

Code of Conduct

We appreciate your willingness to give yourself to this work. It is our desire that your time with us is useful and rewarding and brings you to a greater understanding of the life that our heavenly Father, through Jesus, has to offer. Thank you for coming! Welcome!

OBEDIENCE AND HARD WORK. That defines the life of Jesus, and it is a good standard to apply to your time with us. We cannot attain His perfection in this, but by His grace, we can walk in His Spirit rather than in our flesh. Please consider doing His work His way. When necessary be available for long hours and continuous work while you are here. It's not about you; it is about the children and the needs at hand. This is not the place for focusing on meditation, finding yourself, or doing what you think best. This is a place where you can find the truth of Jesus' words: **"If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me...(also) whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it."**

Much of it is a matter of common sense

Ben Franklin said that common sense is not too common. It isn't always what comes naturally- especially in another culture. When you are with us, please continually think of yourselves as representing Jesus as a guest in another person's home. Please ask yourself "WWJD?" and ask us before doing anything! We cannot list every commonsense thing, but here is a variety that often needs to be stated:

GCO is a tobacco, alcohol, and drug free ministry. Those who work here must be also!

- - Do not shout or talk loudly near where others are sleeping, praying, or studying.
- - Do not use foul language
- - Do not ever sit on tables or eat outside.
- - Do not play with dogs outside as some will bite
- - Do not take any kitchen utensils, coffee cups or glasses outside of kitchen only use disposable cups if needed to take outside
- - When visiting any homes, churches or villages please be respectful and accept it if anyone offers you any food or drink it is their way of saying thank you and being kind. Please do not make faces of yuck or any other gestures of not liking it as it could really be very disrespectful to them.
- - Do not take long, hot showers or leave lights on and keep all doors shut when leaving a room. Think energy conservation with lights and water!
- - Do not use towels to wipe dirt off floor or anything else please ask for a rag if needed
- - Do not come into ministry house with muddy shoes or soaking wet shoes take off at door please.
- - Do not put feet on walls and please take shoes off before sitting on beds please sleep under covers and not on top of bed
- - Do not sleep on couch in living room
- - ladies are not allowed in men's room and vice versa
- - Do not leave personal property, such as cameras or backpacks, or tools lying around and jobs half finished.

- - Do not give your camera or other belongings to others and expect to have them returned or be in the same condition. People have been known to delete all pictures from cameras.
- - Do not allow children to wear your hats, sunglasses or anything else
- - Guard what you say, and how you say it. Many people understand English.
- - Do not tell your translator to translate any kind of giving of money or etc before talking it over with Ron or Rhonda first
- - Before handing out any candy or other gifts to children please talk with Ron or Rhonda first
- - If you are sick someone needs to know. Medicines taken in the US may not be appropriate for Guatemala, so PLEASE let our Team Coordinator know of illnesses on your team.
- - **Remember NOT to flush the toilet paper.** Please place it in the garbage cans provided. If you accidentally forget please come and get us to let us know before flushing
- - brown side down please in waste basket as it needs to be taken out and no one wants to see it
- - Our water is good, and you make drink it and brush your teeth with it.

Meals, Lodging, Incidentals

LOGISTICS

All meals are included in your fees of trip EXCEPT for your free day off we will look out for you and your safety but keep in mind as always being in another country there are always a chance of stomach issues.

Passports, money, airline tickets and other valuables

Please ask us where to put your valuables. Your passport & airline tickets should be placed in a Ziploc bag with your name on it upon arrival and given to your group leader for safe storage. We have secure places to store your things. No ministry staff will enter your room without you being notified first to take trash out or clean. Ministry house is safe

Do not bring or wear excessive jewelry; limit valuable items to only what is essential. If you put something down, even for just a moment, it means you don't want it (even if it is your camera, watch, etc.). When you return to find your possessions, do not expect them to be there.

Bathing

You should bathe in the dorm to which you are assigned. Please help us conserve time, water, and energy by not taking long, hot showers. We have ample towels for your use.

Medical needs

You are responsible for all medical needs while here in Guatemala please let us know if you feel like you are starting to be ill the first day

Telephone

Unless you have an international plan, we recommend that you do NOT use your personal phone for calls or texting because it is extremely expensive. Keep your phone on "airplane mode" if you are using it for pictures. **PLEASE NOTE - WIFI IS NOT AVAILABLE AT MISSION HOUSE ONLY TO TEAM LEADERS .**

Vehicles and Equipment

If something breaks while you are using it please make sure that you notify a staff person if there is a problem. The only enforced traffic law in Guatemala is: Do not have an accident. Should you feel unable to accept the responsibility, do not drive.

Leaving Campus

Coordinate ALL departures from our home with Ron and Rhonda or their designate. When walking off of property outside around mission house please go in two's. It is a beautiful country, and there are many things to see. Keep the focus on the job at hand.

If you visit the city of Santiago on your day off, plan your time to return here before dark. This is not downtown USA. **LISTEN to advice and warnings of those who live here.** It is dangerous to go to certain places or to go alone. Please have the courtesy to heed our warning.

Dress Code

Your dress, personal appearance, and hygiene should be a positive example. Dress conservatively and comfortably.

- - We do not allow tank tops or sleeveless shirts or blouses of any kind - for both men and women.
- - T-shirts and jeans or sweats are what most people wear.
- - Shorts are fine for men and women as long as they aren't too short. This means Bermuda shorts
- - Men are not allowed to wear earrings, do-rags or have braided hair.
- - Body piercing of any kind is not allowed only one per ear for women
- - Hats should never be worn indoors, especially during worship and Bible.

Daily Schedule

Your assignment will determine the best time and duration for work, depending on various factors. Our home is an "early to bed and early to rise" establishment.

Do not neglect a significant personal time with the Lord each day.

COURTESY

Our Guatemalan Staff

We view our Guatemalan staff as ministers, just like we view ourselves. Please show the utmost respect for them. They probably won't ever do things the way a North American would do it, but you are guests in their culture. Many Indians come by, as well as police officers at times. Please be humble and polite with them especially while they are on our property. Please out of respect include them in conversations and be kind with thanks for they are a big part of the ministry of cooking and cleaning. Also please be considerate after meals to take plates and glasses to sink right after meals as our staff will be waiting to wash dishes and to finish their jobs so they can get back home to their families.

Everyone's job description from Ron and Rhonda on down is "whatever is necessary" which can be both physically demanding and at times humbling. We are here to serve, not to be served. It works best when the chain of command is followed, especially when things do not go according to the original plan. We are working towards a long term focus, an eternal harvest. Temporary inconvenience is a small price to pay for being a part of God's working in the lives of the people here. Please understand there as well might be scheduled times for things but might not always start on exact time we always have a saying here sometimes it's like water on a ducks back please be patient and understanding. Thank you for understanding our policies and for your willingness to serve.