

Friends of Colegio Moriah General Contract

Friends of Colegio Moriah (FOCM) Mission: To offer new hope and opportunity to Haitians in the Dominican Republic through facilitating quality education and health, guided by Christian principles.

As an individual traveling with a group to the Dominican Republic to serve with FOCM in Las Colinas II I hereby agree to the following terms. I understand that violating any of the following can result in my immediate removal from the Colegio Moriah guest house.

- **Commitment to Actively Seek Christ's Guidance**

FOCM is an organization committed to following Christ and making His love known in the village of Las Colinas II. FOCM and its associates strive to constantly seek God's guidance in order to have an effective and productive ministry. Having affirmed faith in Jesus Christ I will commit myself to develop the qualities listed in **2 Peter 1:5-8** through prayer and studying the Scriptures, guided by the Holy Spirit. I will also invite other followers of Christ to pray with and for me during the planning and realization of my trip (**James 5:16**). Additionally, a community is an integral part of Christian growth (**Hebrews 10:24-25**), I agree to participate in a small group Bible study and regular service at a Bible-believing church at least 3 times a month leading up to the date of my departure.

- **Cultural Sensitivity**

Cultural Sensitivity means recognizing the similarities and differences between cultures. As culture affects all aspects of life it is important to understand the social connotations of my actions and the way I present myself (**Colossians 4:4-5**). As Paul advocates in **1 Corinthians 9** (specifically v. 22), it is necessary for me to be aware of the convictions and sensitivities of the Haitians and Dominicans in Las Colinas II and the surrounding areas. To that end, I agree to

- educate myself about the history of the Dominican Republic prior to my trip.
- engage in informed discussion about best practices in short-term missions prior to my trip.
- serve as a Christian example during my trip, being careful to not cause others to stumble in their faith (**Romans 14:13-15**). To this end, I will
 - Refrain from consuming alcohol, using tobacco products, and misusing other drugs or medications,
 - Abide by the approved FOCM dress code at all times,
 - Speak graciously and respectfully, ensuring that conversations and word choice are God-honoring (**Proverbs 22:11, Colossians 4:6**),
 - Respect and follow the guidelines and guidance offered by Pastor Tanis and Esther.

- **Environment of Respect**

I will treat all persons with respect, recognizing that they are beloved children of God

regardless of their choices or circumstances (**1 Peter 2:17**). While serving I will behave with dignity toward all people and show proper courtesy to others knowing that I represent Christ in all I do (**Colossians 3:17**). I will treat my fellow team members in a God-honoring way and respect the authority of my team leader(s). Additionally, understanding that I am a guest at the Colegio Moriah compound I will treat its facilities with care. I will not engage in any intentionally destructive practices to any facilities or furnishings within the compound.

- **Exclusivity and Displays of Affection**

For the duration of my trip, I will refrain from exclusive behaviors in order to avoid showing favoritism to any one person or group (**James 2:1-9**). In the interest of avoiding exclusive behaviors I will also refrain from excessive use of electronics (phone, computer, iPod) that may interfere with the forming and building up of God-founded relationships in the DR. Furthermore, I understand that displays of affection, both public and private, are unacceptable in the context of my trip. Accordingly, I will be cognizant of the amount of time and attention have given exclusively to specific parties, especially members of the opposite gender. I affirm that the express intention and main priority of my trip is to honor and serve God, not find a girlfriend/boyfriend.

- **Safety (1 Corinthians 10:23)**

While FOCM and its associates cannot guarantee the safety of all travelers, following these guidelines will greatly decrease the chance of personal injury or hardship. I acknowledge that this list is by no means exhaustive and agree to be aware of my surroundings and exercise caution and discernment at all times during my trip.

- Community Outings: Travelers should never leave the Colegio Moriah compound by themselves. When venturing into the community travelers should be accompanied by at least one trusted DR resident. If this resident is of the opposite gender then a third person must be present. In the interest of safety, any group of females and/or teenagers leaving the compound must be accompanied by at least one adult male.
- Curfew: Regardless of age, gender or missions experience all persons staying at the Colegio Moriah compound will observe the curfew set by Pastor Tanis and Esther. No traveler is allowed outside of the compound after dark and, except in the case of church meetings, all Las Colinas II community members must leave the compound after dark. No community members are permitted in the dormitory area above the Pastor's house without the explicit permission of Pastor Tanis or Esther.
- Transportation: All transportation should be arranged by your team leader through Pastor Tanis or Esther. Travelers are not permitted to ride or drive motorcycles or mopeds while staying at the compound.
- Handouts: In the interest of safety no group or group members should handout food, money, or other items except under the direction of Pastor Tanis and Esther. Unsupervised handouts can easily become mob scenes that cause more harm than benefit to the community.

- **Financial Responsibility (Proverbs 21:5)**

I agree to pay trip costs in full as outlined by my team leader(s). I understand that I may be responsible for some unforeseeable trip costs that arise prior to or during my stay in the DR. Additionally, I agree to pay all expenses incurred in the event that I am asked to leave the Colegio Moriah compound due to a violation of this contract.

- **Accountability (Hebrews 13:17, 1 Corinthians 12:12-26)**

Being given the opportunity to serve in the Dominican Republic, I am accountable for the time I spend at Colegio Moriah. Accordingly, I will do the following.

- Before Trip - Participate in team meetings and fundraising opportunities
- During Trip - Keep open lines of communication with my team leader(s), fellow team members, and Pastor Tanis and Esther. Additionally, I will seek mentorship and guidance as needed.
- After Trip - Participate in the team's report to home church(es). Additionally, I understand that, though not mandated, I have the opportunity to submit reflections, notes, and suggestions for improvement to the FOCM Board upon my return (Send to jerited@spurlingdesign.com).

I understand that this code of conduct was created to maximize the effectiveness of group trips in furthering the mission of FOCM and recognize that a violation of these guidelines could have adverse effects on the work being done by Pastor Tanis and Esther Derolus in the Las Colinas II community. Therefore, I pledge to adhere not only to the letter but the spirit of the terms listed above.

By signing below I acknowledge that I have read and fully understand the above code of conduct and information. By signing below I pledge to adhere to the stipulations set forth in this contract.

Signature of Traveler: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____ Travel Dates: _____

Group Leader: _____ Home Church: _____