

Behavioral Guidelines For Missions Trip

I realize that the following elements are crucial to the effectiveness, quality, and safety of our short-term mission's trip. As a member of the group, I agree to:

1. Remember that I am a guest working at the invitation of the local pastor or missionary.
2. Remember that I have come to serve. I may run across procedures that I think are inefficient or attitudes that I find closed-minded. I will resist the temptation to inform our hosts about how I would do things. I will be open to learning people's methods and ideas.
3. Respect the host's view of Christianity. I recognize that Christianity has many faces throughout the world and that the purpose of this trip is to witness, and experience faith lived out in a new setting.
4. Develop and maintain a servant's attitude toward all nationals and my teammates.
(Romans 12:1)
5. Respect my team leader(s) and his or her decisions. (1 Peter 2:13-25)
6. Will not leave my assigned area of ministry or separate myself from my assigned group without first obtaining permission from the team or group leader(s) assigned to me.
7. Refrain from gossip. I may be surprised at how much each person will blossom when freed from the concern that others may be passing judgment. (James 1:26)
8. Refrain from complaining. I know that travel can present numerous unexpected and undesired circumstances, but the rewards of conquering such circumstances are innumerable, and flexibility is key.
9. Respect the work that is going on in the country with a particular church(s) or person(s) with whom we are working. I realize that our team is here for a short while, but that the local church is here long term. I will respect their knowledge, insights, and instructions.
10. Refrain from negative political comments or hostile discussions concerning our host country's politics. (Zechariah 14:9)
11. Remember not to be exclusive in my relationships. If my significant other, fiancée or spouse is on the trip, we will make every effort to interact with all members of the team, and not just one another.
12. Refrain from any activity that could be construed as a romantic interest toward a national. I realize certain activities that seem innocent in my own culture may seem inappropriate in others.
13. Abstain from the purchase/discussion/consumption of alcoholic beverages, the use of tobacco, drugs, and smoking while on the trip. (1 CORINTHIANS 10:23)
14. Refrain from distributing money to nationals. There are many needs that you will see while serving. Bring these needs to your group leader; they are equipped to help determine the best course of action.

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15. Refrain from inappropriate topics that have no place on a mission trip. (Philippians 4:8)