

RESPONSIBILITIES OF ADULTS

Students come on mission experiences for a number of reasons, ranging from wanting to have a good time to wanting to grow in their relationship with Christ. They may be excited, enthusiastic, anxious or apprehensive. Young people need leaders for a variety of reasons: to be a friend, a teacher, an encourager, a listener and a source of information. Pray that the Holy Spirit will alert you to the unique needs of each group member and equip you to help in appropriate ways.

During the mission experience, you will lead a group of five or six teenagers. The group will be comprised of teens from different youth groups and a variety of ages. This group will function as a work group during the day and as a discussion/prayer group in the evening. The evening group session will help them understand and verbalize how they feel and what they think about the work day and worship session. You will be provided with devotional material to help you discuss the message.

You are the model. Have fun, work hard and lead by example. Be at all planned activities, and participate with gusto. Before beginning your day's work, have a group prayer to model a life of worship (Colossians 3:17). Your group is Christ's representative to the ministries being served. Encourage witnessing, and orderly, courteous, quality and safe service.

At the Work Sites:

From the time of morning devotions onward, you are in charge of the group.

- Always be involved in "crowd control." When you arrive at the Serve site, you are an adult leading students and helping them stay focused.
- Transport your group to the work site.
- Be responsible for checking in with the contact at the site. This is a necessary part of the work. If you don't get the story, the students won't get the full testimony of what God is doing. This is one way that Serve becomes an introduction to justice—when students can connect their service to a changed life, and realize why the work needs to get done.
- Introduce yourself and the group. Ask for a few minutes of their time. The Host Team should have prepared them to interact with you.
- Try to subtly discern how you can pray for them. Thinking through the following acronym may help you bless them:
 - *Body* (What are their physical needs?)
 - *Labor* (What do they do, or how do they earn money?)
 - *Emotions* (What are they feeling?)
 - *Social Life* (Do they have a support system of friends, family, church?)
 - *Spiritual Life* (Are they following Christ? What trials are they battling spiritually?)
- Later, help your students connect the task they accomplished to the person's or organization's story.
- Supervise your group, and ensure safety while at the work site. You must give the students instruction to do the job with excellence and to do so safely.
- Monitor their progress, working alongside them. If anyone is without work, it should be you (but this rarely happens).

You are responsible for the quality of the work and the safety of the group. If you see unsafe working conditions, it is your responsibility to cease the work, request assistance from the Host Team and not resume working until the safety issue has been solved.

You are encouraged to host a safety training session with your youth group prior to your mission experience to teach them how to safely perform common tasks that you may encounter, such as: using ladders or scaffolding, power tools or hand tools, lifting heavy items, painting and gardening, and wearing safety goggles and closed-toe shoes. You may want to ask a local contractor or carpenter for assistance.

Injuries:

You will be provided a first aid kit for treatment of minor injuries. You will be provided a copy of the medical release form for the members in your group. You must keep these forms with you during the mission experience. All invoices for treatment are to be sent to the parents/guardians for their insurance to pay first. Whatever their insurance does not cover, Youth Unlimited will cover. Copies of all invoices must be sent to the Missions Program Director at Youth Unlimited.

Small Group Discussions:

Lead by example. If you want the students to open up, then take the lead in sharing from your heart. Keep your antenna tuned for underlying problems, and privately encourage the students to share with you, their youth leader, the Spiritual Life Leader or the Host Team Coordinator if there is a problem. Note that we are required by law to report any evidence of child abuse that we find or if they are likely to harm others or themselves.

Start your first group meeting by explaining that all discussions will be confidential except for matters where students have been harmed or harmed themselves or others. Ask the whole group to commit to keeping the conversations confidential.

Please note that you are not to counsel students of the opposite sex on a one-on-one basis. Be very careful to have conversations with students in open areas, and take note of the way you express concern for the students' emotional/spiritual well-being. See the *Youth Unlimited Sexual Misconduct Policy* for more information.

Sleeping Arrangements:

Adults will share living quarters with teens of the same gender. It is your responsibility to help get the teens into the sleeping quarters and lights out by 11:00 p.m. each night. The days are filled with work and activities, and it is important that everyone gets proper rest.

Comparisons:

Please do not compare one mission experience to another. Every Serve experience is different in location, work sites, ministries, structures, speakers, participants and attitudes. Come prepared for a new experience.

Concerns and Collaboration:

If you have a concern or complaint, please take it directly to the Host Team Coordinator. Please do not discuss your concerns with others, either adults or teens. We need to keep the mission experience positive. Be solutions-oriented, and collaborate to improve the project.

