



Christmas Train / Three Kings Tecate 2018 Event

PACKING GIFTS:

Saturday, January 6, 2018

The packing day for gifts for the Three Kings/Christmas Train Event will be held at **Specialty Produce** warehouse at **2554 California Street**, near Pacific Highway and Laurel Street.

The first shift will be from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The second shift will begin at about 12:30 p.m. and last until we are finished, which will be around 3 p.m. If you do not see someone you recognize, ask for event coordinators Margaret Coval or Mary Avastu.

Bring all the help you can. It is especially beneficial for those of you who have children that need to satisfy community service requirements for their school or church. I can write a letter verifying their community service. We will be packing in gift bags 3,500 gifts for infants, girls and boys that will be placed in boxes that will be shipped to Tecate.

THREE KINGS DAY-TECATE, MEXICO: (El Dia de los Reyes)

Sunday, January 14, 2018

The NLPOA group will meet at **Edwards Theater Rancho San Diego** parking lot located at **2951 Jamacha Road, El Cajon at 8 a.m.** From there we will carpool/caravan to Tecate, CA and meet the rest of the Christmas Train group before crossing the border on foot. Secured parking is available at \$5.00.

Once we cross the border we will be escorted by Tecate police and bused to the Tecate ballpark a few blocks away where the event is held. As in biblical times, "Three Kings" or "Wise Men" will enter the stadium on camel and horse with gifts. Every infant, girl and boy, individually will receive a packaged gift from a king that will contain items beneficial to them, to include a toy. Assistance is needed to prepare the gift bags at the ballpark. In addition to preparing the gift bags to hand out, the kings require an assistant and personal are needed to manage the lines.

Lunch (taco cart) and refreshments will be provided free of charge by a woman's club in Tecate.

The event usually lasts until 2 p.m. at which time we will be bussed back to the border and walk to U.S. Customs.



The event is called “Christmas Train” because up until seven years ago we travelled to Tecate by train and the Three Kings disembarked beside the ballpark and walked in. But the rail on the Mexico side of the border is in need of repair. So for now the Kings enter on camel and horseback.



Should you want to stay a bit in Tecate after the event you can do so as there are many restaurants and pubs nearby, some that will have sporting events playing. You can then walk the few blocks back to the border or take a \$3.00 cab ride.

If you have a U.S. Passport, bring it. If not bring your birth certificate, drivers license or other U.S. government identification card for U.S. Customs upon your return to the U.S.

If you plan on volunteering for packing and/or the Three Kings Day event or have any questions please email me at jhowienlpoa@gmail.com or call me at (619) 823-6824. I will need the names of those travelling with us to Tecate so email me the names. And while in Tecate should you decide to stay after the event, please notify me before we board the bus for our return trip as we need to account for everyone.

We hope to see you at either or both events. For those apprehensive about travelling to Tecate, Mexico, we have obtained an intelligence report from U.S. officers and I recently met with the police chief of Tecate and presently there is no unusual threat. Each year we successfully work with Tecate police and this year the chief will be assigning 6-8 officers for security. The mayor of Tecate will be present and possibly a Mexico National DIF dignitary. This is our 21st year and we have never had an issue.

Sincerely,

Joe Howie

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