
New York Southwest Border Mission

Led by Rabbis Ammiel Hirsch, Samantha Natov, and Daniel Geffen

Draft Itinerary

Please remember that this schedule is always subject to change.

Day 1: Sunday, May 19th, 2019

Traveling to Arizona

- Depart from New York City, arrive in either Tucson or Phoenix, Arizona.
 - Flight options include:
 - Delta, JFK, 8:20 am – 11:00 am. Arrives in Phoenix.
 - American, JFK, 10:50 am – 1:10 pm. Arrives in Phoenix.
 - American, JFK, 6:45 am – 10:47 am. Arrives in Tucson.
 - If a group takes the same flight in to Tucson, we will arrange to be picked up by charter bus to take us to our hotel.
 - If a group flies to Phoenix, we will arrange a shuttle from Phoenix to Tucson.
- Check-in at the Tucson Marriott University Park at 880 E 2nd ST, Tucson, AZ.
- 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm
 - Meet in the lobby of the Tucson Marriott University Park for an introduction to the trip from Rabbis Ammiel Hirsch, Samantha Natov, and Daniel Geffen.
- 4:00 pm – 4:30 pm
 - Travel to BorderLinks.
- 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm
 - Orientation at BorderLinks
 - Introduction to BorderLinks & the American Southwest.
 - Workshop on the history of the border.
 - Dinner at BorderLinks with John Fife.
- 8:00 pm – 8:30 pm
 - Travel back to the Tucson Marriott University Park for overnight stay.

John Fife is a former pastor of Southside Presbyterian Church in Tucson and one of the founding members of the Sanctuary Movement. His activism has spanned several decades—from fighting for civil rights with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to safe-housing Central American refugees in the U.S. He can speak to the local issues regarding the border as well as global movements and how we can be a part of building a more just future.

Day 2: Monday, May 20th, 2019

Crossing the Border

Breakfast provided by the hotel.

Notes: *Please pack sturdy hiking boots, jeans, sun hat, water bottle and fine toothed comb (for cactus needles) for desert hike.*

Additionally, make sure that you pack your passport or other state-issued id (driver's license) as we will be traveling through an inland checkpoint.

- 8:00 am – 9:00 am
 - Depart for Arivaca, Arizona. Arivaca is a region of Arizona just north of the U.S. – Mexico border. Due to the amount of crossings that occur in this region, Arivaca played host to SBInet, an undertaking by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Boeing Company to secure U.S. land using technology.
- 9:15 am – 10:00 am
 - Participate in a desert walk with the Executive Director of BorderLinks and a volunteer with No More Deaths, Brian Best.
 - No More Deaths maintains a year-round humanitarian presence in the deserts of southwestern Arizona. They work in the remote corridors into which migration has been pushed, where people are walking 30 to 80 miles. Volunteers hike the trails and leave water, food, socks, blankets, and other supplies. We will accompany them on a short, approved walk to assist with the above.
- 10:15 am – 10:45 am
 - Travel to the Arivaca Humanitarian Aid Office and meet People Helping People (PHP).
- 10:45 am – 12:00 pm
 - Meet with individuals working on their asylum pleas at People Helping People.
 - PHP distributes resources for residents to provide humanitarian aid: water gallons, food packs, home medical kits, clothing, Red Cross international phone service, legal & medical professionals, consulate information, Spanish-language instruction and interpretation, and more. We will meet with the individuals above and assist in whatever capacity that we are needed for that day.
- 12:15 pm – 1:30 pm
 - Depart for Nogales, Mexico. Packed lunch while in transit.
 - In the Nogales region in 2018, 5,023 unaccompanied children attempted a crossing. An additional 4,954 families attempted to cross together. The amount of families attempting to cross together jumped by 143% from 2017 to 2018.
 - In total, there were over 52,000 apprehensions in the Tucson area, the second most in the country only behind the Rio Grande Valley.
- 1:45 pm – 4:30 pm
 - Arrive in Nogales and visit the Kino Border Initiative (KBI).
 - Every year, thousands of migrant men, women and children are deported to Nogales, Sonora, Mexico or arrive in the city fleeing from Central America. KBI provides a shelter, an aid center, and first aid assistance. The aid center provides two meals a day to migrant men, women and children deported to Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. In 2016, it served over 46,000 meals. It also distributes clothing and personal care items, as well as

providing orientation for social service assistance. We will assist KBI and interact with the individuals receiving assistance there.

