
New York Southwest Border Mission

Led by Rabbis Ammiel Hirsch and Daniel Geffen

Draft Itinerary

Please remember that this schedule is always subject to change.

Day 1: Sunday, May 19th, 2019

Arrival and Orientation

- 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.
- 4:15 pm
 - Travel to BorderLinks.
- 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm
 - Orientation at BorderLinks.
 - BLX History/Popular Education
 - Acuerdos and Responsibilities
 - How I See the Border Activity
 - Review Itinerary and Questions
- 6:00 pm
 - Dinner at BorderLinks
- 6:30 pm
 - Meet with No More Deaths Abuse Documentation Group
- 8:00 pm
 - Return to Tucson Marriott University Park Hotel for overnight stay.

Acuerdos or agreements are the standards why which we as participants and leaders of the program hold each other accountable and show up in the space. They are made communally as a group, however a list of suggested agreements that have been used in the past will be provided to help shape conversation.

No More Deaths Abuse Documentation Working Group will be discussing their most recent report, *Disappeared: How the US Border Patrol Enforcement Agencies are fueling a Missing Persons Crisis*. The Disappeared report series is a collaborative project between two Tucson-based organizations, La Coalicion de Derechos Humanos and No More Deaths. Between Derechos Humanos' 20 years of community work, including the 24-hour Missing Migrant Crisis Line, and No More Deaths' 12 years of humanitarian aid in the Arizona backcountry, we have witnessed and listened to thousands of stories of

border crossings throughout Southern Arizona. Our research goals are transformative: to expose and combat those US government policing tactics that cause the crisis of death and mass disappearance in the borderlands.

Day 2: Monday, May 20th, 2019

Prevention through Deterrence and Border Militarization

Notes: *Please pack sturdy hiking boots, jeans, sun hat, and water bottle 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.

- 6:30 am
 - Breakfast provided by hotel.
- 7:00 am
 - Meet in lobby to depart for BorderLinks.
- 7:15 am
 - Pack van for water drop/desert walk in Green Valley.
- 7:30 am
 - Depart for Green Valley, AZ.
- 8:15 am – 9:15 am
 - Participate in a water drop/desert walk with Green Valley Samaritans.
 - **Green Valley-Sahuarita Samaritans** is an organization comprising people of conscience who offer humanitarian aid to migrants in the Arizona-Sonora borderlands. Founders Shura Wallin and Pastor Randy Mayer decided early in 2005 it was time to establish a Green Valley-Sahuarita Samaritan group that would work independently and as a complement to the Tucson Samaritans.
- 9:30 am
 - Depart for Nogales, AZ.
- 10:30 am
 - Arrive in Nogales, AZ – Bathroom Stop.
- 11:00 am
 - Cross into Nogales, MX.
- 11:15 am
 - Meet with Manuel Morales at Jose Antonio Memorial for Border Wall Reflection.
 - On October 10, 2012, 16-year-old Jose Antonio Elena Rodriguez was shot and killed by a Border Patrol agent for throwing rocks at the border fence. The Border Patrol agent, who shot through a narrow opening in the fence from Nogales, Arizona which towers some 25-30 feet over the city streets of Mexico, emptied all 12 rounds of his .40 caliber pistol and reportedly reloaded in order to continue firing. Dozens of shell casings were found after the shooting and reports state that Jose died with at least 8 gunshots to his back and head.
- 1:00 pm
 - Picnic lunch in Nogales, MX.
- 2:00 pm
 - We will be meeting with Derik Alvarez who will speak about his Garifuna roots and his own immigration journey.
- 4:30 pm
 - Cross back to Nogales, AZ and return to the Tucson Marriott University Park Hotel.

- 6:30 pm
 - Dinner on your own and overnight at the Tucson Marriott University Park Hotel.

Green Valley-Sahuarita Samaritans is an organization comprising people of conscience who offer humanitarian aid to migrants in the Arizona-Sonora borderlands. Founders Shura Wallin and Pastor Randy Mayer decided early in 2005 it was time to establish a Green Valley-Sahuarita Samaritan group that would work independently and as a complement to the Tucson Samaritans.

Manuel Morales has worked with Borderlinks for more than a decade in Nogales, Sonora. He will be talking with us about his experience living in Nogales, and the impacts of NAFTA and US industry on the people of Nogales. Manuel will be using a member of Borderlinks staff as an interpreter, and we will have an opportunity to go over how to use consecutive interpretation on our delegation.

