

What is Agua Viva?

Rancho Agua Viva is a 142-acre campground located about 75 miles south of the San Diego border, just outside of Ensenada, Baja California. The climate is mild, and the campground is built along a natural creek bed and filled with huge oak trees.

Agua Viva Ministries currently has thirteen dormitories, and the capacity to house 400+ people (although we've "camped" up to 900 people before!) A large kitchen and dining hall can feed up to 300 at one time, and the camp boasts a soccer field, two basketball and two volleyball courts, a zip line, a water slide, and two fire circles. Somewhat primitive by American standards, Agua Viva is one of the most developed Christian campgrounds of Baja California. We do have flushing toilets, running water, hot water for our showers and a telephone line. While some buildings have solar power, most of our camp electricity is run by generators, and only for about three hours each night after the sun goes down.

What makes Agua Viva special?

Well, it's more than just a *place*. Agua Viva is a vibrant *ministry*. We believe that our calling is to reach Mexico for Christ. That is our mission and our passion, and we attempt to accomplish it through four main avenues:

- **Education**—Through this ministry we train Mexican national church leaders to be more effective in ministry in Mexico. In other words, we're teaching Mexicans to be missionaries to their own country and beyond.
- **Missions**—Agua Viva supports several national missionaries in the southern parts of Mexico, many who have graduated from our seminary and are now planting churches on the field. Our missionaries focus on ministering to unreached indigenous people groups.
- **Camping**—Picture your favorite Christian campground, maybe some place that you frequented at summer youth camps when you were younger. Well, Agua Viva is that place to hundreds of Mexican believers from the states of Baja California, Baja Sur, and Sonora. Church groups come to our campground for camps, retreats and afternoons of baptisms all throughout the year.
- **Short Term Missions**—This is our cooperative ministry with North Americans. We open our campground to American and Canadian church groups, who come and stay with us and minister in week-long missions programs during the spring and summer. We act as missionary guides and translators for them as they minister to the needs of Mexican families and churches in the Ensenada area. They might do evangelism, medical clinics, vacation Bible schools, work in an orphanage, or build a home for a needy family. The opportunities are limitless! *It is for the Short Term Missions ministry that we are looking for interns to help!!*

What exactly do our interns do?

Our regular staff can handle the load of these ministries in the off-season, but during the spring and summer we host up to four groups per week, and need the supplement of additional staff. Interns help us to act as guides for the groups who come. The weekly schedule involves staff meetings for planning and devotionals (with some room for fun!), participating in all of the activities of the groups to which you are assigned, helping the full time staff person assigned to the group (the “group coordinator”) to organize and motivate the group members, as well as teaching, empowering, and sensitizing them to missions work and cross-cultural issues. (See last page for detailed example schedule.) On trips into the city our interns serve as navigators and guides to the local sites, both touristy and ministry-related- don't worry! They also receive extensive training on the city itself. Interns with Spanish skills also double as translators.

Through this hands-on experience, interns will learn about the inner-workings of short-term missions and full-time ministry. They will see a small part of how God is working in and through the global church, as evidenced through all branches of Agua Viva Ministries, and particularly through the short-term missions department. The Agua Viva internship program is a great opportunity for students studying missions, intercultural relations, any type of ministry, or who want to take a semester off to serve and learn in a different context. Young adults interested in a new avenue of service or who are simply looking for a change of scenery through which God can teach them will also find this program valuable.

Agua Viva Ministries provides:

- Dormitory-style housing
- All meals during your stay
- Use of camp vehicles
- A home stay with a Mexican family (*see below)
- Use of camp washing machines
- Transportation to and from San Diego
- Love and care from all of the Agua Viva family

*** Home Stay Opportunity!** Interns will have the *unique opportunity to live with a local Christian Mexican family to experience the language and culture first-hand.* (Interns with less Spanish skills will be paired with families with better English skills.) The purpose of the home-stay is two-fold:

- To provide more intensive linguistic and cultural opportunities for the students.
- To provide the opportunity for the students to have “built-in” Mexican friends for the duration of their stay. Since the families will be chosen from churches that our interns have the option to attend, they will form a relationship with people they will see often throughout their stay in Ensenada.

Internship Dates

- Spring Option (3 months):
 - Arrival in February, departure in May.
- Summer Option (2 months):
 - Arrival last week of May or first week of June, departure first week of August.
- 6-month Option:
 - Arrival in February, departure first week of August, with option to go home for a week in May.
- These dates are tentative and will depend largely on scheduling of groups. Each option shows maximum amount of time needed for interns. We are flexible with your individual schedules and are willing to work with you to find the dates that work best for Agua Viva and for you.

Agua Viva Ministries requires:

- Interns be at least 19 years of age
- A minimum stay of five consecutive weeks. We are always flexible regarding your individual schedule.
- While Agua Viva does not charge any fees for internships, we do **not** pay interns. We strongly suggest fundraising so that you have spending money while you are at Agua Viva. We suggest to plan for about \$30-\$50 per week.

For more information and/or an application, write to us at kearstin.vandermel@aguaviva.com.

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Here's a typical week's schedule*

*When groups are at Agua Viva

Sunday:

3:30 pm--Meet at the Dining Hall to make welcome posters and prepare cabins for our visiting American groups. The groups arrive sometime after 4:30.

6:00 pm--Dinner and meet with the group leaders to go over the week's schedule with them.

8:00 pm--Opening campfire with all the groups. Interns are involved in the song leading, staff introductions, and acting out a skit to teach the camp rules to the groups.

After campfire, staff meeting to discuss the activities of the different groups.

Monday:

7:45 am—Intern devotions

8:30--Breakfast--Interns get the breakfast started.

9:15-ish--Groups and staff begin the day of ministry:

Our American groups are involved in diverse ministries. Typically a group will do a Vacation Bible school and another activity, such as construction projects, medical and dental clinics, Bible studies with men/women, sports clinics or competitions, or hair cutting clinics. Sometimes our groups will opt to take a sack lunch with them; other times they will eat lunch at the camp. Sometimes the groups will work on construction projects at the camp.

Interns partner with the American groups in ministry. Our job is to act as missionary guides with the groups, as helpers/facilitators to the groups and as assistants to the group coordinators.

1:30--Lunch

2:00-ish--Back to ministry!

6:00 Dinner-Meeting to review the first day, make adjustments when necessary.

Tuesday-DAY:

Same as Monday--except: no morning devotions and no evening meeting.

Wednesday- DAY:

Same as Monday

Wednesday- EVENING:

Special activities and fundraising dinner at camp, with a talk by a full-time staff member of Agua Viva Ministries.

Intern prayer night.

Thursday:

Same as Monday, except no intern devotions and groups have the option to attend an evening service at a church in town.

Friday:

7:15--Staff Meeting: prepare for following week of ministry and tie up ministry for current week.

7:45--Staff Devotions

8:30--Breakfast, Give out and collect evaluation forms to/from groups

9:15--Say farewells to groups

10:00-ish--Clean dorms and put away tools and materials; prepare materials for following week of ministry.

5:00-ish --Free time!

Saturday--Free day!

Sunday-- Church, then back to ministry at 3:30 pm.