



MISSION PARTICIPANT CODE OF CONDUCT

As a Highland Oaks Church of Christ (HOCC) Missions Team member, you are expected to conduct yourself according to the highest standards of integrity and Biblical morality. Agreeing to serve on a HOCC Missions Team means that you are agreeing to adhere and abide by the guidelines, policies, and procedures of the HOCC Missions Team. Failure to follow these regulations will result in disciplinary action and possibly your dismissal from the mission field, in which case you will travel home at your own expense.

The following guidelines are meant to further the usefulness and safety of your mission trip. As a HOCC Missions Team member you are expected to:

1. Go as a servant disciple of Jesus Christ and adopt that attitude when dealing with the team members and the people you meet during the trip. Act as a servant-disciple of the local pastor or missionary. Respect the advice you are given concerning attire, eating and drinking, and other such traditions that will help you to assimilate into the local community.
2. Accept and submit to the leadership role and authority of the team leader(s) and promise to abide by his or her decisions as they concern this mission trip.
3. Make sure that your outward appearance projects the image of Christ to the host culture. You may have to ask the missionaries in order to determine what is appropriate. Come home the same way you left. This includes body piercing, tattoos, etc. Adhere to the dress code established for your trip.
4. Abstain from making derogatory comments or getting involved in arguments regarding people, politics, sports, religion, race, or traditions. Refrain from meddling, complaining, and using obscene or insensitive humor. Mission churches are just like churches in the U.S., i.e., they have their own personalities, their own traditions, their own quarrels, and sometimes even unfamiliar doctrinal ideas.
6. Attend all team meetings, both prior to departure and during the mission trip. If you are unable to attend, please contact your leadership prior to the meeting. Excessive non-participation will be cause for dismissal.
7. Make sure the group leader(s) knows where you are at all times. You should never wander off alone while on the mission field.
8. Refrain from giving gifts, such as money, clothes, jewelry, electronics, etc. Although the intent of the giver is good, the results after we leave can cause problems for our host, and jealousy amongst the nationals who did not receive such gifts. If you feel compelled to give a gift to someone you have met, consult first with the team leader(s) or host before you promise or give the gift, and promise to let him or her make the final decision on this matter.
9. Refrain from any other behavior or activity that would hinder your ministry or the ministry of your team during the term of your service.
10. Daily team worship is highly recommended for each member of the team. It should be the first activity every day of your project together. Treat it as a special time, not an obligation. Come to the team devotional dressed and ready to begin the day.
11. Understand that mission trips can be difficult, and promise to adopt a flexible attitude, as plans may need to be changed. Cultural shock can make anyone critical! Being tired can make us hypercritical. Take precautions so that you don't become hypercritical. People outside the fish

bowl see and hear it; the missionaries and local Christians resent it; your team members feel it painfully. Speak the truth in love. Be positive. Never criticize the missionaries. When you need to complain, take it to God! Cast your cares on Him, because He cares for you. Don't dump your anxieties on the shoulders of mere mortals who cannot really make things better. This includes your hosts, your team, your parents, or friends at home. Complaining only makes many more people unhappy.

12. Dating team members is a major distraction to the commitment you have made with mission participants. Spend that love, time, and attention on those who need it in order to find Jesus. Involvement with church members will create undesired problems. Keep your focus on spending all of your energy sharing Jesus. Do not become romantically attached to anyone during a mission project. If you are already linked romantically with a team member, it should not show in any way during mission training or projects.
13. Paul said to "Avoid the very appearance of evil." For this reason we ask all mission participants to abstain from tobacco, alcoholic beverages, bars, discos, and nightclubs, or anything else that distracts people's attention from God. The same principle holds for unmarried men and women sharing hotel rooms while traveling. Married participants are expected to be faithful to their spouses as Christ is faithful to His church.
14. It may sound obvious to you, but we need each worker to feel liable for him/herself. If you break or damage something, you are responsible for restitution. If you get a traffic citation, you are responsible for paying it.
15. Team members will want to be sensitive about making commitments for the team without asking the other team members. The same is true with mission participants. Teams should not commit time or funds from mission participants unless they have talked with their team leader about it first and received permission.

I have read and understand and agree to the above standards for conduct. I understand and agree that in the event that my conduct is considered so unsatisfactory that it jeopardizes the success of the trip, and that mediation during the trip has failed to correct my behavior, that my services with the mission shall end and I shall return home immediately at my own expense.

Date

Printed Name of Participant

Signature of Participant

If the participant is a minor (under the age of 18):

Date

Printed Name of Parent or Guardian

Signature of Parent or Guardian