

Mission trips often bring two very different cultures into close contact for a short and intense period of time. Remember, cross-cultural relationships are complicated and prone to misunderstandings. So how you conduct yourself while on mission can have a real and lasting impact for good – or not-so-good – on the ongoing ministry happening there. For those reasons, we ask that everyone make a covenant to respect the following guidelines during their trip. Failure to do so will result in limited trip participation and privileges.

CHARITY

It has been our experience on mission that people will often beg from others more fortunate than themselves. You will find yourself being asked to give often. It is ESSENTIAL that you adhere to the following rules about giving. If even one person breaks them, it spreads unhealthy behavior through the entire community and undermines the charitable work of the mission.

- If you choose to bring items to give away while you are on mission, mission leaders will collect them and distribute them properly with help from groups.
- Please do not give out money unless you coordinate it with your group leaders and mission staff.
- Travelers may not pay rent or finance home construction for anyone without the approval and supervision of mission staff.
- There are areas on all our campuses where only missionaries and staff are permitted. Please respect these boundaries.
- We do not facilitate people being supported outside of our programs. We can't guarantee that the money you give them is being used correctly. People you meet on the street may ask you to send them to school or finance them in other ways. Many of these people already have benefactors, or they may take the money and not go to school at all. There are several children in our programs who do need support, and we encourage sponsoring them.

CAMERAS

We want visitors to be respectful of the communities in which the mission works. We

please do it respectfully – not leaning out car or bus windows, or photographing while walking down the street. You would not want a stranger taking pictures of you or your home at random, and neither do our neighbors.

PERSONAL CONDUCT

Carry yourself in a way that honors Christ and offers a positive witness to all people.

- Be enthusiastic, positive and supportive of group members and team leaders.
- Avoid conflict and criticism of each other, leaders and mission staff.
- Girls should conduct themselves conservatively and respectfully around men.
- Loud, obnoxious, or unedifying conversations send a bad message about our witness and our culture and are not permitted.

RELATIONSHIPS

We work in close quarters and often experience intense emotions together, so the potential for romance is high. But remember you are coming on mission to serve God, not play the dating game. Dating is proactively forbidden for the duration of your trip, even for existing dating couples. Do not pursue romantic relationships with team members, team leaders, mission staff or nationals you meet. Romantic entanglements complicate mission work and distract from building friendships in the communities we serve. Violators will not be accepted back to the mission for future trips, and may be dismissed to go home early.

LIVING GUIDELINES

- Use of alcohol and tobacco is never allowed.

LIVING GUIDELINES (CONTINUED)

- Ladies need to wear knee-length dresses, skirts, or shorts. Shorts, sun dresses and slacks are permitted only after sundown and are restricted to the compound. Shorts need to be modest! Only short-sleeve or sleeveless t-shirts are permitted outside the campus – no tank tops.
- Girls must wear shirts or dresses with sleeves to all church services while on mission.
- Guys are not permitted in the girls' area and girls are not permitted in the guys' area on the mission campus except on official business such as cleaning, repairs, etc.
- Ties are required for men in church services if you are preaching. Dress clothes are required for church attendance – no shorts!
- When in church services, strive to behave as you observe native individuals behaving.
- Modest swim wear is required of everyone. Women must wear one-piece suits.
- Please refrain from wearing excessive and distracting body piercings and jewelry during your trip. Even seemingly simple jewelry can create a big distraction among nationals who cannot afford jewelry at all.
- Electricity and water on the campus are limited, so please be considerate, especially with showers. If the water runs out, no one will be showering!
- Do not go out for a walk or visit a home alone. You must take someone with you.
- Keep your personal area clean at all times on campus, and clean up after yourself when eating snacks, changing clothes, etc. You may be in close quarters with other team members.
- **ALL** passports and the card you receive from customs need to be collected by your group leaders and placed in the mission safe. Extra money, credit cards, and wallets can also be

placed in the safe. You will have access to those items every day.

- **DO NOT GIVE OUT** your e-mail address, phone number, or mailing address to your new native friends, unless you are prepared for your information to be shared with all their friends. You can communicate with them via the mission if necessary.
- If someone asks you for something of yours, do not say “maybe.” “Maybe” often means “yes.” We discourage giving away personal items in public. Simply say “no” or arrange for someone at the mission give it to them discreetly at the end of your trip.