



## What Is A Crossover:

A Crossover is an immersion experience for faith communities that have a desire to respond to the critical needs of asylumseekers at the Southern border in a spirit of compassion, dignity and accompaniment.

Asylum is an internationally recognized human right, but US immigration policies have restricted, denied and even caused harm to vulnerable people fleeing violence, governmental oppression, extortion and climate crisis.

**Our faith traditions teach us to welcome the stranger,** and a crossover provides a transformational opportunity to be of service to those who have survived the unthinkable. This mutual experience of encounter is the key strategy of Border Compassion.

**Crossovers take place at the Posada Del Migrante Shelter in Mexicali, Mexico** - a border town two hours east of San Diego and south of Palm Springs. At any given time, the shelter is home to up to 50 children, women, men and families who have journeyed from within Mexico, Central and South America. They await a process for legal asylum and/or a safe place to resettle. Most are fleeing violence.

*"The Crossover is special . . . we feel as if other people love us, as if we are important to someone."*

- Salvadoran mother of two

## What to Expect at a Crossover:

Crossover volunteers meet their Cross Over Guide in Calexico, California to cross the border into Mexico. Each faith community—church, temple, school, college, service group—provides a day of community and celebration, contributing the food, social activities, and holy day/holiday rituals. Volunteers may also bring clothing, hygiene products, and games for the children.

People who speak Spanish can help facilitate activities or witness stories. Those with particular skills, such as counselors, immigration lawyers or nurses can provide those services. Everyone is welcome to share their talents, skills, creativity and presence. **Please join us!**



**Compassion Knows No Borders**

*"What I learned today is that one of the gifts we can offer is hospitality of the heart, a safe place for joy and safety to be felt."*

Crossover Volunteer



## How to Prepare for a Crossover?

Your local Crossover group leader will assist in planning and preparing for your experience:

- Each group is encouraged to raise \$2,000 to keep shelter residents food secure for one month
- Plan your Crossover activities - games and toys for children, art projects, medical care, seasonal celebrations - music and piñatas are always a hit!
- Gather new or gently used clothing, shoes/flip-flops, new underwear for children, women and men - prepare donations as instructed
- Gather donations and pack in suitcases or backpacks. Label each, "Women", "Men" or "Children".
- Fill out required participant, photo release and emergency contact forms
- Coordinate travel, accommodations and meeting logistics don't worry, we can help

**No two Crossovers are exactly the same and your creativity is welcome and encouraged.**

## Experience a Transformational Crossover Yourself

Contact Border Compassion to learn more, have all your questions answered and to schedule a Crossover for your group. We also encourage groups to pick a couple of "scouts" who can go on a crossover in advance to get the lay of the land and serve as leaders for their group.

Crossovers take place monthly and sometimes twice monthly from October through June. Most groups hail from Southern California, but we've had groups from the Bay Area, Central and Northern California, and various states across the country.

**For More Information, visit our website:**

**[border-compassion.org](http://border-compassion.org)**

**To schedule your Crossover, please contact:**

**Sr. Suzanne Jabro, CSJ**

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*Border Compassion is a non-profit, faith-based, grassroots effort to provide a humanitarian response to the needs of families living at the Posada Del Migrantes Shelter in Mexicali, Mexico as they engaged the legal immigration process.*

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