- 4:45 pm – 6:15 pm
 - Depart KBI for Tucson, Arizona.
- 6:30 pm – 7:15 pm
 - Reflection led by the Rabbis.
- Dinner on your own/as a group in Tucson. Tucson Marriott University Park for overnight stay.

People Helping People is an Arivaca community organization that was formed in 2012 by a core group of residents involved in providing humanitarian aid in the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. They co-sponsor the Arivaca Humanitarian Aid Office where locals and visitors can access humanitarian aid resources, including food, water, medical supplies, clothing, and more. PHP regularly hosts events and educational workshops in the community, such as Know Your Rights Trainings, Medical Trainings, Spanish Classes, and various presentations about the border/prison industrial complex and other border crises topics.

No More Deaths is a diverse coalition of individuals, faith communities, human rights advocates, and grassroots organizers who have joined together to work for justice along the U.S. - Mexico border. They embrace an action plan that includes movable desert camps, support of migrant aid centers, maintenance of water stations, patrols that search the desert for migrants in need, and advocacy on behalf of migrant-related issues.

The Kino Border Initiative (KBI) is a binational organization that works in the area of migration and is located in Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. The KBI's vision is to help make humane, just, workable migration between the U.S. and Mexico a reality. Its mission is to promote US/Mexico border and immigration policies that affirm the dignity of the human person and a spirit of bi-national solidarity through:

- Direct humanitarian assistance and accompaniment with migrants;
- Social and pastoral education with communities on both sides of the border;
- Participation in collaborative networks that engage in research and advocacy to transform local, regional, and national immigration policies.

Day 3: Tuesday, May 21st, 2019

Our Legal System & Immigration

Breakfast provided by the hotel.

- 9:00 am – 9:30 am
 - Depart for Borderlinks.
- 9:45 am – 11:45 am
 - Operation Streamline Presentation with Lois Martin, End Operation Streamline Coalition.
 - Operation Streamline is a joint initiative of the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice in the United States, started in 2005, that adopts a "zero-tolerance" approach to unauthorized border-crossing by engaging in criminal prosecution of those engaging in it. Up to 70 people are tried at the same time, sometimes wearing shackles in the courtroom. Entering without inspection is a misdemeanor, and re-entering after deportation is a felony. End Operation Streamline Coalition advocates for a different process.
- 11:45 am – 12:30 pm
 - Lunch at BorderLinks is provided.
- 12:30 pm – 1:00 pm
 - Depart Borderlinks for Operation Streamline proceedings.
- 1:00 pm – 3:00 PM
 - Attend Operation Streamline Proceedings at the United States District Court in Tucson, Arizona.
- 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm
 - Meeting with a public defender, judge, and the ACLU of Tucson to learn about the historical and legal context of the migration crisis.
- 4:15 pm – 4:45 pm
 - Travel from U.S. District Court to Mariposas Sin Fronteras.
- 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm
 - Visitation at Mariposas Sin Fronteras. Due to the high rate of systemic abuse and discrimination towards LGBTQ detainees, this group works to end the plight LGBTQ prisoners face in immigration detention. We will hear their stories.
- 6:45 pm – 7:15 pm
 - Travel back to hotel.
- 7:15 pm – 8:00 pm
 - Reflection led by the Rabbis.
- Dinner on your own/as a group in Tucson. Tucson Marriott University Park for overnight stay.

Operation Streamline, which began in Tucson in January of 2008, is a zero-tolerance program targeting illegal entrants apprehended along the Arizona border with Mexico. Based on other initiatives begun in Del Rio, Texas and Yuma, AZ, the initiative aims to process migrants with misdemeanors and deport them, thus setting the stage for stiffer and longer penalties for repeat offenders.

Mariposas Sin Fronteras is a Tucson, AZ based group that seeks to end the systemic violence and abuse of LGBTQ people held in prison and immigration detention. They envision a society that no longer finds solutions in the system of immigration detention or the prison industrial complex. As they work toward that goal, they support LGBTQ people currently detained in Eloy and Florence, AZ through visits, letters, bond support, advocacy, and housing upon freedom from detention.

