

Service Trip Guidelines

You're about to have a unique experience in a developing country. Please remember that you are a guest in Mexico and in the homes we serve. Your attitude should reflect that understanding. Don't forget that the kids, caregivers, directors, & even people in the community will be observing your language, actions & behaviors. Here are some guidelines for you to follow:

- Safe drinking water will be pointed out to you. All other water sources are for washing only.
- Timeliness is expected of all volunteers. Please stick to your trip's itinerary. Sometimes things happen that are outside of our control so schedule adjustments may become necessary. Your Trip Host is in charge of the schedule and it is your responsibility to ensure that they know where you are at all times.
- When at any public locations please behave appropriately. At the border, answer any and all questions directly, honestly, and without side comments. If you don't understand a question, or are unsure how to answer, ask to speak to your Trip Host. It is illegal to bring firearms, ammunition, or other weapons into Mexico. Please make sure you don't have spent shells in your vehicle.
- Don't be surprised if the children come up and hold your hand. However, make sure to let them lead out in physical contact. Some have experienced physical and other forms of abuse, so be considerate and respect their boundaries.
- DO NOT make any promises regarding assistance to be provided to any individual, group, or institution. Even implying that help may be available can be taken as a promise. Then, if A Child's Hope Foundation does not complete the work you suggested, problems arise. If you see a need that you feel should be addressed, please discuss the matter with the Trip Host or Volunteer Experience Coordinator first. If you'd like to exchange gifts of any kind with ACHF beneficiaries, staff, or community members, please discuss with ACHF staff beforehand.
- This is not a match-making activity. Pairing off or public displays of affection are not appropriate. All romantic relationships with ACHF beneficiaries are prohibited during ACHF service. We acknowledge that friendships occur, and we encourage that. *Beneficiaries include anyone who receives benefits from the home (children, caregivers, family members of leadership, etc.).
- Please remember that this is a humanitarian endeavor, not an opportunity to proselytize religious beliefs.
- A 10 pm curfew exists at all orphanages we partner with. Unless arranged with the Trip Host, we expect all volunteers to be in their own living quarters by 10 pm. This helps provide a safe, quiet home-like environment.