunizations is listed on each application form: TD (tetanus/Diphtheria), MMR (measles/mumps/rubella), Poliomyelitis, Varicella (or history of Chicken Pox), Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Typhoid. It is recommended that you visit your family physician or travel clinic as soon as you know you are participating in Live Different to ensure all immunizations are up to date. The immunizations listed on the application form are current at time of editing and are subject to change. For more information on immunizations, please visit the Public Health Agency of Canada at [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca)

### **Why does it cost money to participate in Live Different?**

Many people are surprised to discover that programs such as Hero Holiday charge volunteers a fee to work on an overseas project. After all, you're providing free labour! First of all, a big thank you for doing so! However, here are a few things to help you understand our fees. As all non-profit organizations, we work with limited resources and are not in a position to cover the cost of hosting you. Costs include food, accommodations, daily transportation and fuel, international health coverage and travel expenses from Canada to the project and back by bus and air, and extra leisure activities. Also, a portion of your fees is used to cover project expenses such as building supplies and hiring local workers to assist with the more complicated aspects of construction that the average participant would not be capable of doing. The final cost per person is actually more than we charge the participant, but we work hard throughout the year recruiting sponsors and partners to help to keep the cost as low as possible for our participants. Although you may know

someone who got a great all-inclusive deal to a hot vacation spot, as an organization, we do not qualify for those “cheap deals” and they do not include the expense of administering and running the actual projects. Imagine trying to book a last-minute deal 3 days before the project for 100 people!

**Where will we be staying while in Mexico?**

The accommodation location varies, based on the number of participants and time of year. You will likely be staying in a dorm-style building with big rooms: one for girls and another for boys.

**Will there be a real bathroom?**

Bathrooms are available on all projects.

**Will I have access to safe drinking water?**

Yes. Purified water will be available for you at all times. You can fill up water bottles to take with you during the day and we will have a steady supply of drinking water on the work site. You'll discover just how much water you are capable of drinking because we'll make sure you drink a lot of it!

If you have any questions at all, please visit [livedifferent.com](http://livedifferent.com) or e-mail your teacher sponsor at [bgarraway@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:bgarraway@sd61.bc.ca)

You can also watch a video of our 2016 adventure - [bit.ly/oblivedifferent2016](http://bit.ly/oblivedifferent2016)

Thank you,

Brent Garraway and Nichelle Soetaert  
Teachers, Coaches, and Adventurers



## **LIVE DIFFERENT APPLICATION**

Due to the large number of applicants and limited number of spots, this essay will be an opportunity to show a snapshot of who you are and why you would be a valuable addition to Oak Bay's 2018 Live Different Mexico Build. The essay is only one portion of your application. You may be required to do an interview. Your grades, work habits and leadership abilities will also be considered. For the 2016 trip, 27 Oak Bay High teachers were involved in the decision-making process.

**Minimum 500 Words.**

In your essay, please include the following:

**\*\* Name, Grade, and Email Address \*\***

1. Please give a basic outline of who you are. Ex. Grade, hobbies, and accomplishments. A picture must be included.
2. Discuss any volunteering or leadership activities that you are currently working on or have worked on in the past.
3. Why do you want to participate in the Live Different experience?
4. What sets you apart from the other applicants?
5. What does Oak Bay High School mean to you?
6. What are you hoping to accomplish when you return from this experience? Are you hoping to take a larger role within the school? Is this a stepping stone to university? Are you looking to get more involved in volunteering and leadership activities?

**Due Date: January 13, 2017**

Late applications will not be considered. Thank you for your time and attention,

Mr. Garraway and Mme. Soetaert