



MISSION POSSIBLE

Equipping the Next Generation of Christ Centered Leaders

Team Member Guide

Team



This entire section is extremely important. Please read it carefully and set your expectations accordingly.

“When going on a mission tour, you are asked to adhere to a strict schedule, participate in team activities, work (possibly harder than at home), eat what is placed before you, and serve others. You will return from the mission tour tired, grubby looking, hungry for familiar food, and spiritually wealthier. The benefits of a vacation fade as quickly as your tan. The benefits of a mission tour will increase with time.” – Martha VanCise

As you join this team and as you travel and live together during your trip, you have to give up your rights as an individual. You are traveling and working for the purpose of the group and the Mission Possible national leaders. Unity is primary. Individuality is secondary. This is counter-cultural for North Americans.

Remember these things as you maintain unity:

- Remain flexible in all situations. Remember that many if not all things on the trip will be outside of your control. Don't get an attitude about those things which you can't control.
- Show grace. No one is perfect. We can all strive for excellence, but perfection is only found in Jesus Christ.
- Prioritize cooperation.
- Work with our national leaders. There can only be one chief. You are not it. Be submissive to the trip leader.
- Avoid judging ministry or team effectiveness based on work accomplished or short-term observations.
- Look for opportunities to help and work. Don't wait for the other person to step up. Volunteer for what has to be done.

You will want to be comfortable on your trip. In a survival-based culture, there will be situations that will be objectionable to us as we come from a comfort-based culture. In the uncomfortable situations, make a conscious effort to accept the circumstance, refrain from complaining, and allow the Lord to teach you something new about yourself or the circumstance. Perhaps you will be able to endure something you believed you could never endure.

When taking food, riding in a vehicle, choosing sleeping arrangements, or lining up for the bathroom, consider the needs of others before yourself. Practice common courtesy within your group. If you have older team members traveling with you, be sensitive to their travel and sleeping needs. If you have worked hard and could eat a horse, remember there are team members that may be coming after you in line or at your table that need food too.

Always remember to be kind and sensitive to your team hosts. They are working hard and doing their best to provide for you.

Other common courtesies include:

- Be informed. Listen to instructions and daily announcements.
- Be on time. Don't keep the team waiting.
- Participate in all group activities.

- Respect the needs of others privacy, silence, and sleep.
- Bathe daily (when possible).
- Watch for annoying behavior in yourself. It is easy to see it in others. It takes intentionality and courage to see it in yourself.

If you have been on a mission trip before, look for new ways to expand your relationship with God, the team, and those you know from past trips. Remember that this is a new trip and it will never be like the last one. Reliving the past only keeps you from experiencing the freshness of the present. Be ready to give advice when asked. Be cautious about offering too much uninvited advice.

Remember, this trip is not about you. It is about the team's ability to work in unity under the direction of the national leaders to further the leadership development opportunities provided by Mission Possible.

Action:

What does it mean that there are a variety of personalities on the team?

Release of Rights

We live in a world that is full of rights. Our particular culture is one where we take pride in our rights. The rights of individuals are constitutional; however, as we see the demanding of individual rights increase, we see more of the moral fiber of our society decrease. Our Lord Jesus Christ laid down His rights to the heavens and all His glory to become a man and to serve, not to be served. (Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 10:45)

Consider laying down your rights on this mission trip. Not to lay them down for better or worse, but to entrust them to the Lord, or to transfer the responsibility of them to a place of safekeeping. These rights may seem reasonable, but could still cause dissension on a Short Term mission trip. Take time to search your heart and willingly surrender your rights to the Lord.

Romans 12:1

I give up my right to:

*a comfortable bed
three meals a day
familiar food
dressing fashionably
technology and communication
seeing results
control of myself
control of others
control of circumstances
pleasant circumstances
making decisions
taking up offense
being successful
being understood
being heard
being right*

I entrust to God:

*my strength and endurance
my health and strength
my likes and dislikes of food
my security in Him
the care of my family while I'm away
His purposes and fruit in His timing
my need for His Spirit control
His workmanship in others
my circumstances to His purposes
the privilege of suffering for Him
His sovereign hand on my life
willingness to understand others
my security in His love
my reputation
my need for recognition
my need for righteousness*

I give God permission to do anything He wishes to me, with me, in me or through me, which would glorify Him.

Signature

Date