

Campamento El Guacio

Carr. 119 km. 44.7
San Sebastián, PR 00685



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Any additional information will be discussed and handed out on site.

INTRODUCTION

Campamento El Guacio

Guacio Project, a dream between 1943 and 1945, became a reality in January 1946. The Rev. Edward O'Dell, Presbyterian Mission Coordinator for Cuba and Puerto Rico and the Rev. Angel Archilla Cabrera, Superintendent of the Presbyterian Church in Puerto Rico invited Stanley and Jeanne Harbinson to visit a farm belonging to the Presbyterian Church in Puerto Rico in San Sebastián, seeking proposals for the use of this farm. Harbinson, a conscientious objector during the Second World War, worked with his wife in a community project in Castañer, Lares. During that time there were various projects in Puerto Rico for young objectors to serve in communities. There were two objectives which motivated initiating the project were: serving the neighboring community and providing youth with an experience for the world of work

In community service, they motivated planting in the parcels of land where the persons of the community lived. They gave educational services to improve their homes and personal lives, helping in health and recreation. They developed a literacy program and held religious services, eventually a church was organized in the community.

For many years, the Camp was used only as a retreat and conference center, this changed once Hurricane Maria hit.

What happened in Campamento El Guacio after Hurricane María?

Right after the Hurricane hit, the Director in Campamento el Guacio started distributing water. The camp has its own water system and there was no running water in the community. Seeing people's needs, ice was a much needed commodity- an ice machine was requested and donated, providing 500 pounds of ice daily, which was distributed to the nearby community that did not have electricity.

As there was no running water nor electricity in the community, three washing machines were available. People took turns at the Camp to do their wash. Housing and meals were provided for volunteer groups (relief workers) who were working in the nearby towns, San Sebastián, Las Marias and

Maricao. A psychologist provided counseling as a volunteer service at the Camp for the community. The Camp became a distribution center of food, basic needs, solar lamps, water filters, clothes (donated by different groups, organizations and churches) and medical attention.

At this time, Campamento El Guacio continues serving the community in many ways and serving Presbyterians, other churches and groups as a retreat and conference center. Campamento El Guacio is also a hosting site for mission groups coming to this area to carry out their mission projects. We are ready to welcome and provide housing, meals and fellowship to groups wishing to come to Puerto Rico to continue helping in the recovery efforts.

WHAT IS A MISSION GROUP?

A Mission Group is made up of persons over 15 years of age, representing churches, organizations or other groups, who volunteer to offer their time and talents in the recovery, restoration of the areas affected by Hurricane María in the Northwest Area of Puerto Rico; San Sebastián, Lares, Las Marías and Maricao.

Buenvista, which in English means *Good view*, (the lodging facility) can host up to 44-member group. Each group is expected to have a group leader for every ten members. The “main” leader of the group is responsible for the conduct of the entire group. This person will be held responsible for the group’s actions and conduct.

WHAT DO MISSION GROUPS DO?

Mission groups can carry out mission projects within our Camp, in the surrounding community and/or nearby towns. Although Campamento el Guacio is a designated host site through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, the mission groups are expected to be responsible for finding suitable projects depending on their needs and capabilities. Projects can be coordinated with PESAC, a local social action group (we will provide the contact information) and our Presbytery PDA LTR Coordinator.

Mission groups will be having different work experiences during the day, sharing of these experiences should be included the group’s program. Campamento el Guacio can provide meeting areas/indoors or outdoors for this enriching experience.

It is important to understand that Mission Groups are not sponsored by PDA nor Campamento el Guacio. Mission group leaders are responsible for the care and conduct of their members.

WHERE WILL WE STAY?

Buenvista is the sleeping facility on our hosting site. *Buenvista* can host 44 volunteers. The rooms can accommodate either four (4) or six (6) people to a room. There are rooms for female and male volunteers. Each room has either four or six bunk beds equipped with new beds and mattresses. Each room has its own bathroom; toilet, wash basin and shower, with hot and cold water. Each room has air-conditioning.

Volunteers can bring sheets, towels, pillows or we can provide them for a fee of \$5.00 per day, per person. Please notify before coming if you require bedding or are bringing.

The cost for each room is:

