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Posted: 17 Apr 2011 09:30 PM PDT
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Posted: 16 Apr 2011 09:30 PM PDT
It is one of the elements most mentioned by the hundreds of campers already installed at the 3rd Inter-American Pathfinder's Camporee and by the thousands arriving at Mexico's Ciudad Deportiva during the next hours.

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Posted: 16 Apr 2011 09:30 PM PDT
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Inter-America: Medical services for largest-ever camporee staffed and standing by

Libna Stevens  >  Communication Department
Apr 18, 2011

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April 18, 2011 - Mexico City, Mexico...Raul Lozano/IAD

Catering to more than 19,500 pathfinders, staff and leaders presents several challenges, but one major concern is keeping everyone healthy. From the moment Pathfinders begin their journey to Mexico City, they are exposed to dangers such as disease and accidents, organizers said.

When the camporee was planned, provision was made to provide medical and dental services for children and adults. In order to provide medical service, a small hospital was set up in addition to five first-aid stations. Every campground has one of these first-aid booths throughout Ciudad Deportiva, the campsite for the event.

In the North Mexican Union campgrounds, the medical mobile unit from La Carlota Hospital, Montemorelos, was set up. This unit is staffed by four physicians and two nurses.

"The staff from the hospital has come here to assist. They are volunteering their services and at the moment we only needed to hire two other physicians," said Nancy Castillo, Human Resources and Business director at the La Carlota Hospital.

Volunteers working in health services for this camporee number almost a hundred, including 20 physicians, 25 nurses, and 50 paramedics. They are all organized in different shifts. These volunteers helped procure or even donated the medicines needed.

Patients who need medical assistance will have to go through a process.

"First, patients go the their nearest first-aid booth where the paramedics provide first aid care," said Abraham Ramirez, who is in charge of the camporee's health care services. "When there is a need for further treatment, patients are taken to the camporee hospital where we have eight beds available," he added.

Although Pathfinder clubs are still arriving and setting up camp, there have already been patients treated. "We have had some 30 people, mostly suffering from digestive disorders like vomiting and diarrhea, and some others with severe dental pain," said Ramirez. In order to prevent complications, health recommendations were written as Pathfinders were registered.

"We want the pathfinders to be healthy and happy during the camporee. They must drink lots of water, wash their hands thoroughly and wear hats to protect against the sun," Ramirez added.

For news updates on IAD's PathfinderCamporee, visit us at www.interamerica.org and camporee.interamerica.org

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More than 500,000 liters of water is expected to be consumed during the five-day event.

Pathfinders enjoy the cool breeze brought by rains hitting Mexico City this week.

April 17, 2011 - Mexico City, Mexico...Benjamin Garcia

Water, water, water! Water in the form of rain, cold water for showering, drinking water, spiritual water. Afternoon rain down poured in the city again - and according to the weather reports, rains are expected during the week. For this reason, campers had to cover their tents and luggage with plastic sheets. The rain also has brought a cool breeze.

First Clubs

Water to shower is what the almost 50 members of the Minivet and Amiel clubs were searching for. Both clubs are from the Polaco District of Mexicali, a border city to the northwestern part of Mexico, after some 50 hours of traveling. They left Mexicali at 3 a.m. Friday and reached at the campsite Sunday after 4 a.m., being one of the first clubs to arrive.

Although the trip was very long, Genoveva Valenzuela, the cook for the group, says: “We were traveling so happy and blessed that we did not feel the tiredness.”

Nevertheless, they still had to wait until after 4 p.m. to finish setting up to take a cold water shower in the makeshift showers at the camp.

Sea of people

Hundreds of campers who arrived, bringing scores of people on the main road dividing two softball fields now home to various campsites. Scores more will be added as thousands of people arrive Monday.

Water for everyone

Water, an essential daily element will be used for four main purposes at the camporee: drinking, personal care, cooking, and to wash food. More than 500,000 liters will be used daily during the five-day event. To meet this need, the Water Commission, led by Raul Gonzalez from the Central Mexican Union, is already working to provide purified drinking water to everyone.
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April 17, 2011 - Mexico City, Mexico...Fabiola Quinto/IAD
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Julissa Madrigal is a Pathfinder who travelled came from Mexicali to Mexico City, the site of the event. Since Mexicali is a town very far from Mexico City, they decided to travel by plane. “It was cheaper than to take a bus,” she said. “It took us three hours and 10 minutes to arrive. We left Mexicali at 6:00 a.m., everything went smoothly and we had no setbacks.”

“I hope this camporee is fun and that I can make lots of friends,” Madrigal continued. “I come from the Central Church of Mexicali, better known as Zaragoza, and the name of my club is Pioneers.”

Jaime Camerun, who arrived from San Jose, Costa Rica, was also excited. “For me, I know it will be a beautiful experience; I want to make lots of friends and I hope there will be a lot of activities.”

Although his club left at 3 a.m. to arrive in Mexico City at around 4 p.m., Camerun - who is in a companion level - felt the trip was not that long because he is anxiously awaiting his birthday, which he will celebrate tomorrow.

Jassai Delgado from Cerro Zaul, Veracruz, is excited about his first camporee. He hopes to experience a wonderful adventure which he has been longing for. On Sabbath, April 23, he will be baptized. “I have prepared myself during some months back to be baptized here. I am very happy,” he said.

Jassai is 10 years old and is in the Friend class. His club, Pioneros from the Mirador Adventist Church, left on Apr. 16th at 11:00 a.m. His director surprised them with a visit to the Chapultepec Zoo. For that reason they arrived at the campgrounds at 4:00 p.m., just when the rain started. In spite of that, the entire club unloaded their belongings enthusiastically, he said.

Many clubs were setting up their tents without minding the torrential rain. Others who had already finished pitching their tents were literally singing under the rain.

Also under the rain were more than 300 volunteers working as security.

Eduardo Serrano, age 17, is a master guide for his club in the Central Mexican Union. Serving God is the most important thing to him, and to do it in the area of security is a wonderful experience.

“This is my first camporee as a volunteer and I hope to make lots of friends,” he said. “But above all, I hope there will be respect for my work and for that of my fellow volunteers.”

Even with the rain, more clubs kept arriving to set up. It was a day full of excitement and wonderful attitude to spend at the Ciudad Deportiva.