Day 4: Wednesday, May 22nd, 2019

Life After Court Hearings

Breakfast provided by the hotel.

Notes: *Leggings and hoodies are not permitted within the detention center. Please plan to dress accordingly. Avoid bringing sharp metal objects as we will go through a metal detector. You will need a state-issued id when entering*

- 8:00 am - 9:30 am
 - Leave Tucson Marriott University Park and travel to the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project headquarters.
- 9:45 am – 11:00 am
 - Meeting with Florence Project at their offices, receiving training on visitations, and signing up for visitations at the Florence Correctional Center.
 - For the thousands of men and women locked up in isolated detention centers in Arizona, access to justice has never been more important. The Florence Project is the only lifeline they have to legal information and assistance. We will work with the Florence Project to alleviate the isolation and visit those currently in the correctional center.
- 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
 - Lunch at the Florence Project.
- 12:15 pm – 3:00 pm
 - Travel to and visit those at the Florence Correctional Center. Hear their stories on why they fled their countries and how our justice system is treating them.
- 3:15 pm – 4:45 pm
 - Travel back from Florence Correctional Center to the Tucson Marriott University Park.
- 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
 - Hear from U.S. Customs and Border Protection on what they are seeing at the border and how their jobs have changed throughout the years.
- 6:00 pm – 6:45 pm
 - Letter writing activity (follow-up from Visits, thank you letters, and group photo).
- 7:00 pm – 7:45 pm
 - Reflection led by the Rabbis.
- Dinner on your own/as a group in Tucson. Tucson Marriott University Park for overnight stay.

ICE - Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the principal investigative arm of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the second largest investigative agency in the federal government. Created in 2003 through a merger of the investigative and interior enforcement elements of the U.S. Customs Service and the Immigration and Naturalization Service, ICE now has more than 20,000 employees in offices in all 50 states and 48 foreign countries.

The Florence Project is a nonprofit legal service organization that provides free legal services to men, women and children detained by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), formerly known as the INS. Although the government assists indigent criminal defendants and civil litigants through public defenders and legal aid attorneys, it does not provide attorneys for people facing deportation charges. As a result, 90 percent of the detained people go unrepresented due to poverty. The Florence Project strives to address this inequity both locally and nationally. They provide legal care through direct representation and teaching people how to represent themselves

Day 5: Thursday, May 23rd, 2019

Action Planning with Allies

Breakfast on your own or at the hotel.

- 8:00 am
 - Check out of hotel. We will leave our luggage with the front desk to pick-up later.
- 8:10 am – 8:30 am
 - Travel from Tucson Marriott University Park to Congregation Or Chadash.
- 8:30 am – 10:00 am
 - Presentation from Steve Kozachik. Council Member Kozachik is one of the few people to have had access to Southwest Key, an immigrant children's shelter program.
 - Speak with Congregation Or Chadash clergy members about the role of Jewish people in the migrant crisis and how we can engage the issue further at home.
- 10:15 am – 12:30 pm
 - Luncheon at Congregation Or Chadash where we will action plan together on how to keep working on the issue of immigration back in New York City.
- 12:30 pm – 1:00 pm
 - Travel from Congregation Or Chadash to the Tucson Marriott University Park, retrieve luggage, and leave for the airport.
- Flight options include:
 - Amerian, TUS, 3:23 pm – 1:00 am.
 - American, PHX, 4:00 pm – 11:57 pm.
 - American, JFK, 10:07 pm – 5:50 am.
 - If a group takes the same flight from Tucson, we will arrange to be picked up by charter bus to take us to the airport.
 - If a group is flying out of Phoenix, we will arrange for a shuttle from Tucson.

Southwest Key Programs was a nonprofit organization that operated shelters and detention facilities for unaccompanied immigrant minors and immigrant youth separated from their parents. It also provided youth justice alternative programming and educational programming.

Congregation Or Chadash is a warm and welcoming community where living Judaism flows, where newcomers feel welcome, where education reveals the age-old values that ennoble the spirit and promote well-being in all relationships. Their commitment to these values through their Social Justice & Action and their Caring Charvurah committees promotes the general welfare we all strive for in our community and our country.