

Youth/Adult Delegation to WES Sister Community El Rodeo, El Salvador 2018

Dates: Wednesday, June 20– Sunday, July 1

June 20 – Travel to San Salvador

June 21-22 – in-country orientation, training and team building

June 23- travel to El Rodeo

June 23 – July 1 - in El Rodeo

July 1 – return to the U.S.

Costs* Application Fee	\$100 (non-refundable)	Due: February 15
Participation Fee**	\$700 (approximate)	Due: June 1
Airfare***	\$600-\$800 (varies annually)	Due: none, but earlier is often cheaper!

** Please do not consider cost an automatic deterrent. We offer fundraising training that can offset some or all of your expenses. See "Fund Raising Training" below. Also, the delegation qualifies as a "mission trip" and, therefore, the delegation costs are tax deductible. Please direct questions to your tax adviser.*

*** The participation fee includes coordination, administration, travel insurance, in-country training and orientation, housing, meals, transportation and exit tax, as well as, a donation to the community's fund for current or future projects. It does not include spending money (we recommend \$100.00), immunizations, medical examinations, passport, or the \$10.00 visa entrance fee.*

**** A non-stop flight will be identified by the delegation coordinators. Each delegate is responsible for the purchase of their ticket on the specified flight. It is anticipated that tickets should be purchased no later than the month of April.*

Want to apply?

Complete and submit the attached application, along with a \$100 non-refundable processing fee to:

Global Connections, c/o WES

7750 16th Street, NW

Washington, DC 20012

Due: February 15

Make checks payable to: WES

Note in the memo line: Global Connections Application

Objectives of the July 2018 Delegation:

- Live in solidarity with the community of El Rodeo, strengthening the relationship between the WES congregation and the community of El Rodeo.
- Get to know the people of El Rodeo, deepening personal relationships through the homestay experience.
- Expand our understanding of the El Rodeo's economic, social and political realities through experiencing daily life.
- Listen, learn and identify community needs and resources through the use of participatory processes.
- Use Community Capacity Building processes as we collaborate with the community in addressing the community's needs.

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What will the delegation do?

While the community in collaboration with delegation coordinators will determine the schedule, the delegates will probably do some or all of the following:

- Daily life activities - work in the milpa (corn field), help prepare meals, assist with the laundry, help in the school, play soccer!
- Work with community members on the water project
- Assist Dr. Susan Runner at the dental clinic
- Work with the community on a community trash pick-up or trail restoration and the Little Library
- Meet with the ADESCO (elected community leadership) to plan the implementation of delegation activities and on-going endeavors.
- Household visits - paired with El Rodeo youth, visit each of the 25 homes to share information about assemblies, field trips, fiestas, work projects, etc.

Who may participate?

- Applicants who turn in a completed application with a \$100 non-refundable processing fee on or before February 15
- Youth from the greater WES community who are at least 16 years old (by September 1, 2018) and adults who are interested in accompanying the youth.
- Priority is given to WES members.
- We will accommodate as many youths as possible.
- Spanish language skills are a plus but are not required.
- Due to an outbreak of the ZIKA virus, women who are pregnant or who are planning to become pregnant over the next year, should not consider applying.

How many people may participate?

El Rodeo has extended an invitation to host up to 12 people. The delegation mix could be 6 youth and 6 adults, 10 youth and 2 adults, or anything in between. In addition, Cristina Starr, our in-country coordinator and translator, will be part of the delegation.

Fundraising Training

ALL delegates, regardless of age or employment status, are welcome to fundraise to offset the personal expense of the trip. A training session will be offered at WES in early March, date TBD. Proven and effective strategies will be covered during the training. Samples, checklists and assistance will be provided. (Those engaging in fund raising must attend the training and will need to devote a about 5 hours before March 30 toward this effort.)

RSVP to Peggykgoetz@gmail.com by March 1st if you plan to fundraise.

Insurance Requirements

The participation fee includes international insurance (with \$100,000.00 coverage and a \$250.00 deductible). In addition, **all participants are required to carry their own health insurance** in the unlikely

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event that an accident exceeds the maximum coverage. Participants are asked to check with their insurance carrier to verify that their policy is valid outside the US.

Passport Requirements

All participants must have a current US passport with an expiration date after January 1, 2019. If you do not have a passport, apply for one immediately. (If you have a non-US passport, you will have to research and document the entry requirements for El Salvador and submit that information with your application.)

Immunizations & Health

While there are no immunizations required for entry into El Salvador, we recommend the following:

- An up-to- date tetanus booster
- Hepatitis A & B

Contact your physician at least 6 weeks before departure and inform them that you will be traveling to rural El Salvador. Your doctor may recommend the following

- malaria medication
- typhoid fever immunization

Beyond the immunizations recommended above, you in consultation with your physician are responsible for determining the medications to be taken before departure and while in-country. Additional information can be obtained from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 404/639-3311; www.cdc.gov or from Passport Heath; www.passporthealthusa.com

It is possible, though not likely, to be exposed to Dengue Fever or other diseases while in El Salvador. For example, in 2012, two members who were part of an adjunct delegation in the community of Suchitoto contracted Dengue Fever. Therefore, we educate delegates on the prevention of this mosquito-borne disease and other hazards.

Due to an outbreak of the ZIKA virus, women who are pregnant or who are planning to become pregnant over the next year, should not consider applying.

