

GENERAL POLICIES FOR PREPARING TO MINISTER IN MEXICO

1. Each team member will need to complete information forms including a personal testimony, and church approval.
2. Every team member will need a valid **passport**. (Passports take 4-6 weeks or longer by mail. Apply in plenty of time.)
3. Any medication that is taken must be in the original container from the pharmacy to properly identify it at Customs. Inform the mission trip director of any medications you will need to take while on the mission trip.
4. Team members are urged to be very careful in displaying Christian love and affection with Mexicans of the opposite sex. Due to language, customs and cultural barriers, words and actions can be misunderstood. In the same way, the testimony of affection in respect to the members of the mission team must set a good Christian example.
5. **Do not give monetary gifts to nationals.** Should the team desire to give gifts to translators or other workers, **the funds should be collected by team leaders and given as specified.** These types of gifts can cause hurt feelings and make future mission trips very difficult. Often monetary gifts are misinterpreted by the Mexican team or workers and difficult relationships can result.
6. The mission trip is limited to adults and students 12 and up. Students 12 to 17 will be evaluated in regard to their maturity as a mission trip participant, and have to be accompanied and supervised by an adult family member during the mission trip.
7. Team meetings are a critical and important part of forming mission team unity. *You will be expected to be there.* Team meetings allow team members to work together in the planning and implementation of the mission trip. They provide an opportunity for team members to bond and become familiar with one another. They bring a great deal of understanding and wisdom to the team. Meetings are designed to help you and the team be better prepared for the area and work you will be doing.
8. **The mission team will be led by a team director, and team leaders appointed by the team director, who will be in charge in the absence of the team director. Team members are expected to submit to the team director's leadership. Team members who do not follow the team director's leadership could be asked to leave the trip, and/or not participate in future trips. In an emergency (health crisis, natural disaster, political upheaval, etc.), the team director will consult with the Director of Missions if possible to determine a course of action. If that is not possible, the team director has the authority to make decisions he feels are in the best interest of the team.**

CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

In many ways Mexicans take their Christianity very seriously; therefore, it is essential that we discipline ourselves to act in a manner consistent with **their** expectations. You represent our Christian values and the team at all times

1. Personal Habits

- a. **“Pairing-off”** between team members and locals is **not permitted**. Do not leave the team with any family, group, or individual without permission of the team director. If anything is in question; consult the team director.
- b. **Use of alcohol, tobacco** (any form), and any kind of drug use is strictly forbidden for the duration of the mission trip. This includes any times on the trip.

2. Dress Code

a. LADIES/GIRLS

Wear pants, medical scrub suits, dresses and skirts of modest length. Culottes and walking shorts are acceptable. For worship services, long dresses and skirts are appropriate.

b. MEN

Shirts, shoes, and long trousers should be worn at all times, unless approved by team leaders based upon the area of the work and travel. Dress business casual for worship services.

If you have questions or concerns feel free to ask the team leaders privately if necessary. We will be happy to address your concerns. We want you to feel comfortable and to enjoy the preparation and planning as well as the mission trip itself. It’s exciting to see how God works to put a team together. Let Him have His way and be available to serve Him!

I have read and agree to abide by the above policies.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____