\$100.00– room for four

\$150.00– room for six

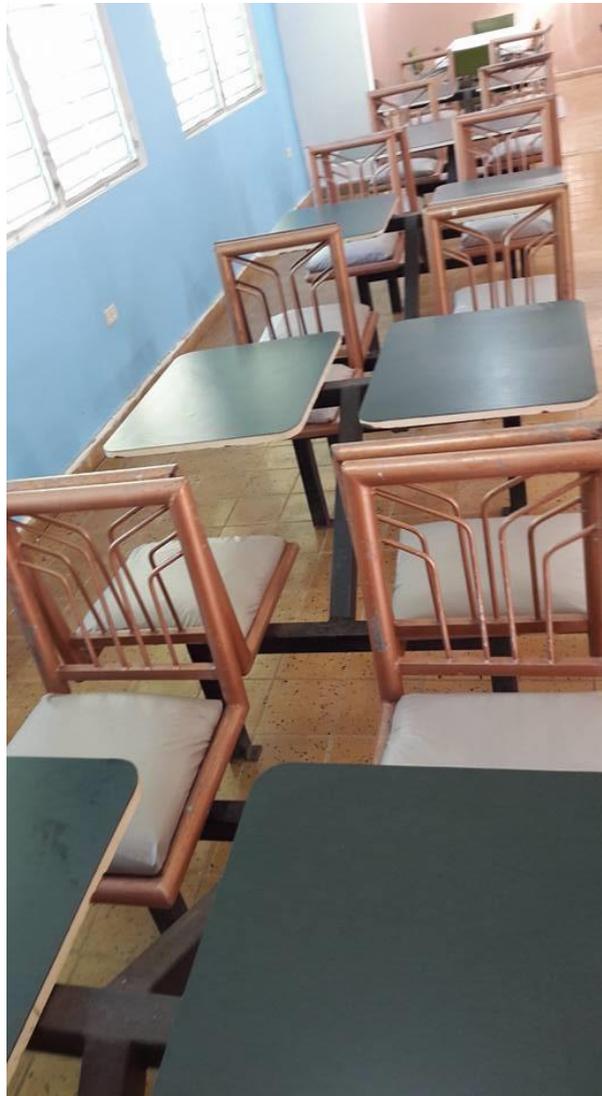
The cost is per room and not per person.



WHERE WILL WE EAT?

Meals are provided in the *Camp Comedor* or “kitchen area”. The cost for three meals is \$25.00 per day per person. Please notify dietary restrictions, or any particular needs; preferably before coming.

Some of the well-known fast foods are available in town. A typical, outdoor type restaurant is at a short distance, opens Friday, Saturday and Sunday.



WILL WE HAVE FREE TIME?

Typically the work day runs from 8 AM to 3 PM and some free time is highly recommended. On your free time mission groups, can make use of the available:

- Basketball court
- Volleyball court
- Billiard Table
- Ping-Pong Table
- Lush walking and hiking areas

There is a skate park and zip line in San Sebastián (only on weekends). There are wonderful beaches, 40 minutes approximately from the Camp. “Gozalandia” a Water Falls local recreation area is within reasonable distance. A list of local facilities will be available upon arrival.



WHAT WILL WE BE DOING?

Some of the long-term recovery efforts that are much needed in the community are:

- Painting indoors and outdoors.
- Replacing and repairing roofs.
- Sealing concrete roofs.
- Cleanup and debris removal up jobs
- Mowing grass, cutting shrubs and small trees
- Other tasks depending on the needs and capabilities of the volunteers.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE COMING

The temperature is in the 80's from April to September, cooler from November to February. In Campamento El Guacio, the nights are cool. During the summer months it rains most afternoons, then the sun starts shining again. It is humid.

The age for a volunteer should not be less 15 years old. The ratio of volunteers per leader should not exceed 10 volunteers. Some exceptions have been made for younger volunteers, but it should be consider on a case by case basis, when parents are participating as group leaders.

Housing cost is described as \$100.00 or \$150.00 **per room per day as describe above on the type of room selected.**

Meals are \$25.00 per day per person. Provisions are made for special needs.

The mission groups must provide for their own transportation, from and to the airport, work site and recreational needs. The Camp Administrator can provide names of various local companies for transportation. First aid supplies are available at el Guacio, but groups should provide their own for working off the Camp. Tools are available for working in Camp; for working sites, mission groups must bring tools and supplies.

There should be at least one month notice communication with the Camp Director before arrival, a two-week follow-up and a one-week check-in before arrival.

Laundry facilities- washing and drying– will be available:

\$1.00 per load for each use of the washer

\$1.00 per load for each use of the dryer machine

Maintaining the areas clean– each person picking up after him/herself. Good habits should be observed. There cannot be any smoking, drug or alcohol use in Campamento el Guacio.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO BEFORE COMING

The leader should sign and mail contract with deposit fee of \$200.00 designated to Campamento El Guacio at least one month before arriving.

Mailing address

Campamento el Guacio
Wilmarí Vargas, Director
HC03 Box 33058
San Sebastián, PR 00685

Payment for housing and meals can be made by check at the end of trip, no cash or ATM available on site for electronic transactions.

Before the mission trip, it is important to complete liability forms for each member. Each person should have their insurance card among the documents to bring along. Tetanus shots are recommended for those that do not have them. Group's skills and capabilities should be assessed and leaders should coordinate missions regarding before arrival. Leaders need to have the groups' liability forms and medical release form if necessary completed.

PERSONAL PACKING LIST

Ideas of what to include in this section:

- Work gloves
- Long sleeve shirts with layers that can be added or taken off
- Insect repellent
- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Reusable water bottle
- Personal toiletry items
- Personal medications
- Sleeping bag or bedding/ **\$5.00 fee per day if don't bring**
- Pillows “
- Towels and wash cloths
- Hand sanitizer
- Cool/cotton clothing, shirts, t-shirts, shorts, etc.

What **NOT** to bring:

- Drugs
- Alcohol
- **Valuables**

INCLUDE A GREAT ATTITUDE!

