

Los Santos Packing List

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND WHILE PACKING!

It is important to pack accordingly and to avoid overpacking, because you are the one responsible for carrying your own luggage. Keep in mind the suggestions below:

- You will be doing service activities daily. You will work on a host family farm, in extracurricular activities, and work in beautification projects around your host community. You will also go on excursions that may include hiking on dusty or muddy roads. Pack clothes that you do not mind getting dirty.
- You should try to bring clothes you already have from home and feel comfortable wearing! You do not need to purchase a whole new wardrobe.
- Keep in mind the climate of your project and the AMIGOS Professional Code of Conduct (below) and pack accordingly.
- You will have the opportunity to wash your clothes at your host family's home weekly (how often will vary from family to family, but an average of every 4-6 days can be expected).
- You should be packing in 1 large backpack (40-60 L) and one small backpack. Your large bag can also be a duffel bag but keep in mind you are responsible to carry your own luggage and potentially walk into community through rocky or muddy roads, so a large backpack is recommended. We **do not recommend** rolling suitcases as they are difficult to roll in irregular roads and may get damaged. AMIGOS is not responsible for damaged luggage and Project Staff cannot help carry volunteer luggage.
- You are responsible for paying any and all fees associated with your checked bags.
- This document is meant to be a check list, we recommend you print it and use it to keep track of items as you pack.

AMIGOS PROFESSIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT

At AMIGOS, we do our best to be professional, culturally appropriate, and respectful. As such, we follow a professional code of conduct and dress code for volunteers and project staff.

PROFESSIONAL ATTIRE GUIDELINES

During your time as a staff member or as a volunteer, you are representing yourself, the values and mission of AMIGOS, our partner organizations, and your country. It is necessary to present yourself appropriately and professionally throughout your participation with AMIGOS. The way you present yourself is a crucial part of collaborating cross-culturally in local communities and with partner agencies, as such please follow the guidelines below that apply to all genders.

- Wear shirts that cover your entire abdomen (no crop tops/short shirts). Avoid strapless shirts or tank tops for program activities; wear t-shirts/shirts with short, mid-length, or long sleeves.
- Skirts/Dresses/Shorts must be to your knees.
- Wear a shirt at all times, including when doing physical labor or playing a sport.

- Wear swim suits with ample coverage of your top (in the case of female identifying volunteers) and bottom.
- Leggings can only be worn for exercise, sleeping, travel days, or physical labor.
- Pajamas may only be worn for sleeping.
- Close-toed shoes must be worn for physical labor and outdoor activities.
- Ripped jeans/pants are only appropriate for travel days and *only* when you will not be interacting with partner agencies, community members, or host families.
- No military pattern clothing.
- Do not pack clothing printed, embroidered, or patterned with derogatory language or images.
- For meetings with community members or partner agency representatives, wear long pants or skirt/dress per the length requirement and your AMIGOS t-shirt when possible.

Consider the versatility of your clothing choices as packing space is limited. You will not be allowed to wear clothing that does not meet the guidelines above.

PROJECT CLIMATE AND TEMPERATURE

Ochomogo has an average temperature of 71° Fahrenheit during the day. However, at night the temperature can drop to 53.6°-60.8° Fahrenheit. It is very important that participants bring warm clothing for the night for this site.

In Los Santos communities, temperatures range from 57° to 75.2° Fahrenheit during the months of June to August. Humidity during these months is between 70 to 80%. Some communities have cooler weather, so it is highly recommended that all participants bring warm clothing for the night.

Keep in mind that the rainy season in Central America starts in May and lasts until October. Heavy rain can be expected throughout the day.

WHAT SHOULD YOU BRING?

CLOTHING

Do you have it?	Item	Recommendations and descriptions
	10 pairs of underwear and socks	6 pairs of socks should be comfortable to wear with hiking boots.
	3 bras, if desired	Sports bras are recommended.
	12 tops	1 nice shirt for school visits or meetings with community leaders. At least 2 long sleeve tops to use during volunteering farm activities. Wear shirts that cover your entire abdomen (no crop tops/short shirts).
	7 bottoms	At least 2 pairs of pants that you do not mind getting dirty for volunteering. Pants should not have rips, holes or other “distressed” cosmetic additions. Shorts need to be knee length.

