

# Columban Mission Center at the U.S./Mexico Border

Visit us and get involved!



## THE PLACETOBE

*At the Columban Mission Center in El Paso, Texas, we offer exposure programs to visiting groups and facilitate their contact with organizations and institutions related to U.S./Mexico border issues - poverty, migration and human rights. In addition, the Center is a venue for talks, courses and workshops for the local community.*

## WHO WE ARE

*Columban missionaries live and serve the people of God in both Juarez, Mexico, and El Paso, Texas. We stand with the poor, the migrant and the victim of violence, living out our faith in the practice of ecological and social justice.*



## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

*Life-giving and graced opportunities for personal growth and clarity*

- Learn about human rights and sustainable living;
- Visit institutions that assist the migrant population;
- Pray and reflect on your experience;
- Stay in an eco-friendly center.

## WHAT OUR VISITORS HAD TO SAY

*The stories we heard will have forever changed the way I think about the reality at the U.S. / Mexico border. Creighton University student*

*My experience was enlightening and life-changing. I learned to open myself to God and to open my mind and try to understand the situation of immigrants. Korean youth group participant*



To learn about the Columban Mission Center, contact: Fr. Robert Mosher • [cmc@columban.org](mailto:cmc@columban.org) • 915-351-1153  
816 Magoffin Ave., El Paso, Texas 79901 • Visit us at: [www.columbancenter.org/border-awareness/](http://www.columbancenter.org/border-awareness/)



# U.S.-Mexico Border Awareness Trips

## What are the age requirements & time commitments?

All people 18 and older are welcome. Groups may choose the trip to be anywhere from 3-10 days.

## Do Columban Fathers pay any expenses for my group?

Columban Fathers offer hospitality, programming leadership and an invitation to mission. Groups are asked to cover expenses related to travel to and from El Paso, Texas, and to contribute \$100 per person per day at the Columban Mission Center.

## Are the Border Awareness Trips all the same or can they be tailored for the group?

The content of the trip can be tailored to the interests of a given group, such as, service opportunities with refugees, meetings with local professionals and experts in a given field of study, visits to academic institutions or shelters for victims of family violence. Some elements, such as visiting people and organizations that assist the migrant population and learning about and engaging in eco-friendly living at the Columban Mission Center, will always be included. All Border Awareness Trips seek to immerse participants in the U.S.-Mexico border culture and realities of the people that live and work here. The food and living conditions are also a significant part of your experience.

## What kind of activities & experiences can my group expect?

- Groups will meet Columban missionaries and other people serving the migrant population.
- Groups will engage in daily reflection on the experience.
- Columban Fathers will organize presentations and sharing around the social, political, economic, cultural, and religious realities of the U.S.-Mexico border region.
- Groups will visit historical and cultural sites, faith-based and non-governmental social service organizations and projects, local government agencies, religious groups and migrant communities.

## How will Columban Fathers assist my group?

Columban Fathers provide hospitality from start to finish: transportation to and from the airport and all appointments during the trip, as well as lodging and food at the Columban Mission Center. Columban Fathers accompany groups on face-to-face meetings and encounters between participants and people and groups on both sides of the border. They offer themselves as guides and mentors during the trip, and can provide special prayers, meditation exercises and liturgies for groups identifying themselves as belonging to a particular spiritual or religious tradition.

## What groups and individuals are eligible?

Groups from universities, parishes, seminaries, and others are welcome.

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