



Project Behavior Code

His Healing Hands (HHH) is a Christian organization that is invited by Christian host organizations to provide spiritual, medical, and other humanitarian aid to their indigenous peoples in various cross-cultural situations all around the world. Standards of behavior that might be common and acceptable in the United States may be neither common nor acceptable in other cultural situations. As a matter of practice all HHH mission team members are expected to honor and respect these cultural differences and to behave at all times during a project in a manner that reflects the standards of the host culture and to refrain from behavior that might bring discredit to HHH. These standards include but are not limited to those listed below:

1.0 Dress Standards

Dress codes in the United States have become more casual and more revealing over the past 20 years. It is not uncommon to see people in churches, at work, evening events, and other similar venues dressed just as they might dress at play or on the weekends. Most other cultures require more formal dress at functions in these venues. This is especially true of what is the expected dress for women. HHH mission team members are expected to dress at all times in respect of the local customs for the activity being performed. The team leader will provide each team with the necessary guidelines for acceptable dress during a specific project.

2.0 Language Standards

In the past 10 years, the language standard in the United States has become more vulgar and less respectful than ever before. Words and phrases that were once considered profane are now commonplace even among Christians. Sarcasm is the standard tone in almost all casual social conversations. Most other cultures find this type of language and method of communication both offensive and immature. HHH mission team members are expected to control the words they use in communication and to adopt a positive and respectful method of speaking to others on our team and to host personnel. This is especially true when addressing older people or someone who, by virtue of their position in the community or church, is deserving of respect.

3.0 Alcohol consumption

Many Christians feel that alcohol consumption is neither bad nor good on its merit alone. They have adopted the Biblical position that what comes out of someone's mouth is more spiritually important than what goes in. As a general rule HHH accepts this freedom as an individual choice. However, Christians in many of our host countries are much more conservative in their

view of alcohol consumption. As a matter of cultural respect and sensitivity, all HHH team members are expected to refrain from any alcohol consumption while in the presence of the local host and/or local host volunteers. Repeated overindulgence to the point of drunkenness may be cause for a team member to be sent home at their own expense.

4.0 Smoking

Most areas within the United States have enforced smoking restrictions in public places. As a result, many U.S. citizens have stopped smoking altogether. Besides the obvious health advantages, this is also a good social practice when others might be offended. Unfortunately, many cultures, especially those in Southeast Asia, still allow smoking in almost all areas. Many of the people, including Christians, in these cultures do smoke heavily. However, HHH expects all team members to observe the general standards acceptable in the United States by not smoking in any public place or while in close proximity to others. This also applies to e-cigarettes and/or vaping.

5.0 Personal Behavior

As a member of a mission team ministering in a different culture and away from friends and family, you will experience many emotions. You may even experience romantic feelings for a team member or a local member of the community you are serving. Starting a dating relationship with a team member or a local resident while on the trip can be a major distraction to the commitment you have made to the mission. For this reason, we ask that you not be alone with a member of the opposite sex who is not a family member. Keep your focus on the ministry at hand. If you are already in a relationship with a team member, please do not let it interfere with the work you have been called to do. Please respect your fellow team members and local hosts by avoiding inappropriate sexual activity or public displays of affection. Please remember that inappropriate sexual activity can include inappropriate comments, gestures, or physical contact. Additionally, those of the opposite sex should not be in each other's rooms or in isolated places alone (unless married, of course!).

Adults are not allowed to be in a vehicle or room alone with a child under age eighteen (18) unless it is their own child.

Team members are encouraged to use free time to visit local sites, go shopping, and otherwise experience the local culture. However, in the interest of personal safety, team members are strongly encouraged to do these activities in groups rather than alone.

6.0 Room Arrangements

Our trip costs are established based on two team members sharing a room. Unmarried team members will share a room with another team member of the same gender. You should expect to share a room unless you specifically

request otherwise and pay the additional cost for the request. Since we are a Christian organization, we do not permit team members of the opposite sex to share rooms together unless they are legally married or a parent sharing the room with their own child.

7.0 Proselytizing

Many countries that we visit forbid proselytizing or evangelizing by foreigners. This does not mean that we are forbidden from witnessing to anyone who asks us about why we believe as we do. As a result, we rely heavily on our Christian hosts in these countries to do any overt outreach activities because they are allowed to do so. HHH will inform team members on each project what is and what is not allowed for us in that culture. We do not require anyone to witness who is uncomfortable in so doing.

