

 **UUSC**  
**ALONG THE MIGRANT TRAIL**  
A Central American Migrant Justice Activity



## ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

This activity is intended to help introduce elementary and middle school aged children to the difficult journey many migrants undertake from Central America to the United States. Through drawing cards that either advance or pause their journey along a board representing the migrant trail, participants will learn about types of help and hindrances that many migrants experience along their journey.

UUSC's grassroots partners along the migration route are involved in each type of support, as well as in navigating and overcoming the challenges described or pictured in this activity – they provide migrants with essential services and help protect their rights amid injustices and barriers.

## MATERIALS AND RULES

Print pages 5-8 double-sided and cut out the boxes along black dotted lines. Shuffle these cards together and place photo-side up in a draw pile. These cards either contain a type of help (written in green with a plus sign) or a type of hindrance (written in red with a minus sign) that many migrants experience.

Taking turns drawing cards around a circle, those who draw a green plus sign card advance one space along the board, while those who draw a red minus sign card stay put on their current space.

Print the final 7 pages (pages 9-15) single-sided and lay out in order in a line. These pages form the spaces in the board – the “migrant trail” – along which the players are trying to advance.





## SUGGESTIONS FOR FRAMING

Today's activity is about human rights, which are the basic freedoms and protections every person is born with that cannot be taken away. Many years ago, countries around the world got together and decided on what protections should be guaranteed for all people. Some examples are the right to be safe from violence, the right to education, the right to be paid and treated fairly at work, and the right to a fair trial if you break the law – you are “innocent until proven guilty.”

One right people have is the right to stay in another country if they are not safe in their own – this is called seeking asylum. Especially within the past few years, many people have been coming to the United States from Central America to apply for asylum. The distance that Central Americans are traveling to seek asylum in the U.S. is about the same as from one coast of the U.S. to another, and the journey is extremely difficult, usually taking about a month. Through this activity, we are going to learn more about this journey migrants are making, including who is supporting them along the way and some of the difficulties and barriers they face.

Migrants start out in different locations and have different routes, and this board represents different portions of the journey pieced together. In this activity, we start out in Honduras, where we are protesting the recent presidential election and violence. Fearing for our lives in this climate, we join a group of other people migrating, because we feel safer in a larger group than traveling alone. Together, we travel on foot through Mexico, and we encounter people who want to help and a shelter to stay in. We then walk through the desert at the border of Mexico and the U.S., and we request asylum from the authorities. While we are waiting to hear if we are allowed to stay, we are made to stay in a detention center, which is similar to a prison, even though we have family we could stay with instead. Finally, we are granted asylum and allowed to stay, and we begin working together to help other migrants.

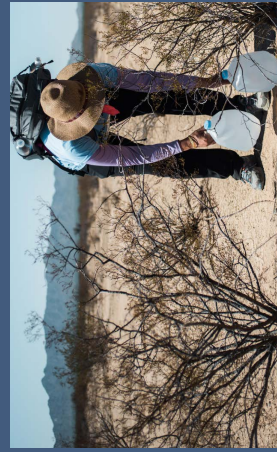
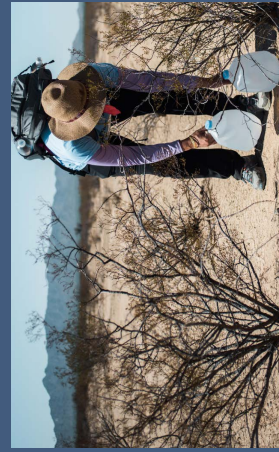
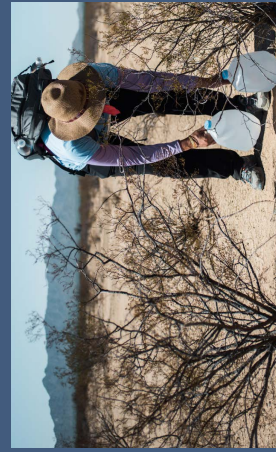
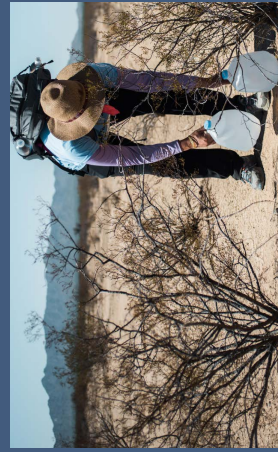
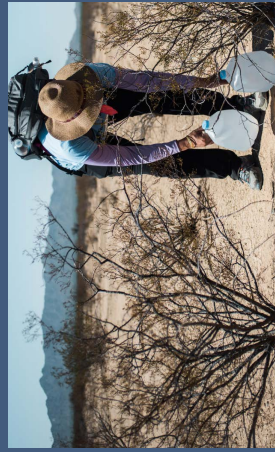
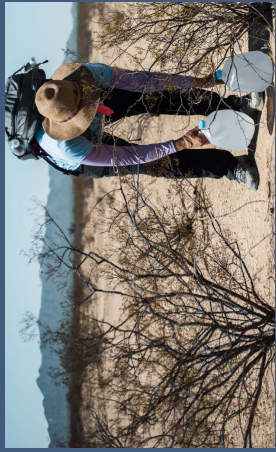


## SUGGESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- How did it feel to draw the two different types of cards?
- Were there any green “move ahead” cards that surprised you? Can you think of any other types of help or anything else a migrant might need when making such a long journey?
- Were there any red “stay where you are” cards that surprised you? Can you think of any other challenges or barriers that would make the journey more difficult?
- Were there types of difficulties that seemed unavoidable? Were there other types that seemed avoidable?
- What did this activity make you think about this journey from Central America to the U.S.? Why do you think someone would make this journey?