The Border Wall -Construction of the border wall in Nogales began in 1994 with Operation Safeguard, part of an effort to seal the areas around urban ports of entry by increasing security features such as physical barriers, technological surveillance, and Border Patrol and military staffing.

On October 10, 2012, **Jose Antonio Elena Rodriguez** was walking to meet his brother several blocks from their home in Nogales, Sonora when he was shot and killed through the border wall by US Border Patrol agent Lonnie Ray Swartz. Jose Antonio was 16 years old. Since his death, his family has been fighting for justice and accountability. It took more than 2 years for courts to order Border Patrol to release Swartz' name, and another year for Swartz to be formally indicted on second-degree murder charges. This marks the first time a BP agent has even been indicted on a murder charge, despite the significant number of documented shootings and murders by BP agents. Swartz was found not guilty of voluntary manslaughter in 2017 and in November 2018 he was also found not guilty for the lesser charge of involuntary manslaughter.

Day 3: Tuesday, May 21st, 2019

Criminalization of Migrants

- 6:30 am
 - Breakfast opens at hotel.
- 7:30 am
 - Meet in lobby to depart for Borderlinks.
- 8:00 am
 - Reflection on the previous day and Solidarity Workshop.
- 10:00 am
 - Presentation and documentation training with End 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.
- 11:30 am
 - Lunch at BorderLinks is provided.

- 12:30 pm – 1:00 pm
 - Depart Borderlinks for Federal Courthouse.
- 1:00 pm – 3:30 PM
 - Attend Operation Streamline Proceedings at the United States District Court in Tucson, Arizona. We will take notes to add to BorderLinks' administrative record to ensure that everything that is seen that day is not forgotten.
- 3:30 pm – 4:00 pm
 - Meeting with a public defender learn about the historical and legal context of the migration crisis.
- 5:00 pm
 - Return to BorderLinks.
- 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm
 - Debrief Operation Streamline and compile notes for the official administrative record.
- 6:45 pm
 - Return to Tucson Marriott University Park Hotel. Dinner on your own.

Notes: While attending Operation Streamline, photography and recording is prohibited. Cell phones may be brought but they must be on turned off. You will need a state-issued id when entering the federal court house (i.e. driver's license; green card). Avoid bringing sharp metal objects as we will go through a metal detector.

Solidarity Workshop invites participants to reflect on the differences between charity and solidarity. The purpose of this is for the group to define what solidarity looks like. Participants will reflect on the healthiest ways to form long and meaningful relationships in their own communities.

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 100 migrants with misdemeanors and deport them, thus setting the stage for stiffer and longer penalties for repeat offenders.

End Streamline Coalition is a group of organizations, community groups, and individuals working to end the mass criminalization.

Day 4: Wednesday, May 22nd, 2019

Migrant Justice Work in Tucson

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

- 6:30 am – 8:15 am
 - Breakfast opens at the hotel.
- 8:30 am – 9:15 am
 - Meet in the lobby for reflection on the previous day with Rabbis Hirsch and Geffen.
- 9:30 am
 - Meet in lobby to depart for BorderLinks to pick up leaders and head to Casa Mariposa.
- 10:00 am – 11:45 am
 - Meet with Mariposas Sin Fronteras at Casa Mariposa.
 - MSF is a LGBTQ organization led by previously incarcerated people, migrants, and allies who work in solidarity with LGBTQ people in immigration detention and once they are released. They envision a society that no longer finds solutions in the system of immigration detention or the prison industrial complex. As they work towards that goal,

Mariposas runs a detention visitation program where they organize volunteers to visit people in immigration detention, host community letter-writing events, provide case support, and fundraises for bonds. Casa Mariposa is also owned and managed by MSF, which is a hospitality home for people released from immigration detention.

- 11:45 am
 - Depart to BorderLinks.
- 12:00 pm
 - Lunch at BorderLinks.
- 1:00 pm
 - Meet with Paisano Unidos and hear the stories of their grassroots work led by people with lived experience.
- 2:40 pm
 - Walk/Drive to Southside Presbyterian Church.
- 3:00 pm
 - Meeting with Tucson Sanctuary Movement Coalition at Southside Presbyterian Church.
- 4:15 pm
 - Depart from Southside Presbyterian Church to Tucson Marriott University Park.
- 4:30 pm – 5:30 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.
 - Scheduled and facilitated by Stephen Wise Free Synagogue Leaders.
- 6:00 pm
 - Reflection at Tucson Marriott University Park Hotel.
- 7:00 pm
 - Dinner on your own in Tucson. Tucson Marriott University Park for overnight stay.

