

FAQs

New Haven/Leon Sister City Project Delegations educate people about how we, individually and collectively, contribute to global problems, and, then, suggest ways in which we can contribute to positive change locally and internationally.

NHLSCP delegations offer participants an opportunity to Nicaragua – the second poorest country in Latin America – to examine the situation first-hand. By joining us on one of these delegations, participants have the chance to learn about unfamiliar cultures, meet with people from all walks of life, and establish meaningful relationships with people from another country.



Since 1984, NHLSCP has promoted experiential education and alternative and socially responsible travel as a way to empower our participants while promoting local education and development work in Leon. Relationship building is essential to this transformation. Every delegation seeks to establish people-to-people ties through introducing participants to local individuals that most travelers would never meet on their own. These ties, we hope, will also prompt participants to examine their own societies and inspire learning, sharing and advocacy after the tour is over.

New Haven/Leon SCP offers delegations that focus on different topics of interest to delegates including public health, interactive theater, rural education, sustainable development, storytelling, and women’s rights. NHLSCP can also custom design a delegation for your school, place of worship, workplace, or professional association.

Why go on a NHLSCP delegation?

NHLSCP delegations promote an exploration of global challenges through people to people connections. As an organization dedicated to promoting social justice, we know that travel can be used as an educational tool to build understanding across cultures and borders and can inspire you to challenge and change policies.

We offer a range of interactive delegations that investigate important contemporary political, economic, environmental, social and cultural issues in Nicaragua and around the world while illuminating the struggles and successes of the individuals and organizations we meet. Participants return home with an enlightened perspective, an expanded worldview, and a sense of how they each can advocate and communicate what they have learned to their family, friends, community, and nation.

NHLSCP delegations offer participants an in-depth look at the reality in Nicaragua. Participants learn about the country's history, politics, economy, religion, government, health care, agriculture, education, and environment, all while participating in exciting cultural activities and enjoying the natural beauty and ecosystems of the country we are visiting. Through educational, informal, and formal interactions, our participants come away with an informed and enriched understanding of the hopes, struggles, and accomplishments of people from diverse backgrounds.

Our itineraries typically include meetings and visits with community organizations, government officials, journalists, doctors, artists, environmentalists, with many discussions happening on site (farming coop, nature preserves, village schools, etc.). Each delegation has the unique opportunity to travel to various cities, towns and villages to speak with local individuals involved in contemporary issues.

Who can participate?

Most of our delegations are open to anyone who has a genuine interest in learning about the destination country and who demonstrates adaptability and sensitivity toward different cultural realities.

We also offer customized delegations, which are open only to the membership of the collaborating organization. The content and orientation of these trips are specifically designed for the participants. We tailor the program according to the ages and special requirements of the organizers. We have organized trips for university groups and classes, faith institutions, teachers, high schools, artists, family groups, and groups with specific areas of interest.



How do we prepare participants for their experience?

Before a delegation departs, we encourage participants to educate themselves about the destination country and the issues that will be addressed on the trip. We send each participant a general information packet and a recommended reading list. During the trip we not only arrange dialogues with local organizations and individuals with whom we meet, but through reflection meetings participants also have opportunities to share experiences and observations among themselves.

What is the long-term impact?

Our participants return home with a broader perspective, an expanded worldview, and a sense of how they each can communicate what they have learned to their family, friends, community, and nation.

When a delegation returns, we send additional information about issues related to Nicaragua and sustainable development. Our delegates are invited to write articles, op-eds, and letters to the editors; make presentations to their friends, families, schools, unions, churches, and community groups; produce radio shows and videos; raise funds to support projects in-country; volunteer with NHLSCP; and help organize follow-up customized tours.

How are we funded?

NHLSCP charges people to participate in our educational delegations, though we offer financial assistance to selected recipients. Any money we generate is used to grow, and create programs in Nicaragua.

Delegation Program Fee fees - \$1200 per person - includes all in-country transportation within the country, accommodation, trip guides, translation of all programs, admission fees, reading materials, two meals daily, program fees, service project costs, and an experienced trip leader. The Fee does not include airfare, travel to US airport, or airport fee in Managua (\$10). Some scholarships are available.



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