Food & Water (+)	Food & Water (+)	Food & Water (+)	Food & Water (+)
Shelter (+)	Shelter (+)	Shelter (+)	Shelter (+)
Showers & Clean clothes (+)	Showers & Clean clothes (+)	Showers & Clean clothes (+)	Showers & Clean clothes (+)
Medical care (+)	Medical care (+)	Medical care (+)	Medical care (+)
Legal aid (+)	Legal aid (+)	Legal aid (+)	Legal aid (+)
Translation help (+)	Translation help (+)	Translation help (+)	Translation help (+)

Cards with green text and a plus (+) sign mean you can advance forward along the board to the next space.



You were not paid  
for all the hours you  
worked. (-)

You were not paid  
for all the hours you  
worked. (-)

You were not paid  
for all the hours you  
worked. (-)

You are walking  
through 120 degree  
desert heat. (-)

You are walking  
through 120 degree  
desert heat. (-)

You are walking  
through 120 degree  
desert heat. (-)

You do not have access  
to a lawyer. (-)

You do not have access  
to a lawyer. (-)

You do not have access  
to a lawyer. (-)

The humanitarian aid  
you came across was  
destroyed. (-)

The humanitarian aid  
you came across was  
destroyed. (-)

The humanitarian aid  
you came across was  
destroyed. (-)

You are being held in  
an immigration jail  
and can't go outside.  
(-)

You are being held in  
an immigration jail  
and can't go outside.  
(-)

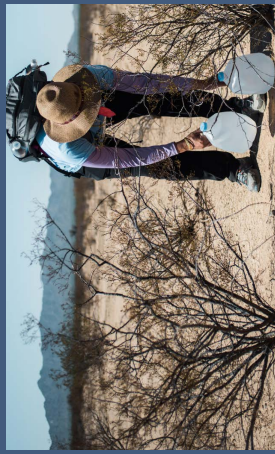
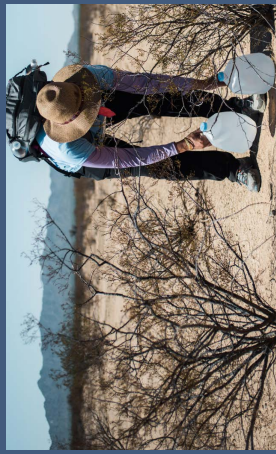
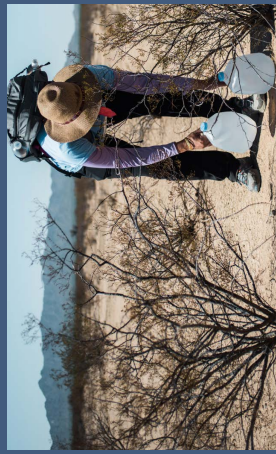
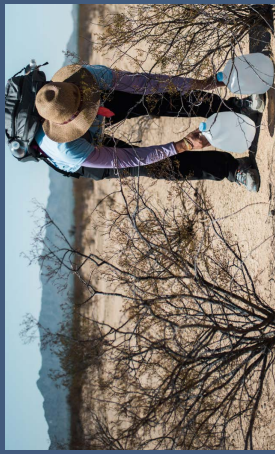
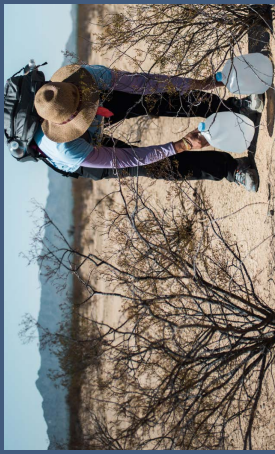
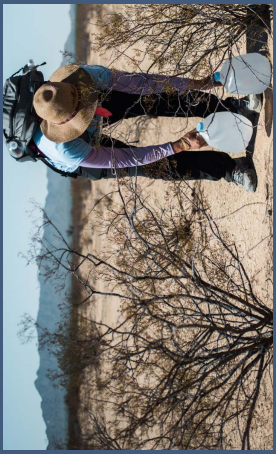
You are being held in  
an immigration jail  
and can't go outside.  
(-)

The information you  
are supposed to read  
and fill out is not in  
your first language. (-)

The information you  
are supposed to read  
and fill out is not in  
your first language. (-)

The information you  
are supposed to read  
and fill out is not in  
your first language. (-)

Cards with red text and a minus (-) sign mean you do not advance and have to stay on the space you are on.







1. Hondurans and activists protesting against the 2017 presidential elections – widely viewed as fraudulent – and subsequent military repression (January 2018).



2. Central American asylum-seekers traveling to the U.S. together for safety in numbers.





3. Community members join migrants along route through Mexico to show support and solidarity.





4. Along the migration route in Mexico, this shelter is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.





5. Volunteers drop off gallons of water along the desert migration route through the Arizona-Mexico borderlands.





6. Jail-like Texas detention center that holds migrants waiting for the results of their asylum cases.



7. Latinx organizers advocate in Washington, D.C. for policy change and greater support of human rights in Central America and the U.S.