

BIC Canada-Global

Mission Trip Covenant Agreement

We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. 2 Corinthians 6:3

The purpose of this Trip Covenant is to protect the effectiveness, quality, and safety of our trip together. By signing this document, I acknowledge my agreement with, and conformance with the expectations listed below:

1. I will remember that I am a guest working at the invitation of the _____ national church/organization. I will dress modestly, and I will attempt to gain understanding as to what is acceptable and not acceptable to the people we are working with and ministering to, so that I can comply with their standards of etiquette, attire, etc. If my hosts are offended by my clothing or lack thereof, I will respect them by changing my attire. I'll remember the missionaries' prayer: "Where You lead me, I will follow; what they feed me, I will swallow!"
2. I understand that we have come primarily to serve and to learn. I may encounter procedures that I feel are inefficient, or attitudes that I find closed-minded. I will resist the temptation to inform our hosts about "how we do things." I will be open to learning other people's methods and ideas.
3. I will respect the host's view of Christianity even if their theological positions are slightly different than mine. I recognize that Christianity has many faces throughout the world, and that the purpose of this trip is to witness for Christ, to serve people, and to experience faith lived out in a new setting.
4. I will develop and maintain a servant attitude towards all.
5. I will respect and obey leadership from both the team leaders and the national church/organization.
6. I will refrain from the sin of gossip. I will not spread rumors. If I have a problem with someone on my team, I will do my best to work it out peacefully and respectfully.
7. I will refrain from complaining. I understand that travel in the Third World can present numerous unexpected and challenging circumstances. Instead of complaining, I will be creative and supportive, and I will work to adapt to the circumstances that I am in.
8. I will respect the work that is going on in this country and with the particular church/organization that we are working with. I realize that our team is here for just a short while, but that the missionary and local churches are there for the long term. I will respect their knowledge, insights, and instructions.
9. I will attend and be prompt to all team preparation meetings and participate in fund-raising activities. I will notify my team leader in advance if I am going to miss a given function.
10. I will fulfill all logistical requirements. I will comply with all requirements regarding passports, finances, shots, etc. I will assume full financial responsibility for my cost of the trip. Regarding finances, there will be certain critical dates when specific amounts of money are due to BIC Canada-Global. These are deadlines! You will be supplied these dates and amounts. If you anticipate that you will not be able to make a payment, please contact your team leaders.

11. I will refrain from negative political comments or hostile discussions concerning our host country's politics. I will be mindful that North Americans tend to speak louder and more boisterously than many other cultures. This is sometimes seen in a negative light by nationals. I will be careful not to be offensive or obnoxious to our national hosts. I will instead be sensitive in all areas of my conduct, and to the norms of the society I am visiting.
12. I will not be exclusive in my relationships. If my sweetheart or spouse is on the team, we will make every effort to interact with all members of the team, not just one another. If I am attracted to a teammate, I will not attempt to pursue an exclusive relationship until after we return home.
13. I will refrain from any activity that could be construed as a romantic interest toward a national. I realize certain activities that seem innocuous in my own culture may seem inappropriate in others.
14. I will abstain from the consumption/purchase of alcoholic beverages or the use/purchase of tobacco or illegal drugs.
15. The team is representative of the church, which is known in the New Testament as "the body of Christ". I will make every effort to contribute to and be a part of the body, knowing that only as we work as the "body of Christ" will we succeed.
16. As this is a ministry of our local BIC church, I agree to comply with the Children and Youth Protection Policy, which will involve a police check, if not already in compliance.

Before Trip Departure: I realize that my ability to be a member of this short-term missions trip is dependent in part upon my complying with the standards of the Trip Covenant. Should I fail to meet the terms of this covenant, or to meet reasonable biblical standards for behavior or trip preparation, I acknowledge that I may not be able to go on the trip.

After Trip Departure: I understand that if I am in violation of any of the tenets of the Trip Covenant or of biblical standards for Christian behavior upon arriving in the host country, I could be required by team leadership to return home early, at my own expense.

Name (Printed)

Name (Signed)

Parent name (Printed) (if under age 18)

Parent name (Signed)

Team Leader (Printed)

Team Leader (Signed)