Contacts/Coordinators:

Ross Wells, Chair, Global Connections Team: rosswells@starpower.net

Peggy Goetz: peggygoetz@gmail.com

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Background:

Ethical Culture is a religion that places ethics and relationships at its center. As such, an international service delegation is an ideal Ethical Culture social justice curriculum. Delegations provide the opportunity to build relationships across lines of difference, across borders, and in solidarity; an opportunity to live our values and, by living with a family, directly experience why we work for justice.

In November of 2009, three members of the Global Connections Committee of the Washington Ethical Society first visited the community of El Rodeo, El Salvador. During our first summer delegation in 2010, we crafted the following Partnership Agreement, formalizing our commitment to one another. Delegations have returned to El Rodeo every summer since 2010.

After a week of shared experience, The Global Connections Committee of the Washington Ethical Society (WES) of Washington, District of Columbia, United States of America, with the community of El Rodeo, Santa Marta, Cabanas, El Salvador (El Rodeo) together decided to adopt the following agreements to reflect our thoughts, feelings and intentions in facilitating our sister community relationship.

Partnership Agreement

On Thursday, July 15, 2010 at 8:00 p.m. the residents of El Rodeo agree to:

- Establish and maintain an honest and open communication with WES,
- Continue organizing the community to achieve its plans and goals,
- Work with WES to plan and receive delegations in El Rodeo and to make them feel at home with confidence and security,
- Work together with WES on any projects and processes of the partnership,
- Maintain documentation of the relationship and processes between El Rodeo and WES,
- Honor and keep all agreements with WES.

The Global Connections Committee agrees to:

- Establish and maintain an honest and open communication with El Rodeo,
- Continue to visit El Rodeo at least annually,
- Learn and respect the rules and customs of El Rodeo and treat each person with love, dignity and respect,
- Keep the people of El Rodeo in our thoughts and in our hearts,
- Support and accompany the community of El Rodeo with any projects and dreams they undertake to achieve,
- Stand and act in solidarity with El Rodeo within our congregation, in our community, (and with the government of the United States),
- Communicate clearly what resources we do or do not have and share what we can,
- Honor and keep all agreements made with El Rodeo.

Signed by Global Connections delegates: Julie Farrar, Peggy Goetz, Maya Taft-Morales, Sean Taft-Morales, George Taylor, Ross Wells, Pam Williams and members of the community of El Rodeo.

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DATES TO REMEMBER – Mark your calendars!

- **FEBRUARY 15:** Application and \$100 nonrefundable deposit due.
- **MARCH 1:** Deadline to RSVP to Peggykgoetz@gmail.com for Fundraising Training
- **MARCH (TBD):** Fund Raising Workshop at WES in early March
- **MARCH/APRIL/ASAP:** Sometime during late March or early April, each delegate must purchase their ticket for the specified non-stop flight.
- **MAY (TBD):** Mandatory Orientation session for first time delegates and their parent(s), if the delegate is a minor. The date of this session will be determined by those participating in the session.
- **JUNE 1:** Deadline for participation fee
- **JUNE 19:** dinner & packing party
- **JUNE 20 –JULY 1:** Delegation Dates

“This trip is good for anyone who wants to help other people live a better future. Last summer we built relationships with the people of El Rodeo by staying at their houses, having meals with them, playing sports and games with the kids and doing fun activities at night. Strong, positive feelings grew for all of us as we worked and played together. Once you’re there you’ll feel like you want to stay longer than you planned, and then once you leave you can’t wait to go back.”

-George Taylor, 2010 delegate

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APPLICATION

Name (as it appears on passport): _____

Address: _____

CITY _____ State: _____ Zip _____ CITIZENSHIP: _____

Passport #: _____ Issue date _____ Expiration date _____

Phone :home _____ cell _____

E-MAIL: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

First call in an emergency:

Name: _____ Addl. Contact Name: _____

Relationship to you: _____ Relationship to you: _____

Daytime phone: _____ Daytime phone: _____

Evening phone: _____ Evening phone: _____

Cell phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Email: _____ Email: _____

(Additional pages may be added as needed when answering the questions.)

1. Why are you interested in joining the delegation? What first sparked your interest?

2. Have you ever been to Latin America or other countries outside the United States before? If so, when, where and in what capacity?

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3. Do you speak Spanish? ___No ___A little ___I can communicate___Fluent
4. What talents, skills, or passions would you bring to the delegation?

5. Do you have any particular challenges, physical limitations, severe allergies or other health issues of which we should be aware?

6. Do you have any mental health or emotional issues of which we should be aware?

7. Are you being treated or receiving medication for any condition: physical, mental or emotional?

8. Comments / questions:

I understand the purpose of this delegation is to strengthen the relationship between WES and our sister community of El Rodeo and I will be asked to put the group's needs ahead of my own during the delegation. I understand by participating in this delegation, I am an ambassador of the Washington Ethical Society. As such, I assume the responsibility to contribute positively and to do my part to contribute toward a positive experience for other delegates and community members. Using the principles of respect, generosity and goodwill, I will strive to elicit the best in myself and others.

I assume total responsibility for my conduct. I fully understand that anyone engaging in unsafe, illegal or sexual behavior or who violates the delegation guidelines will be sent home immediately and at their own expense.

I understand that WES delegations have an excellent safety record. I also understand and accept the fact that travel to El Salvador involves risk. These risks include but are not limited to water borne illness, Dengue Fever, weather induced emergency, civil unrest, violence, and the risks of air, foot and motor travel.

_____ Participant signature _____ date

If under 21 years of age:

_____ Parent signature _____ date

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Send completed application form with a non-refundable \$100 processing fee (payable to WES) to: Global Connections/WES, 7750 Sixteenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20012