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## Mission Standards (Continued)

### PAIRING OFF:

You may come as boyfriend/girlfriend, and you may leave as boyfriend/girlfriend, but while you are onsite you are a member of a team, so please refrain from public displays of dating and affection as these things are distracting.

### DISCIPLINE:

Students or adults demonstrating an uncooperative attitude or violating rules may be removed from SERVE and sent home at their own expense.

## What to Pack

Bring modest clothes and work clothing you don't mind getting dirty. Short shorts, sports bras worn without a shirt overtop, spaghetti straps, bare midriffs or shirts that promote anti-Christian messages (alcohol, drugs, etc.) are not acceptable at any time. Bathing suits must be modest. Guys may not wear brief style Speedos. Bring towels, personal items and your Bible. **Enclosed footwear (i.e. tennis shoes) and unaltered t-shirts (i.e. no sleeves cut off) are required on the worksites.** You will receive further guidelines in the Welcome Letter from your Site.

## What NOT to Pack

Do not bring weapons, firearms, alcohol, drugs, tobacco, a bad attitude, etc. If you have prescription medication, please make sure the host team is aware of it.

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## Covenant for Mission Participants

As a participant in this experience I realize that this is a privilege and a responsibility. While SERVE is an enjoyable experience for those who participate, it is also a Christian service ministry where work and team cooperation are needed.

### BECAUSE OF THIS I HAVE AGREED TO:

1. Cheerfully participate in all assignments and activities and abide by the decisions and schedules set by the ThereforeGo SERVE Host Team.
2. Show respect for authority and refrain from abusive language, manipulative behaviors and violations of site policies. Failure to comply with behavioral expectations may result in my being sent home at my expense. I understand that any use or possession of alcohol, firearms, weapons or drugs (not prescribed by a physician) will automatically result in my being sent home at my expense.
3. Represent Jesus Christ, my church youth group and ThereforeGo Ministries while on this mission trip and conduct myself appropriately at all times.

### QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

If you have any questions or comments regarding your upcoming mission experience, please feel free to contact ThereforeGo Ministries at 616.241.5616 or [SERVE@ThereforeGo.com](mailto:SERVE@ThereforeGo.com)

Please review the ThereforeGo Ministries website for insurance information and crossing the border. It is your responsibility to have the correct documentation if you are crossing a border.



# STUDENT HANDBOOK



# Welcome and Thank You!

Participating in SERVE is an exciting adventure! As part of this mission team, you'll be serving God and helping reach a community in need.

Be flexible, put others first and be willing to learn. You will make discoveries about yourself, others, and, most importantly, your relationship with God. The time you spend on this mission experience will change you and benefit others.



## TO MAKE THIS A GREAT EXPERIENCE:

- Try to make things easier and not harder for the Host Team and Adult Leaders. Keep a positive attitude, and remember that you came to serve.
- Work hard, and grow in the ability to give thanks for everything.
- Handle conflict and disappointments in a mature way. Listen first. Talk with the leaders if things get out of control. (Matthew 18:15-20)
- Don't compare this experience to others you may have been on. Come excited and prepared for a whole new experience.
- Be safe. If something seems dangerous to you, stop what you're doing, and ask a leader for advice and guidance.

## Mission Standards

These are general rules that apply to all SERVE Sites. There will also be some specific guidelines at the experience you are registered for. Your Host Team will send out a Welcome Letter with those guidelines and also cover them when you arrive.

### PUNCTUALITY:

Please arrive and depart at the times stated in your confirmation letter as activities are planned from the time you arrive to the time you leave. If you have questions about this, please contact your Host Team Coordinator.

### VISITORS:

Visits from family and friends while onsite are discouraged since they disrupt the continuity of the experience.

### FREE TIME:

Free time is scheduled into the daily experience. There will also be a half or whole-day away planned.

### LODGING AND MEALS:

At a SERVE Site you will typically be housed and eat in a local church or school. You may be involved in meal preparation and/or cleanup. Unless told otherwise by the Host Team, bring a sleeping bag and a single foam/air mattress.

Remember, you are a guest. Do not assume open access to the entire facility. You will be expected to keep your area neat and clean and be considerate of others.

### USE OF ELECTRONICS:

The use of phones, iPods, MP3 players or radios is discouraged since these things can distract from what's important for the week (i.e. working and growing in Christ together). Some SERVE Sites allow you to use these things during free time. Others ask that you turn off or even turn in your electronics for the week. Be sure you see the Welcome Letter and understand their rules before you go.

ThereforeGo Ministries is not responsible for personal items that are lost, stolen or damaged. Ask the Host Team Coordinator for a secure place to store valuables.

### NON-SMOKING SITES:

Smoking/vaping is prohibited. This means there will be no smoking/vaping at the worksites, at the church/school where you are staying, in the car/van while traveling to/from worksites or on the day away. This applies to both students and adults.