Mariposas Sin Fronteras (MSF) is a LGBTQ organization led by previously incarcerated people, migrants, and allies who work in solidarity with LGBTQ people in immigration detention and once they are released. They envision a society that no longer finds solutions in the system of immigration detention or the prison industrial complex. As they work towards that goal, Mariposas runs a detention visitation program where they organize volunteers to visit people in immigration detention, host community letter-writing events, provide case support, and fundraises for bonds. Casa Mariposa is also owned and managed by MSF, which is a hospitality home for people released from immigration detention.

Paisanos Unidos is a migrant-led organization composed of families from the Tucson area. This organization was founded as a response to the policing of communities of color; linked but not limited to the passing of SB1070.

Southside Presbyterian is rooted in the sanctuary movement of the 1980's and is a leader in the new current sanctuary movement. It started as a mission to the Tohono O'odham people. In the 1980s the congregation became one of the key churches in the Sanctuary Movement, helping refugees fleeing terror in El Salvador and Guatemala. The Southside congregation continues to work with immigrant community members around human right, poverty and food justice.

Day 5: Thursday, May 23rd, 2019

Action Planning with Allies

Breakfast provided at the hotel.

- 8:00 am
 - Gather in the conference room at the Tucson Marriott University Park Hotel to discuss solidarity projects with Congregation Or Chadash. Breakfast will be provided for all.
- 9:00 am – 10:00 am
 - Action planning workshop.
 - Final reflection.
 - Complete BorderLinks evaluation.
- 10:00 am – 10:30 am
 - Check out of the hotel.
- 10:30 am – 12:00 pm.
 - Summary meeting with Rabbi Hirsch.
- 12:00 pm
 - Depart Tucson Marriott University Park for the PHX airport. Boxed lunch for the people departing.
- 2:30 pm
 - Arrive at PHX airport.

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.

Action Planning is an activity that allows in-depth reflection on the BorderLinks delegation experience. It also provides a space for planning specific action steps that each individual will talk back home.

Contact Info:

Daniel Liberman: 847-809-6256

BorderLinks Office: 520-628-8263

BorderLinks On-call Phone: Adela Licona (520) 901-0321

Delegation Leader: Abby Wheatley (510) 725-7311; Cathie Pacheco (323) 594-9858

More Helpful Information:

Website: Make sure to carefully look over Borderlinks website (www.borderlinks.org) to get a better idea of the work Borderlinks does.

How to ask questions: Questions are more than encouraged! We ask that they be tactfully worded; we're not here to change people's ideas, but to communicate respectfully. Consider if you are making particular assumptions before you ask the question? How could you ask a question in place of that assumption? Is the question relevant to what the speaker is addressing? If you are unsure about whether or not to ask a particular question, ask a BorderLinks leader.

How to use an interpreter: If you know Spanish we welcome your interpretation skills. To those of you who need a translator, speak directly to the person to whom you wish to ask the question, and the translator will jump in.

Personal greetings: handshake, “Me llamo...” (My name is...); “Mucho gusto.” (Nice to meet you.)

Body Language: Be aware of how you are. Relax! Smile! Enjoy! Since verbal communication is not always possible because of the language barrier, people will take cues from your body language.

Water: Remember you’re in the desert! Drink lots of water. Refill your water bottles often.

Safety while walking around: Just like in any big city, keep tabs on your wallet and pocketbook. Be aware of your surroundings.

BorderLinks Packing List:

- Form of identification (i.e. Passport, Driver’s license, LPR card, work permit, etc.)
- Clothes for each day of delegation
 - Free feel to dress casually (jeans, t-shirts are fine). Even so, we ask that you dress presentably as you will represent both your group and Borderlinks when we meet with our partners.
 - BorderLinks does not have washers or dryers available for delegates. We can, however, make time in your group's schedule to go to the laundromat.
- Long Pants (for desert walk)
- Sun protection (especially during summer)
 - Sun glasses, sun hat, sun screen
- Close-toed walking shoes/boots (for desert walk)
- Jacket
- Water bottle. You are coming to the desert. Remember to drink lots and lots of water.
- Small bag or backpack for day trips. You may lock your big suitcases at BorderLinks during overnight trips away from the BorderLinks dorms.
- Notebook, pen
- Camera

We recommend looking up Tucson weather and packing accordingly before your delegation. Temperatures can reach over 100 degrees during the summer and below 40 in the winter.