	2 pajamas	Warm and conservative.
	1 pair of close-toed athletic shoes	You will walk daily to get to daily activities.
	1 pair of hiking boots	Los Santos terrain is steep, and you will work in farms therefore it is safer and easier to walk with steady hiking boots. We recommend waterproof hiking shoes, but it is not required.
	1 pair of flip flops	Shower/house shoes
	1 pair of sandals	Tevas, chacos, crocs, etc.
	1 rain jacket	Lightweight
	1 sweatshirt and 1 sweater	Temperature tends to be lower at nights. Pack a warm sweater and a light sweater.
	1 hat	A hat with a brim, a baseball hat, bucket hat, etc. It can get very sunny during the day.
	1 turquoise or teal bandana	Wear it for travel day!

TOILETRIES

Do you have it?	Item	Do you have it?	Item
	1 toothbrush and toothpaste		1 bar of soap
	1 hairbrush		1 packet of floss
	1 deodorant		1 small bottle of shampoo and conditioner
	1-2 razors / blades		Tampons / pads / menstrual cup (as necessary)

MEDICINES

Do you have it?	Item	Do you have it?	Item
	2 BinaxNOW brand COVID test kits (each box should contain two tests)		5 disposable face masks
	Prescription medications and vitamins/supplements, if applicable		Basic first aid kit (refer to Family Preparation Guide for detailed list).

MISCELLANEOUS

Do you have it?	Item	Recommendations and descriptions
	1 towel	Quick drying if possible.
	1 Small dry bag or 2 plastic storage bags	To keep your stuff dry!
	1 reusable water bottle	In Costa Rica water is potable in all places the project visits. We recommend 1 L capacity.

	1 LifeStraw water bottle of 1 liter capacity	Protects against 99.999999% of bacteria (including E. coli, Salmonella), 99.999% of parasites (including Giardia and Cryptosporidium), 99.999% of microplastics, chlorine, organic chemical matter, dirt, and, and cloudiness; improves taste.
	1 pair of sturdy garden or work gloves	For service work
	Passport & two copies of the first page of your passport	We recommend storing these in a plastic bag or dry bag to keep them protected and in good condition.
	Original COVID vaccination card	In some places you might need to present it
	Sunscreen SPF 50 or greater	Preferably a reef-safe sunscreen . Some options are: Kokuka Sun Care Zin Sunscreen SPF 50 or C'Est Moi Sunshine Sunscreen SPF 50
	2 bottles of mosquito repellent with at least 30% DEET	We encourage to use a cream-based repellent. In case of skin sensitivity or an allergy to DEET can use any of the following: Picaridin IR3535 Oil of lemon eucalyptus Para-menthan-diol (PMGD) 2-undecanone
	1 mosquito net and cord or rope to hang it	Some options are: Circular full net – one hanging point Rectangular hanging net
	1 sleeping bag	Temperature tends to be lower at nights. Recommend temperature range: 60°F (16°C) to 68°C (20°C). Here are some examples of sleeping bag. Sleeping bag by 10-20° C Sleeping bag
	1 Small umbrella	It is rainy season in Costa Rica during the months you will visit. It is very important to bring an umbrella.
	1 Rain Poncho	This is important and useful for volunteering at the farms in case it is raining. These are some examples of you can bring: Rain Poncho Amazon Rain Poncho
	A gift for your host family	Some options: A picture of you and your family Pictures of the place you are from Small regional snack from your home
	1 credit card	This will be used to pay for checked luggage. The bank should be notified that it will be used internationally prior to travel.
	\$50-\$100 in small bills (\$1, \$5, \$10)	The region that you will visit has a largely cash-based economy. Volunteers can use this cash to purchase snacks in the community and/or souvenirs for friends and family back home. Project staff will support you in exchanging local currency as need it.

OPTIONAL

Do you have it?	Item	Do you have it?	Do you have it?
	1 Wristwatch (non-WiFi-enabled) or an alarm clock		1 Small camera (non-WiFi-enabled)
	1 scarf		1 pair of sunglasses
	Reading books, no more than two		Board games and cards

THINGS THAT YOU SHOULD AVOID PACKING

- Expensive jewelry or other luxury items.
- Wi-Fi enabled devices.
- Clothing with discriminatory messages or military patterns.