

Mission Trip Policies

Certification Requirements

Those requiring Safeguarding God's People - Exploitation (SGP-E) certification in SRS:

1. Clergy (are required to have the clergy version SGP-E & H)
2. Mission trip leaders
3. Adult volunteers who will be supervising other adults

Those requiring Safeguarding God's People – Harassment (SGP-H) certification in SRS:

1. Employees

Those requiring Safeguarding God's Children (SGC) certification in SRS:

1. Clergy
2. Employees
3. Mission trip leaders/adult volunteers who will be supervising or working with or around children/youth

Youth requiring SGC Screening and Training – not in SRS

Youth serving as leaders who will be working with or around children.

- Follow the Screening and Training guidelines for Youth. (See *Appendix*.)
- When an 18 year old is a part of the mission group as either an adult or part of the youth group, they shall adhere to all of the guidelines for adults in regard to sleeping arrangements, showers, etc.

Suggested Guidelines

Pre-trip Preparation:

- Adult chaperones should be at least five years older than the youth on the trip.
- Trip organizers should provide itineraries to parents or guardians.
- The Mission Trip leader as delegated by the Head should be responsible to make sure all team members are certified as outlined above so that all travelers understand behavior guidelines and consequences for breaking the rules.

Housing: (Underscoring rules already covered in this policy)

- A single youth should not sleep alone in a room with an adult chaperone (unless the adult is a parent/guardian).
- Youth roommates should be same gender and in the same age range.
- Leaders should follow a process for nightly check in.
- See *Appendix* for guidelines for overnight events.

Mission Trip Guidelines Cont.

Recreation:

- Leaders follow a system so that chaperones know where youth are at all times, which includes check-in times and a meeting place.

Medical Treatment:

- Chaperones should log any treatment or dispensing of medicine.
- Chaperones should be able to access a first-aid kit.

General:

- It is crucial that supervision takes place 24 hours/day and that children, youth and vulnerable adults are not left unsupervised so they cannot be isolated and harm done.
- Children and youth should never be left alone or alone with one adult.
- Private conversations should take place in public settings where others can observe but not hear.
- Consider possible impact of mission setting on participants; for example, the first encounter with abject poverty. Provide conversation space to allow for processing any distressing emotions.