

## TEAM ORIENTATION

### Giving:

1. Never give anything directly to someone - food (candy, gum), drink (soda, water), money, personal items (clothing, jewelry, watches, shoes, etc...). Everything you would like to donate must be given to the Mission to distribute.
2. Don't exchange personal contact information like home address, telephone number, e-mail, facebook, etc... with anyone outside the group - translators, people in the community, etc... Can create a difficult situation in the future for people to ask for personal things. If this is ever done, please notify the mission or the UMVIM coordinator immediately, so we can address the situation.

### Safety:

1. Never travel alone, always go in groups of 2 or more, ideally with a Honduran. Avoid walking outside at night.
2. Never go anywhere outside where the group is working without notifying your group team leader and/or the UMVIM coordinator.
3. When walking or just in general, be aware and observant of your surroundings. If you feel something isn't right or uncomfortable - trust your gut.
4. When walking, remember pedestrians DO NOT have the right-of-way.
5. Travel with your passport and have a copy of your passport in your suitcase.
6. Never wear a lot of jewelry & nothing expensive. Watch purses, cell phones and personal items around a work area - always be aware of where your things are at all times. Never just set them down and walk away.
7. Money:
  - a. Never carry all your money with you or keep it all in one place.
  - b. Never carry a lot of cash on you. Take only what you might need for that day.
  - c. Wear purses, backpacks, wallets, etc. in a way that is safe and they can't easily be snatched.
  - d. Be inconspicuous when pulling your money out to buy something.
8. Water:
  - a. Always drink bottled water.
  - b. Avoid using water from the sink to brush your teeth - a good practice is to brush your teeth away from the sink, so you don't accidentally rinse your brush with the water by habit.
  - c. Watch getting water in your mouth when showering.
  - d. Water bottles at work site need to be cleaned/wiped off with hand sanitizer and/or wet wipes before putting into dispensers.
9. Never eat food from street vendors or food offered in the community/homes. Have your translator explain to the person offering the food why you can't take it. You have just eaten and are full or you will be eating lunch soon, etc... You can be polite without insulting the person. **If you eat this food you do it at your own risk!!!!**
10. Don't touch or play with any animals. Dogs, cats, etc... are not treated like pets here and may bite you. Animals are also usually not treated for any diseases.

### Logistics:

1. FLEXIBILITY is the key word for the trip as things may not always go as planned. Focus on building relationships and learning the culture and make the task you are performing secondary.
2. Bathrooms/Showers:
  - a. Toilet paper always goes in the trash can, never in the toilet as it will clog up the toilet fast.
  - b. Toilet paper can be very hard to find in public places, so always carry some with you. The team has a Potty Bag which we take with us on the work site and it has toilet paper, hand sanitizer, etc... The Potty Bag needs to be left in a central location for everyone to use and always returned to that location after using. Never leave it in a public place as it will disappear.
  - c. Bathrooms can be hard to find, so when one is available always try to use it.
  - d. Some showers have units attached which are plugged into electricity that heats the water. To use these units, always start the water slowly remembering the water has to heat through the unit first. If you turn the showers on full blast they will NEVER heat. Remember to start slow and allow the unit time to heat and then increase the amount of water to the temperature you want. If you have questions or problems ask your UMVIM coordinator for help.
3. Dress - no shorts, closed toed shoes must be worn while working, modest tops, etc...

4. If you need something, please ask your team leader or myself. A list will be made and every effort made to get what you need. Please do not ask translators to do special favors for you without running it by your team leader or UMVIM coordinator first.
5. Schedule for the week: Breakfast \_\_\_\_\_, leave for work site at \_\_\_\_\_, lunch \_\_\_\_\_, leave the site around \_\_\_\_\_, dinner \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Meals/food:
  - a. Lunches eaten on-site:
    - i. Team pays a daily per diem which includes food only for the team and the people they hire like translators, doctors, stove technicians, etc.... Therefore, sandwich lunches eaten at work sites **DO NOT** include the workers or anyone other than the team and translators. If the team wants workers, pastor, volunteers, etc... to participate and eat lunch with the team the cost is \$5/person/meal. This money can be paid to the UMVIM coordinator at the end of the week in dollars or lempiras.
    - ii. Translators during meals - please allow translators time to eat and only pull them to translate in an emergency. They deserve a break and time to eat their lunch as does the team.
  - b. La Ceibita Meals - each meal includes one drink with the meal. If you want more than one drink with your meal or want to take a drink with you, **you are responsible for purchasing any additional drinks** beside the one that comes with the meal.
7. Never make promises - ie. Will send a picture back to a child, group or family, etc....
  - a. It sets up expectations and then when it doesn't happen the people feel let down/betrayed/ lied to.
  - b. This also adds a burden on the mission personnel to full-fill the promises you make to others in Honduras.
8. Teams building stoves - after every house you need to clean the stove tools (shovels, trowels, levels, tape measures, hammers, etc... anything with cement on it) completely/thoroughly with water and NOT just throw them into the buckets with cement on them. If the tools are not cleaned thoroughly then they rust and have to be replaced faster. We are only getting about one weeks use out of the tape measurers due to cement being left on them and team complain they can't read the levels due to them being dirty.

### Etiquette:

1. No smoking or drinking, especially in public.
  2. Food - please remember the food that is prepared for you may be very different than what you are used to. Be respectful to the people who prepared the food and if you don't care for something just politely don't eat it or offer it to someone else. Refrain from making comments or faces regarding the food as the cooks and other Hondurans notice and are offended by this lack of appreciation for what was offered.
  3. Be careful applying hand sanitizer. Some people have touched a dirty child or adult and then immediately pulled out their hand sanitizer and applied in front of the person which makes them feel you think they are unclean. Use good judgment when applying hand sanitizer.
  4. Don't take pictures of someone without asking permission first.
  5. Hand/face gestures - lip pointing is very common here (don't be offended and think someone is blowing you a kiss). Over handed request to come.
  6. Common things seen: Women breast feeding openly and men eliminating on the side of the road.
  7. Spanish - be careful when using Spanish phrases you have learned from other countries as they may not mean the same thing in Honduras.
    - le. Two people from Puerto Rico were using the word *coger* [pronounced "co-hair"], which to them means "to take" or "to pick up". However, in Honduras this word means to have sex. One woman kept using this phrase & the people thought she was referring to having sex with someone. Another instance was with a pastor who was trying to say he picked up a dog, but it translated into he had sex with a dog.
      - One young man was trying to say "Buenas noches" [Goodnight] to a young woman, but said "Buenas Nachas" which means nice butt.
- We want everyone to learn the language and be able to communicate with the people, just be careful with things you have already learned and not sure of the real meaning by asking the translators about a word or phrase first before speaking it to the people.