

Short term Trip Team Covenant

I realize that the following elements are crucial to the effectiveness, quality, and safety of our trip together. As a member of this Short-term Mission Team, I agree to:

1. Be consistent in my pursuit of God in my life. I will choose to walk by the Spirit as described in Gal. 5:22-25 - "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.... Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."
2. Remember that I am a guest working at the invitation of a local missionary, pastor, etc. I will strive to not offend them in my behavior or words.
3. Remember that we have come to learn, not to teach. I may feel that some procedures are inefficient, or attitudes close-minded. I'll be open to learning other people's methods and ideas.
4. 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.
5. Develop and maintain a servant attitude toward all nationals and my teammates. I will strive to put them first and encourage them, not gossip or criticize. I commit to pray for our team and our trip.
6. Respect and submit to my team leader(s) and his/her decisions. If I have any disagreement I will approach the leadership in private to discuss the issue.
7. Refrain from complaining. I know that travel can present numerous unexpected circumstances, but the rewards of conquering such circumstances are many. Instead of whining and complaining, I'll be creative and supportive.
8. Respect the work that is going on in the country with the particular church, agency, or person(s) that we are working with. I realize that our team is here for just a short time, but the missionary/pastor/local church are here for the long run. I will respect their knowledge, insights, rules and instructions.
9. Refrain from negative comments or hostile discussions concerning our host country's politics or culture.
10. Remember not to be exclusive in my relationships. If my best friend or sweetheart is on the team, we will make every effort to interact with all members of the team. If I am attracted to a teammate, I will not attempt to pursue an exclusive relationship until after we return home.
11. Refrain from any activity that could be construed as romantic interest toward a national. I realize certain activities that seem innocuous in my own culture may seem inappropriate in others.
12. Participate fully in the team preparation meetings.
13. Refrain from gambling, smoking or drinking alcohol on this trip. If I am a minor, I will refrain from these before the trip as well.
14. Raise the needed funds for the trip. I understand that the cost is my responsibility and will do my part to raise the needed funds. I will participate in any team fundraisers if I want to benefit from those fundraisers.

Signed _____

Date _____

For Minors

Parent's Signature _____

Date _____