

## 2024 Obras Program Information Guide

This document provides a brief overview of what to expect when serving on an Obras team in Guatemala. Please also read the **Volunteer FAQs** prior to completing your application.

Faith In Practice may deem it necessary to adjust the guidelines as needed during the year. Thank you for your flexibility, understanding, and willingness to work within these parameters.

### Vaccination Requirement

Effective January 1, 2024 Faith In Practice will no longer require volunteers to submit proof of vaccination for COVID-19. COVID Vaccination is required through 2023.

### Staying Healthy

Faith In Practice strongly encourages all volunteers to be current with the vaccination schedule outlined by the CDC, including routine flu and pneumonia vaccines. Please refer to the Center for Disease Control for traveling to Guatemala at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/guatemala>. The CDC has extensive and valuable information related to travel in Guatemala, and Faith In Practice encourages all volunteers to review this site. Faith In Practice also urges all volunteers to consult with their personal physicians for specific, individual advice regarding medical precautions.

Please review the **Illness During Mission Protocol (IDMP)** for additional information that outlines expectations and steps to be taken when a communicable illness may be present among the FIP staff, US volunteers, or Guatemalan volunteers during a medical mission

### Recruiting

Faith In Practice Obras surgery team leaders will elect to operate out of up to 4 or 5 operating rooms. **We have notified teams that should plan to recruit only up to 4 ORs due to sharing the Obras with another partner organization.** Team size: 35 - 50 U.S. volunteers. The max capacity we can hold at the Quinta is 52 US volunteers. That is using two volunteers to one king/queen bed. It is essential you consider the team make-up/team size when recruiting your team. **Please check with your Faith In Practice staff contact about your hotel reservation prior to recruiting more than 45 volunteers.**

Roles to recruit:

- Surgeons: 4-6 (based on specialties you plan to bring to staff up to 5 ORs)
- Anesthesia team: 5 or 6 (at least 2 must be MDs and there must be one more anesthesia provider than number of rooms you are planning to bring)
- Scrub techs/nurses: 4-5
- Nurse Circulators: 4-5
- OR Director: 1
- Post-op/PACU: 3-5
- Convalescent Ward Physician/NP: 1 (Not required. Can be covered by Obras staff.)
- Pharmacist: 1
- Clergy: 1
- Photographer/blogger: 1 – 2 (can be filled by one person)
- Cooking Assistant/Helper: 1-2; Breakfast and dinners will be catered at the hotel during the mission week. Cooking assistants/helpers can work with Marco and Angel to prepare the meals for the week and come up with recipes but will not be shopping for the food.

- Translators/interpreters: based on Spanish proficiency of the medical professionals

### *Specialties*

Most-Needed Specialties within our scope of care at Las Obras Hospital

- GEN
- URO (pedi)
- GYN
- ENT
- PLA
- ORTHO

Other Specialties or Possible Clinics

- Audiology Clinic – If team size permits and if your team has brought it before
- GI clinic personnel
- Dental Providers: We will look forward to bringing dental back to our mission. We will be inviting specific teams to bring a dental component on their trip in 2024. We hope to expand our dental teams in 2025. If you are interested in learning more about adding a dental component to your team in the future, please let us know.
- Mobility Clinics: We have determined which teams will have a mobility clinic. The team leaders have been notified if their team will have a mobility clinic and the roles the team leader(s) will recruit.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Face masks are required to be worn at all times at the hospital. The most up-to-date protocols will be provided to you and the team during your team orientation in Guatemala. All Faith In Practice Volunteers will have access to additional PPE at the hospital including the following items:

- N95 masks
- Ear-loop masks
- Gowns
- Gloves
- Face shields

### **Supplies & Medications**

It is critical the team leaders and medical professionals on the team review the Medication and Supply lists of items that Faith In Practice will provide for each surgery team. It is the team's responsibility to determine what additional medications and/or supplies are needed for the specialties you plan to bring during your mission week. If there are items your team needs that are not provided on the medication and supply workbook, we ask for the team to procure the items to bring with them for the trip.

The **2024 Medication and Supply list** for surgery teams will be available around September.

Our supply chain staff and surgery program staff will connect with the team leader to set up a call to discuss in detail the medications, supplies, and equipment the team will need for the mission week. Anesthesia Directors, OR Directors, pharmacists and other team members may be asked to join these calls.

### **Flights and Travel Requirements**

A visa is not required for U.S. citizens entering Guatemala. A valid passport that will expire no less than 6 months from the date of entry is still strongly recommended. If your passport is from a different country, please check with your state department on requirements to enter Guatemala.

We ask volunteers to not book flights until they are officially added to the team in the database and receive a confirmation email stating that they have been added to the team.

**It is very important for team members to make every effort to arrive to Guatemala on the team flight or on a flight that is within the same timeframe.** Faith In Practice is not able to support multiple pick-ups from the airport or arrivals prior to the mission week.

When leaving Guatemala, team members should depart on flights within the same timeframe and ride the team bus to the airport. In the event that a volunteer is unable to depart with the team on the departure date due to geographical limitations or limited flight options, Faith In Practice can set up individual transportation for a team member for an additional fee of \$25.

Volunteers extending their stay in Guatemala will be required to make their own proper accommodations. Faith In Practice is not responsible for arranging accommodations or financially contributing to arrangements outside of the official team dates.

### **Hotel/Lodging**

There will be double occupancy rooming in 2024. Each U.S. volunteer can expect to have a roommate during the mission week.

### **Ground Transportation**

We continue to work with many of the same providers and some new providers. Public Health regulations regarding public transportation, including shuttle buses, will be occupied at full capacity.

All team members must be on team transportation.

**We will strive to keep these Information Sheets updated.**

*Please note that the situation remains fluid and flexibility is important.*

*In any situation where Faith In Practice and Guatemalan law and regulation are in conflict, Guatemalan law and regulation will supersede.*

*For more detailed information about our 2024 teams—and answers to the most frequently asked questions from your team members—please refer to the **Volunteer FAQs**.*

*Pictures from teams serving at Las Obras*

