

Team Leader Information and Trip Details

About the Trip Leader

Team leader name: The Arnold Foundation
John Manchester
Currently lives in: Frederick, Maryland
Occupation: IT Manager
Best email: johnmanchester1824@gmail.com

About the Trip

Location: Las Penitas, Nicaragua
Dates: 11/11/17 - 11/18/17
Cost: \$960/person
Expected group size: 15-20
Trip Number: 23054

The Arnold Foundation is a non-profit corporation registered in the State of Maryland. Its mission statement is "To make the world a better place by providing or improving education, economic, energy and health conditions to those in need."

Members of The Arnold Foundation Board of Directors have been attending and leading mission trips for several years. This trip to Nicaragua will be second one since The Arnold Foundation was formed and received non-profit status.

The trip leader, John Manchester is one of the founders of The Arnold Foundation and serves on its Board of Directors. This is the seventh of this type of mission trip for John, his fourth with The Fuller Center, and his third time to Nicaragua. This is the second time that John has led a group to Nicaragua, the last being a weeklong trip last November with a group of 20 people who substantially built 3 houses.

John is an IT Manager with Johns Hopkins University, having previously served in leadership positions with Montgomery County Public Schools (Maryland). John was a Boy Scout Leader throughout his son's scouting journey. John is a volunteer Youth Minister at his church and has worked with both middle and high School youth groups for the past 6 years. John served honorably in the US Navy from 1989 to 1993.

John indicates that his trips to Las Penitas have been his favorite. He has developed close friendships with the Fuller partners there and stays in touch with them between trips. John attributes the success of his trips there to The Fuller Center coordinators who provide outstanding service. John describes the work as hard, meaningful, and rewarding; the accommodations as comfortable; and the food as enjoyable and plentiful.



For this trip, there will be 6 days on the ground (Sunday through Friday) and 2 days of travel (Saturday and Saturday). There will be 5 full days of work on Monday through Friday with the work being split among several work sites in the village. The work will include mixing and pouring concrete and mortar, digging foundations, forming rebar, and setting cinder blocks. Experience is not necessary, you will be shown everything that you need to know.

John will schedule tours during the day off on Sunday, possibly to tour the ruins of León Viejo or visit the Flor De Caña rum factory. There will be devotionals each morning for everyone who wishes to participate. John will enjoy a walk on the beach each morning, and a swim in the ocean each afternoon and invites anyone who wishes to join him. Evenings are a great time to hang out, have some ice-cream, and get to know the group!

The picture is of a group of participants on a project to install a water system in a village in Guatemala in 2011. John is 3rd from the right. This trip had 6 of the current members of The Arnold Foundation Board of Directors.