



Dear parents of a YL Adventures Baja camper,

Thanks so much for sending your child to a life-changing week of service and growth in Baja with Young Life Adventures! We are aware that Mexico travel safety has sometimes been in the news, and understand concerns you may have over sending your child to Mexico. Our hope is that this letter would help address any safety concerns you may have, and that you would have peace and excitement about your child being in Baja this summer.

First of all, the area of Mexico we will be staying and working in is safe and quiet. We are not in any of the regions or states of Mexico that have an elevated threat level. The school that serves as our base camp, [Rancho Sordo Mundo](#), is in an area called the Guadalupe Valley. It is inland from Ensenada about 45 minutes, and south of Tecate about 1 hour. This is primarily an agricultural area that has become an upcoming wine growing region of Mexico, with vineyards, a wine museum, fancy hotels, and high-end restaurants. We have felt very safe over the past eight years, and have brought our own children with us every summer.

We also serve in an area called La Mision. It is just a few miles inland from the ocean, and is 45 minutes south of Tijuana and 45 minutes north of Ensenada. This also is a small, rural, farming community mostly populated by field workers. We will be working with an established orphanage, [Door of Faith](#), which has been a part of the community since 1962. Each year they host close to 300 groups from the US with over 7,000 participants who come to serve at the orphanage and in the local community building homes and filling other needs.

Young Life utilizes an organization called [Travel Oracle](#), which assesses the level of risk for travel throughout the world. We do not want to put anyone in danger, so if the travel risk is ever at an unsafe level, we would not take kids and leaders to Mexico. Travel Oracle would help us determine if this were necessary.

We also want you to be aware that embedded in the cost for your child to attend Adventures Baja is money that will help towards providing supplies to build a house for a family, feeding meals to orphans, providing groceries and drinking water for people in need and helping with construction at retreat center call [Casa de Mana](#). This is more than a camp experience—your child is making a difference in the world by participating!

Please check out our website for more information on YL Adventures Baja: www.ylcalifornia.com/baja. We believe your child will have an amazing experience!

James and Courtney Thomsen
Young Life Adventures