

Genesis Conduct



You are in Mexico as a representative of either yourself, your Church, group, organization and (of course) Genesis. The people of Mexico form an opinion based upon what they see in you; therefore, as individuals and as a group, it is important to conduct yourselves in a Godly manner. Genesis does not interfere with current management at any site. We respect the spiritual instruction and guidance the children are already receiving in conjunction with each site's religious tradition. We have no political or religious agenda beyond acting as good examples of cross-cultural interaction and heart-felt service. Genesis specifically does not tolerate the use of tobacco, alcohol, profanity or any illegal substances during the course of an on-site program. Allowances are made for off-site trips or accommodations with Adult group members only that may include, as an example, legal and responsible use of alcohol such as during a winery tour and/or a restaurant meal.

- Have a positive spirit and a willingness to be flexible.
- Exhibit a Christian lifestyle.
- Loud and boisterous demonstrations of enthusiasm are usually not appropriate in Mexican culture.
- Be aware of the impression you make.
- Be aware that loud secular and even Christian music can be offensive.
- Ask your site director about pictures taken in the local area and at the orphanage.
- We are guests at a facility that cares for children. It should be respected as any other family's home where you would stay. It is imperative to respect quiet hours at night, personal space and property, study time, the children's chore responsibilities, the home's policies, and not question the decisions made by site directors and staff.

Generally:

- Avoid a sloppy appearance and maintain proper cleanliness.
- Guide yourself with a sense of modesty. Do not wear suggestive clothing or provocative styles (tight clothing, revealing fashions, open mid-riffs, low-slung waists, etc.)
- No exaggerated accessories, showy or excessive jewelry, makeup or overly fashionable attire.
- Clean jeans are OK for work in Vacation Bible School (with the approval of the site).
- Mid-thigh shorts may be worn during projects (with the approval of the site).
- Women should not go anywhere alone, always in groups.
- Males and females should avoid flirtation, constrain public displays of affection, and should not go off together as a couple. No inappropriate physical contact.
- Take your cues on appropriate physical contact (hugs, etc.) from the staff and, if in doubt, ask.
- Children should be first when it is time to eat unless you are specifically assigned to help serve them through the line.
- You are encouraged to eat with the children and socialize with them.
- Always check the scheduled and posted assigned activities.
- Avoid critical discussions and a negative attitude in public and above all in front of the children. If you have seen a problem, seek advise privately.
- Remember the golden rule. "Treat others as you would like to be treated".
- When money is received for any expense, it should always be reported back to the same person that originally gave it to you.
- Meeting before and after the day's activities is considered an important part of the day's involvement.
- No excessive pierced earrings (none for males) or any pierced body jewelry (bellybuttons, tongues, etc.)

Women:

- One-piece swimsuits are the most appropriate when working with children.
- A dress or two-piece skirt set should be worn for church services.

Men:

- No tight or brief-type swim trunks.
- A dress shirt (with a collar) is appropriate for church (tie is optional).

Working With The Children:

- Respect the children by ensuring their physical, mental and emotional well being. By this we mean avoiding any unintentional verbal or physical mistreatment of the children.
- While paying attention to the child that is disruptive or finds some activity difficult, correct or show them in a positive way and don't ignore those that are doing well. All children need positive reinforcement.
- Wear Genesis identification daily such as a clothing item, nametag, cap, etc.
- Please be punctual to all assigned scheduled activities.
- Show an enthusiastic attitude that is full of energy and dedication to your service yet, try not to spoil the children. It is necessary to help them look for solutions instead of solving the problems for them.
- Control, foresee and watch so the children do not get out of control (more so when out on a field trip or visit) and cause damaged equipment, a waste of material, or other complications. Encourage good companionship and do not allow mocking, put downs or bullying among the children. No yelling at the children.
- No favorite treatment toward a particular child. This refers to all children being treated with the same care and attention. This does not apply, obviously, when specifically paired with a child for an event.
- Not fulfilling assigned activities as well as any absence without justification (especially as it affects the children) will cause hardship for others and will result in a review and possible suspension from all activity.
- Everyone should obey the rules and policies of the Casa-Hogar and Genesis. These are meant to insure the safety of the children and observe cultural sensitivity. Any violation of these rules will result in a review and possible suspension from all activity.
- The children should never be taken out of the established corresponding areas for the scheduled activity.
- Safeguard the emotional balance of the children by not sharing warnings, stories or games that may frighten them or hurt their self-image.