



Information for Team Organizers of Student Living Water Trips

Thank you for signing up to take a student group on a Living Water Trip! As an organizer of a student/youth group we ask for your special consideration and attention when assembling your team.

Nothing is more impactful than a group of polite, engaging, well-trained teenagers representing Living Water in a rural community in Central America. Their energy, friendship and willingness to serve is life-giving to Living Water staff and the local people. On the other hand, nothing damages a short-term trip experience for all involved more than one young person (or more) who came on the trip for the wrong reason.

You, as the team organizer, are responsible for the success of this short-term trip experience regarding the behavior of your team members. The investment you make in vetting and preparing your students will yield huge benefits toward a positive outcome.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Make it very clear to parents and students what types of behaviors and attitudes will be expected as a participant of a Living Water Trip. Ask them to sincerely pray about this opportunity before registering for the trip.
2. Have students fill out an application designed specifically for your group situation. Ask some personal questions that give insight into his/her character or faith walk. (These questions could also be used to interview the applicant.)
 - a. When you think about going on this trip, what concerns you the most?
 - b. What gifts or skills do you have that will benefit the team?
 - c. How do you respond when an adult corrects you?
 - d. Are you willing to change something (dress, hairstyle, piercing, etc.) if asked to do so for the good of the ministry?
 - e. Are you more of a leader or a follower?
 - f. What is your greatest strength.....weakness?
 - g. If someone asks you why you believe in Christ, what would you say?
 - h. If you could tell a new believer 3 things, what would you tell them?
 - i. Why are you interested in going on this trip?
 - j. Have you traveled out of the US before? Share about this experience.
3. Team leaders should design an interview process. It is important that you know your team members. If you are unsure of a students' trustworthiness, do not include them just to fill a spot on your team. Your students are representing the name and mission of Living Water and it is vitally important that they will reflect those values well.

4. Trip Meetings

- a. Make expectations and consequences clear and understandable. Teenagers are adept at finding any loophole in your rule. Living Water has rules everyone must follow, but you may need to enforce additional boundaries appropriate for your age group and situation.
- b. Things to cover:
 - i. iPhone and iPad usage
 - ii. No boys in girls' rooms and girls in boys' rooms
 - iii. Dress code for girls for travel, free time and tourist day
 - iv. Lights out at a reasonable time
 - v. Keeping rooms neat
 - vi. Helping Living Water staff with cooking and clean up
 - vii. No bad language or inappropriate conversations in van or rooms
 - viii. 100 % participation all the time
 - ix. Demonstrate a servant attitude and assist wherever necessary to ensure the success of the team

5. The Hygiene/Bible Story Lessons allow the students to connect with the local people in a personal way. Being familiar with the lessons ahead of time gives the students presenting more confidence. We recommend the Hygiene Team practice their lesson with the entire team. Every team member can participate in Hygiene/Bible Story Lessons if desired.

6. Involve the parents by asking them to sign a document - example verbiage is below:

It is important to understand that your child will be part of a team that represents Living Water and the love of Jesus to a community. By giving written permission for your child to participate, *Living Water is trusting that you are confident in your child's maturity to connect with the local people in a loving and gracious way; be on time, prepared and dependable concerning the assignments they have been given; and conduct themselves in a Christ-like manner as they contribute to the positive atmosphere of the team. Do you trust your child to display responsible behavior at all times while on the trip? We ask for your prayerful consideration before signing below.*

Signature Date

Printed Name

Parent of: _____

We realize we are asking for a considerable amount time and effort in organizing a team of students, and we are very thankful for all that you will invest in this process. If you have any questions along the way please let your trip coordinator know!

Sincerely,
Living Water Trips