

## Global Organizations that Coordinate International Mission Trips/Experiences

\*\* denotes specifically Catholic organization (although many are Christian, and/or are willing to design experiences to your particular faith or spirituality)

### Short Term Mission Trips (usually 1-2 weeks):

- Common Hope: [www.commonhope.org](http://www.commonhope.org)  
*Common Hope is an educational and social development organization working in Guatemala. In addition to short term delegations, Common Hope also provides an opportunity to be involved by sponsoring a child.*
- Project MN/Leon: [www.mn-leon.org](http://www.mn-leon.org)  
*Project Minnesota/Leon is a sister-state partnership joining the people of Minnesota and León, Nicaragua.*
- Maryknoll Friends Across Borders: [www.friendsacrossborders.org](http://www.friendsacrossborders.org) \*\*  
*Friends Across Borders offers several trips a year to various countries where their missionaries are involved, offering interaction with the local people, group prayer and discussion, and input from local “experts” including Maryknoll missionaries and returned missionary guides.*
- GATE (Global Awareness Through Experience): [www.gate-travel.org](http://www.gate-travel.org) (608) 791-5283\*\*  
*GATE's immersion programs take place in Latin America and Eastern Europe, and offer the opportunity to learn from people-to-people connecting with the poor, as well as from social analysts, teachers, theologians and economists.*
- Global Volunteers: [www.globalvolunteers.org](http://www.globalvolunteers.org)  
*Global Volunteers offers experiences in over 100 communities in 21 countries, both within the US and abroad. These experiences of living and working with local people on life-affirming service programs can take place for one, two or three weeks. This can be done as an individual, family or group.*
- Global Citizens Network: [www.globalcitizens.org](http://www.globalcitizens.org)  
*Global Citizens Network sends short-term teams of volunteers to communities in other cultures where participants immerse themselves in the culture and daily life of the community, and are partnered with grassroots organizations meeting local needs. This can be done as an individual or family.*
- Center for Global Education, Augsburg College, MN: [www.augsburg.edu/global](http://www.augsburg.edu/global)  
*The Center for Global Education provides both student learning/traveling programs, and experiences for adult travelers to Latin America and Southern Africa.*
- San Lucas Toliman Mission in Guatemala: [www.dnu.org/service/sanlucas.html](http://www.dnu.org/service/sanlucas.html) \*\*  
*San Lucas, Guatemala has a connection with the Diocese of New Ulm, Minnesota. The Mission promotes programs that empower the people of San Lucas economically and socially.*
- Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA): [www.cfcausa.org/mats](http://www.cfcausa.org/mats) \*\*  
*CFCA focuses on sponsorships of children and elderly in our world who are struggling with poverty. On CFCA mission trips, participants can see firsthand how their sponsorship helps children and aging persons, as well as increase their own awareness of culture and global realities. Trips include destinations such as Latin America, Caribbean, Africa, India and the Philippines.*
- Community Links International: [www.commlinks.org](http://www.commlinks.org) (408) 723-5366 \*\*  
*Community Links sends people to Mexico, California, Peru, Bolivia and Nicaragua, and trips include educational sessions with invited presenters, work on projects, cultural encounters, and discussion/reflection time individually and as a group. Some trips may also include a home-stay; themes of the trips vary.*
- Rising Villages in Guatemala: [www.risingvillages.org](http://www.risingvillages.org) \*\*  
*Rising Villages was begun by the Huebsch's, founders of Common Hope, from the St. Cloud Diocese. They offer 9-day experiences that combine Catholic prayer with hands-on family development work. Their experiences are designed to accommodate older adults.*
- BorderLinks: [www.borderlinks.org](http://www.borderlinks.org) (520) 628-8263  
*BorderLinks is a bi-national non-profit organization that offers experiential educational seminars along the border of the US and Mexico, focusing on issues, culture, economics and lives of people living in the borderlands. They offer unique trips for unique groups, each experience fitted to the needs and interests of its participants.*

- SHARE (Salvadoran Humanitarian Aid, Research and Education) Foundation:  
[www.share-elsalvador.org/delegations](http://www.share-elsalvador.org/delegations)

*SHARE's delegations focus on various themes – such as youth, El Salvador elections, commemoration of the martyred US churchwomen – and occur at varying times, but all the trips revolve around awareness-raising and strengthening justice for Salvadorans.*

### **Longer-Term Experiences (a few months – 3 years):**

- **Catholic Volunteer Network (CVN):** [www.catholicvolunteernetwork.org](http://www.catholicvolunteernetwork.org) **\*\***(however, not all of the organizations/opportunities listed through their organization are specifically Catholic)  
*CNVN coordinates mission and service opportunities of varying lengths, locations, service-types, and volunteer ages and skill-levels. They offer a listing of all opportunities from their partnering organizations as well as help in searching and/or applying for the place that might be best suited for you. This is an excellent resource for anyone considering longer-term service!*
- **Maryknoll's China Volunteer Program:** [www.chinaserv.org](http://www.chinaserv.org) **\*\***  
*Maryknoll's China volunteer program invites folks to volunteer teaching in China schools for one year, or an intensive summer teaching program.*
- **Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters Lay Missionaries:** [www.ssps-usa.org/page16.html](http://www.ssps-usa.org/page16.html) **\*\***  
*This program invites women ages 20 and older to work with the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters as lay missionaries for a summer program or 1-year commitment.*
- **Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Volunteers:** [crs.org/about/careers/volunteer](http://crs.org/about/careers/volunteer) **\*\***  
*CRS volunteers are asked to dedicate 2 years to supporting the work of CRS. They spend 12 months in service abroad, participating in CRS programs in countries around the world that address areas such as: agriculture, community health, education, HIV/AIDS, microfinance, and peace-building; the following 12 months is spent in the US volunteering to help promote CRS and engage others in its work.*
- **PeaceCorps:** [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov)  
*PeaceCorps is an organization that encourages Americans to dedicate themselves in service of peace and development work throughout the world. Although it is a secular organization and does not include evangelization, many volunteers find their motivations through their faith background.*
- **AmeriCorps:** [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov)  
*AmeriCorps is the branch of the PeaceCorps that focuses internally on service within the US.*
- **Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC) / Jesuit Volunteers International (JVI):** [www.jesuitvolunteers.org](http://www.jesuitvolunteers.org)  
**\*\***(but many services and volunteers are inter-faith)  
*The JVC looks for individuals 21 years and older with college degree or applicable work experience, to live in community with other JVC volunteers and serve domestically (a 1-year commitment) or internationally (a 2-year commitment) with partnering agencies providing a variety of services.*
- **Maryknoll Lay Missioners:** [www.mklaymissioners.org](http://www.mklaymissioners.org) **\*\***  
*Maryknoll Lay Missioners is a Catholic organization inspired by the mission of Jesus to live and work with poor communities in Africa, Asia and the Americas, responding to basic needs and helping to create a more just and compassionate world. Lay Missioners are asked to serve for three years.*
- **Global Volunteers:** [www.globalvolunteers.org](http://www.globalvolunteers.org)  
*In addition to their one-to-three week trips, Global Volunteers also offers extended stay experiences for up to 24 weeks of living and working with local people on various service programs.*

***There are also a variety of organizations, including some of those listed above, who also plan mission experiences domestically (within the US), which often work best for youth groups. Please ask if you'd like to see that list as well.***