8.0 Local Laws

HHH expects all project team members to observe, submit to, and obey all local laws and legally constituted authorities.

9.0 Team Leader Authority

The team leader is a volunteer or an HHH staff member acting on behalf of HHH while the mission team is deployed. Before receiving an assignment as a team leader, the volunteer leader has been a team member on at least two separate HHH trips, one of which is used as field training for setting up a clinic site, managing the budget, and other tasks required of a team leader. Additionally, the volunteer has attended a six-hour classroom-style training session at the HHH office.

Team leaders are charged with ensuring the safety of the team as well as ensuring that the mission is accomplished according to HHH standards (which includes the standards outlined in this Project Behavior Code), and in accordance with the pre-arranged desires of the local host.

Team members are expected to submit to the authority of the team leader while in-country. Team leaders are the final authority when it comes to decisions involving the welfare of the team or the success of the mission. Such decisions include, but are not limited to, changing hotels or other housing sites, committing the team to other activities not already on the ministry schedule, committing the ministry to provide money or services not already contemplated by the ministry schedule, and changing mealtimes or meeting times.

10.0 Daily Devotional Meetings

The HHH team leader will organize a devotional meeting each day. This meeting is for the purpose of debriefing the previous day's events and for

prayer and meditation on the upcoming day's programs. It is an important time of spiritual growth and team fellowship. HHH expects all project team members to attend these daily meetings and encourages active participation for those who feel comfortable doing so.

11.0 Donating Personal Money

On every project, team members have been approached by local volunteers asking for financial help. This comes in many forms, and our generous team members feel inclined to give from their personal funds since the need is so apparent and so great. As benevolent as this may seem on the surface, we have found that it can cause many unnecessary problems during the project and after the team returns home. As a matter of policy, HHH discourages all types of this personal giving. We budget an amount for each project in advance that is given to the team leader to use at his or her discretion for emergency medical purposes, and to assist in other situations that might occur.

Team members are asked to not directly give money to those you meet. Talk to your team leader and they will clear all gifts with the local host. We want to ensure all funds are used for the intended project and often we may need wisdom on how to best accomplish this.

12.0 Personal Host Gifts

We expect that each team member may develop a strong friendship with one or more host volunteers. This is natural and is highly encouraged. Many of these friendships last long after the team member returns home. Quite often the host volunteer will give a small personal gift to a team member on parting as a token of remembrance. Since this is likely to happen team members may want to come prepared to give the host volunteer a gift in response. These gifts are best if they are personal in nature and brought from home. Examples might be a personal T-shirt from your hometown or school, your own personal costume jewelry, your personal Bible; something that you have personally made or drawn, a framed picture of yourself with a personal note, or anything else of this nature. The more personal from you the better, however do not give money.

If you have not brought a gift to exchange, please do not let that prevent you from accepting a gift from your host volunteer friend. You will run the risk of hurting their feelings or even insulting them if you do so.

13.0 Personal Contact Information

On occasion, you may be asked for your email address or telephone number. As with requests for money, HHH discourages sharing your personal information with local volunteers. Do not give your personal phone number

or email address to anyone in-country. It is fine to share your Facebook or other social media information.

14.0 Local Love Offerings

On some mission trips, local hosts have asked HHH if we can provide a speaker for a conference or other ministry event. We are more than happy to accommodate these requests at no cost to the local host organization if we have a volunteer who is willing to serve in this manner. In some cases, the conference or event attendees will take up a love offering at the end of the event to present to the speaker. Given the economic situation in most of the countries in which we serve, your first reaction will be to refuse this offering thinking that you do not "need" the money. HHH strongly encourages you to graciously accept this offering, remembering that it is not given to fill your "need" but to demonstrate love and respect for you and the message you are bringing to them. If you refuse to accept this gift, you run the very real risk of insulting your host.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AGREEMENT

I have read and understand the His Healing Hands Project Behavior Code and I agree to conduct myself in a like manner. I understand that by not agreeing to follow this Behavior Code I may be denied the opportunity to serve on a mission trip at the discretion of the His Healing Hands leadership team.

Print Name

Signature

Date

If team member is under the age of 18, parent or legal guardian must also sign.

Parent or Legal Guardian

Signature

Date

You may sign and return this document in three ways:

1. Using your Tab key, type your name in the Print Name box and also in the Signature box. Date it. Email the signed copy back to us.
2. Print it, sign it, date it, and email a scanned copy of the signed and dated document to us.
3. Print it, sign it, date it, and mail it to us via the U.S. Postal Service.

