



## **5-Day Trip Itinerary - Puerto Rico**

### **Day #1**

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM Individuals/group arrives into Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport (SJU) in San Juan or meets at baggage claim area in Terminal B between 12:00 PM and 2:30 PM.

Transportation to the community will be available. Travel to time to Mariana is approximately 1 hour. Sandwiches, drinks and snacks will be available to the group during the ride.

3:30 – 4:30 PM - Group arrives to the “Center of Imagination” in Mariana, a formerly shuttered and now recently renovated 17 room elementary school named Juan de Dios Lopez. Group unpacks and gets settled into their respective dorm rooms.

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM - Group meets Francisco Nieves, the Director for the “Center for Imagination” and Coordinator of Volunteers for ARECMA (Recreational, Educational and Communal Association of Mariana) our partner organization on the ground in Puerto Rico. The group receives a tour of the community center, meets the cooks and all staff who they will be working with during the week. They will also receive an overview of all the activities that are currently occurring at the center.

5:30 – 6:30 PM – Free time, group getting to know each other and local staff.

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM – Dinner served in the dining hall of the center.

7:30 – 8:30 PM - Formal welcome by Rosalina Abreu-Gonzales, President of ARECMA. Presentation will include who ARECMA is, the goals of the organization, and how Crossing Thresholds and ARECMA began working together. An itinerary for the week will be shared with the group, including an explanation of the all work project options and guest speakers.

8:30 – 9:30 PM - General socializing followed by volunteers retiring back to the dorm rooms.



## Day #2, Day #3, Day #4 - Work Days

7:00 AM – Coffee available

8:00 AM – Breakfast

9:00 – 12:30 – Sample work projects:

- 1: Clean, prep and paint an unoccupied classroom at the community center.
2. Work on a project at La Loma, the ARECMA owned Community Park and agricultural center.
4. Visit and volunteer in the local elementary school, working with students, observing the Crossing Thresholds enrichment program in action sponsored by Salon del Literario.
5. Help local senior citizens with storm related damage to fix up their home(s) or somehow assist them in restoring/rebuilding from storm related damage.

1:00 PM – Lunch

1:30 - 2:30 PM – Siesta

2:30 - 4:30 PM – Continue working on AM projects or visit local points of interests.

4:30 PM – Shower, free time.

6:00 PM – Dinner.

7:30 PM – Guest Speakers Series.

1. Community leaders of ARECMA talk about their organization, their history before the storm, after the storm and hopes for the future. Video available depicting the community before and after the storm.
- 2: Faculty member from the University of Puerto Rico at Humacao will talk about the history of Puerto Rico past and present and what efforts are being made to change the future for students attending the university today.
3. Representatives from Salon de Literario whose work is funded by Crossing Thresholds to run an in-school enrichment program in the local elementary school will explain the current state of public education on the island, their organization, the goals of their program in Mariana and the educational challenges the island faces in the future.

9:00 PM – Retire back to the dorm rooms



## Day #5

7:00 AM – Coffee available

8:00 AM – Breakfast

9:00 AM – Final meeting and good byes. Community leaders and staff are present to say good bye, thank volunteers for coming and encouraging them to continue to their support of the projects that are occurring at the “Center for Imagination” and the local elementary school.

10:00 AM - Pack, load into bus/vans and depart for the airport. Volunteers can arrange for private transportation from the community to local resorts or other venues on the east side of the island.

11:30 AM – Arrive SJU & check-in for your flight home or to extend your stay in PR and transfer to your next destination on the west side of the island by car or plane.

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM Depart to home airport or other destination.