



SEACOAST globalmissions

EXPECTATIONS AND PRE-TRIP PREPARATION

I agree to the following statements: I will...

- Participate in pre-trip training.
- Participate in daily devotionals and team time on the trip.
- Be timely in responses for correspondence.
- Adhere to Seacoast guidelines for appropriate conduct.
- Participate in fundraising as needed and commit to full funding prior to departure.
- Respect my fellow teammates.
- Be flexible and ready for plans to change.
- Act from the overflow of a servant's heart.
- Think with long-term impact in mind.
- Be prepared to have a life-changing experience!

FUNDRAISING AND TRIP COSTS

All participants are expected to cover the cost of their trip by either fundraising or using personal funds (this includes airfare, accommodations, meals, insurance, visas and in-country costs.)

Donations are tax-deductible but non-refundable. If you raise more than you need for your trip, it will be used to assist with project expenses.

All fundraising deadlines must be met and full payment is due prior to your departure.

If you do not meet your fundraising deadlines, you may choose to apply to another trip within the same calendar year or your funds will remain with this trip.

INDIVIDUAL GIVING ON THE TRIP

Seacoast Church does not permit individual giving to missionaries, interpreters, or community members. Your team may be traveling with items that may be left with our partner or will be used as a part of your ministry, and this is acceptable. Individual team members should not bring gifts or leave items behind unless it is pre-approved by Seacoast Global Missions Ministry.

Poverty is complex. Meeting physical needs is often necessary, but when not addressed through proper channels, it can cause more damage than good. It can also create an unhealthy dynamic where the American team becomes the "savior" and does not empower the local leadership, which is the more effective way to make a difference. To practice sustainable and healthy ministry, we work alongside and empower our long-term partners that have been vetted and can be trusted. We ask our teams never not to give money or items away as part of their on the ground experience (or when they return home). We find that when this happens it also creates unrealistic expectations of future teams, fostering dependency on American teams rather than empowerment and can often lead to disunity.

Following this rule is important to ensure the success of teams traveling after you.

ATTIRE

Participants on mission trips are expected to always dress appropriately and conservatively during the trip. You should avoid clothing that is revealing or sends any political or inappropriate messages. Please avoid crop tops, spaghetti strips or short skirts. Also, avoid wearing flashy or expensive jewelry.

Each country may have specific recommendations for appropriate attire, so be sure to discuss what clothing to bring with you with your team leader in advance.

RESPECT FOR LEADERS AND HOSTS

Seacoast Global Missions selects team leaders very carefully. We are confident in their ability to lead your team safely and to carry out the purpose of the mission. Team members are expected to respect their team leader's and follow their guidance. There may be times when you do not understand a decision that is being made but remember that he or she is making the decision out of the best interest of the team. If you have a concern or a question, you should go directly to your team leader and discuss it with him or her. Just as it is important to respect your team leader, it is equally important to respect your host. Seacoast Church has built strategic partnerships with our host ministries, and we do not want to jeopardize those relationships by the actions of team members on short-term trips. You should expect things to be different than your "normal" on this trip. Remember, it is in those differences that God is going to be able to stretch you and use you.

COMMUNICATION WITH HOME

The level of communication you will have with home while on the ground varies from trip to trip and country to country. Your team leader will give you an idea of what communication will be like while you are gone. We do not believe in dictating when you can communicate with home but ask that you be mindful about how this communication may affect your mission trip experience. Unfortunately, unexpected things can happen while you are away serving on your mission trip. Ask family and friends to consider waiting until you have returned to tell you about certain things if possible. Also, do your best to remain present and only communicate with home during your free time.

RELATIONSHIPS

If your boyfriend, girlfriend, or spouse is on the team, make every effort to interact with all members of the team. Try to avoid prioritizing one relationship if possible. If you become interested in a teammate, we discourage you from pursuing a relationship while on the trip. This can wait until you return home. The development of any such personal relationships while on your trip, including with global partners, translators, or other leaders is discouraged. Be aware of cultural norms regarding relationships to avoid inappropriate miscommunication.

Remember: You are representing Seacoast Church and our Global Partner in the country where you are serving. Our teams are held to the highest standards to ensure that we are being a blessing and not doing damage to the long-term ministry.

**My signature represents my agreement with Seacoast Global Missions Policies, also consent to my photos being used to promote future Mission Trips.