

Code of Conduct – Student/Youth Mission Trips

As ambassadors of Jesus, representatives of our church and youth group, and in an effort to have mission trips that are safe, organized and fun, we ask all mission trip participants and their parent/guardian agree and abide by the following:

General

- Mission trips are intended to challenge and grow students in their faith. By answering the call to go on mission, you can look forward to an amazing experience, but you will also experience mental, physical and spiritual challenges that will grow you.
- The key to ministry is flexibility. We have a schedule prepared for you, but God may have something different in mind. If plans change, just accept it as God's guidance for your trip and go with it.
- Spending time with God on a regular basis in his Word, prayer, worship, serving, regular participation in youth group, and attending at least 80% of team meetings are expectations for your spiritual preparation for your trip and for being part of this team.
- How we behave towards each other and to strangers is the picture we show others of Jesus while on mission. Working hard to be an example and put 1 Timothy 4:12 into practice is important leading up to the trip as well as on the trip. This is the standard we are living for the team.
- Understand that your behavior leading up to and on the trip can have consequences. If you choose to not follow the rules, listen to direction from leaders, or make decisions that are not living to be an example (1 Tim. 4:12), I may be removed from the team or sent home.
- Honor, respect and integrity are a big part of any mission trip. Understand that you are under the spiritual authority of the adult leaders and the mission partner staff. Your ability to listen to them and honor them is an important part of this team.

Funding

- Taking part in a mission trip is taking on the role of missionary. This means that praying for God to be part of your fundraising is an important part. It also means working with your family to reach out to family and friends to seek financial help is also important.
- Money raised towards my mission trip is considered a donation to Seacoast Missions and is not generally refundable due to the nature of charitable donations.
- The trip cost, or amount to be funded, is an amount that you are committed to raising financial support and meeting your funding commitments. When you agree to be part of a team, there are costs that are committed that you need to understand that you need to cover the full cost.
- The cost of passports and immunizations (when required) are not included in the trip cost and are the responsibility of the trip participant to pay.

Cultural Expectations / Mission Partners

- Commit to listening and learning about the cultures and cities you're experiencing instead of making comments or jokes.
- Be in the right place at the right time and do the right things – always put 1 Tim 4:12 into decisions.
- Always be aware of what is going on around you, and never wander off on your own. Stick with pairs

- No public displays of affection. If you're dating someone on the trip or interested in someone, put that on hold while on the trip.
- Be willing to try food once. These are foods and customs from other cultures. Be ok with different and do not complain.
- Be aware of noise levels in public spaces, restaurants, and while serving. We want to show respect and most cultures are not loud.
- Never give out your home address or phone number to anyone. If you make a connection that you want to maintain, talk to your mission partner about how best to do that (such as exchanging social media name).
- We do not want to support unhealthy giving. Our goal is that those we serve see Jesus first and the mission partner we serve. Do not give money, clothing or other items to others while on the trip. If there is a legitimate need, discuss with the team leaders and partner.
- or smaller groups of students, if allowed, or in groups with your leader always while on the mission trip.
- Do not motion or shout out of transportation. In some cases, your actions could result in misunderstanding and could be offensive to someone else and present a danger to your group.
- Always remember we are guests on the trip. Respect people. Respect the place and property.
- Always ask the mission partner before taking pictures of anyone not in your group. In most cases, students will be told to not have their phones in ministry areas. Leaders and ministry partners will always have their phones.
- Phone usage will be at the discretion of the trip leaders. Students will abide by the phone rules. Phones should only be used for taking pictures and sometimes for music with headphones. Don't allow phones to be a distraction from your experience and for the team.

Housing / Packing

- Girls and guys are not permitted in the same rooms (outside of common area).
- Leave it better than we found it.
- All exterior doors should remain closed and locked. Follow safety protocols given to you by our mission partner. Do not leave the missions housing without approval.
- We are there to serve and be respectful. Be in rooms when you need to, keep the noise level down, and get the sleep you need.
- Familiarize yourself with the items on the packing list as well as the do not pack items. Pack all required items. Please note that bags may be searched before we depart.
- There is to be NO illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, vapes, lighters, weapons (including a pocket knife), or any sexual materials brought on the trip or acquired during the trip.
- Pack clothing attire that is modest, represents the team well, and will work in the weather/climate conditions. Follow the packing list carefully.

By signing below, I am indicating that I have read and understand the Code of Conduct listed above and agree to follow these expectations.

Participant Name *(required by students and leaders)*

Parent/Guardian Name *(not required for leaders)*

Participant Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Date

Please list the name (location) of your mission trip: