

## **To Every Nation, Inc. Short-Term Team Member Code of Conduct**

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### **MINISTRY OBJECTIVE**

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**To Every Nation**, Short-Term Mission teams are devoted to sharing the truth and hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all people, in every nation. We are committed to teaching and applying the principles found in God's Holy Word. The Kingdom will grow as we minister to the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of the people. As a mission ministry we want to provide opportunities for you to use your skills, faith and abilities in Christian service alongside missionaries in ministries with similar values.

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### **SHORT TERM TEAM CODE OF CONDUCT:**

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As you prepare for your mission trip, remember that the person best equipped to minister in a cross-cultural setting is the person who is spiritually prepared. Regular time in prayer and Bible study should be an integral part of your preparation. Christ-like attitudes of a learner and a servant are some of the most important assets you can have. This humble attitude will help you to minister and to be ministered to in the name of Christ. It will also help you to be flexible as you face cultural challenges and language barriers. During your mission trip, we challenge you to strive to be an encouragement and a testimony to your fellow team members as well as to the missionaries and nationals with whom you will come in contact. Most of all, maintain a God-honoring standard for the team and everyone who you come in contact with on the trip. Portray a proper testimony to all people impacted by the team, and have a vital impact on each team member.

#### **Each team member is expected to and must agree to:**

1. Be willing and prepared to exhibit a servant's attitude at all times.
2. Be willing to be flexible in all types of circumstances.
3. Be willing to submit to team and/or host site leadership, seeking to promote an attitude of unity, cooperation and respect for those in leadership.
4. Be willing to live, sleep, travel, eat and work as part of the group, in conditions that may be less than ideal.
5. Be willing to accomplish whatever task is assigned.
6. Be willing to dress by the standards which are appropriate for the culture, seeking to never be a distraction or bring offense by what is worn.
7. Realizing that customs vary greatly from culture to culture, one must be willing to abstain from conduct, as requested by team and missionary leaders, which might be offensive to others or may be contrary to a clear testimony for Jesus Christ. In particular, team members will be asked to refrain from using tobacco, alcoholic beverages, offensive language or abusive drugs, and must agree to keep conduct with the opposite sex at the highest standards of respect, modesty and morality, as well as anything else that would negatively impact the witness of the local host/Christian Community at any time, including while traveling to and from the host site.
8. Show respect for those on the team and at the host location who may have doctrinal beliefs and practices different from their own, understanding that the doctrinal beliefs and practices of the host will be what is held as the standard while serving on location.
9. Abstain from making derogatory comments or getting involved in arguments regarding people, politics, sports, religion, race, or traditions.

10. Attend all team meetings, both prior to departure and during the mission trip.
11. Refrain from meddling, complaining, and using obscene or insensitive humor
12. Adhere to the dress code established for your trip.
13. You should never wander off alone while on the mission field.
14. Interact with all members of your team, not just those members that you knew before your trip.
15. Do not seek out romantic relationships with a team member, team leader, overseas worker, or national you might meet on your trip.
16. Refrain from giving gifts, such as money, clothes, jewelry, tape players, etc. Although your intent is good, the result after we leave can cause problems for our host. Jealousy amongst the nationals who do not receive such gifts might occur. If you feel compelled to give a gift to someone you have met, consult first with the team leader or host before you promise or give the gift, and promise to let him or her make the final decision on this matter.
17. 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.
18. Refrain from any other behavior or activity that would hinder your ministry or the ministry of your team during the term of your service.
19. Do not make any promises to the nationals..

I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree to fully abide by the above stated Code of Conduct.  
*please print first & last name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

## Dress Code for Mission Trips

Most countries where we serve have a more conservative approach to clothing than we are used to in the United States. As guests, we choose to respect our host by honoring their requests that our Teams wear modest and culturally appropriate clothing. Specific dress code details will vary from location to location. In some locations, women may be expected to wear dresses or skirts at all times with fully-covered chest and shoulders. Men often need long slacks/pants. Sometimes modest and conservative shorts are acceptable for both men and women, but not always! We ask team members to remove body piercings (other than for a single pair of earrings for women), and to wear only the simplest jewelry

### SHORTS

Shorts may be worn on motel grounds. Exceptions may be made as special opportunities arise and it is determined by leadership that shorts would be the proper attire. Shorts must meet the host countries standard, that is appropriate in length, modest in fit, no cut offs and NO SHORT SHORTS!

### T-SHIRTS/ TOPS

No tank-tops and nothing that is sleeveless. Remember the heat. You need shirts that are loose fit and modest. No see-through shirts. No logos. It is hard to determine which logos might be offensive.

### HATS

Hats may be worn outside as protection from the sun. Certain symbols/messages are NOT acceptable. Ask if you are not sure. Unless outdoor, hats may NOT be worn in church services.

### SHOES

Comfortable walking shoes are vital. A spare pair is also recommended. Tennis shoes are wonderful. Your shoes need to have good arch and ankle support.

**DON'T over pack. Each suitcase MUST NOT weigh over **50 lbs.**** Choose your clothes accordingly. Lightweight cotton and wrinkle free (as irons are not always available) will be your best choices. We suggest that you pack a sweater or light jacket as the mountain areas can be cool in the evenings.

### PERSONAL WEAR

Watches and rings are permitted. *However, if they are valuable, you may consider leaving them at home.* Ladies must NOT wear an excessive amount of jewelry. Less is BEST! It must be conservative in style. A small single pair of earring for the ladies is recommended.

### FEMALES:

Ministry Dress (evangelism, church services, school devotions, door to door)-Wear skirts that reach below the bottom of the knee or longer, Capri pants or khaki slacks, and shirts with sleeves. You can wear short sleeves, but keep in mind that in some countries you must cover the shoulders and upper arms. Shirts should not have scoop necks or low v-necks.

Construction, Sports Dress, VBS, Feeding Programs-Wear jeans, capris or knee length shorts. Work shirt or t-shirt, (no tank tops). Shirts should not have scoop necks or low v-necks. Boots, strong shoes or tennis shoes should be worn. Overall, we must remain culturally sensitive and this may take some adjustment for all.

## MALES:

Ministry Dress (evangelism, church services, school devotions, door to door)- wear nice pants (slacks, khaki slacks), nice shirt with a collar, nice shoes or tennis shoes. Men as well must remain culturally sensitive. Some countries we visit the men may dress more formal than what we are used to and we need to be ready to adjust.

Construction/Sports Dress/VBS/ Feeding program-Jeans, pants or shorts to the knee. Work shirt (no tank tops or sleeveless), boots, strong shoes or tennis shoes

## A Synopsis:

No flashy clothes or jewelry. Do not bring clothes with logos and advertisements. Remember what you wear is a physical representation of who you are. Both guys and girls do not bring clothing that is tight, too small, or form-fitting in any way. Do not bring pants that are low-cut. If you can bend over and touch your toes without showing any skin in the back, then your shirt and pants are fine. If you can raise your hands all the way above your head and not show your stomach, then your shirt is fine as well. Sandals work great in some occasions, but it is always best to have extra pair of close toe/heel shoes. Lastly, depending on the country you may be ask to cover any tattoos that show.

**The way we dress could hurt the testimony of Jesus Christ. Some cultures see tank-tops and low necklines as immodest. The American value of personal choice has crossed over into the Christian world. We sometimes think that we have the right to dress the way we choose regardless of how it may offend other people. A mission trip is not the time to try and transform another culture to be more like yours. It is the job of the missionary to conform to the host culture. Our job is to minister in a language they will understand.**

**Modesty**

**Safety**

**Cultural Sensitivity**