

Short-term Mission
TRIP POLICY

I realize that the following elements are crucial to the effectiveness, quality and safety of our short-term mission assignment to Haiti.

As a member of this short-term mission team, I agree to:

1. Remember that I am a guest working at the invitation of a local ministry.
2. Remember that I have come to learn, not to teach. If opportunities are available, the host ministry will request me to teach or preach.
3. Remember that I may run across procedures or practices that I feel are inefficient, or attitudes that I find closed-minded. I will resist the temptation to inform our host about 'how I do things.' I will 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's attitude toward all nationals and my teammates.
6. Respect my team leader(s) and his or her decisions.
7. Refrain from gossip. I may be surprised at how each person will blossom when freed from the concern that others may be passing judgment.
8. Refrain from complaining. I know that travel can present numerous unexpected and undesired circumstances, but the rewards of conquering such circumstances are innumerable. I will try to be creative and supportive.
9. Respect the work that is going on in the country with a church's ministry, or person(s) with whom we are working. I realize that our team is here for just a short while, but that the local church is here for the long-term. I will respect their knowledge, insight and instructions.
10. Refrain from negative political comments or hostile discussions concerning our host country's politics.
11. Remember not to be exclusive in my relationships. If my church, close friend(s) or spouse is on the team, we will make every effort to interact with all members of the team, not just one another.
12. Refrain from any activity that could be construed as a romantic interest toward a national or another team member. I realize that certain activities that seem innocent in my own culture may seem inappropriate in others when it is not a spouse.
13. Abstain from consumption of alcoholic beverages and any un-Christ-like behavior while on the trip.