



LOVE BRIGADE

Volunteer Registration Form

(Please print clearly)

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Name _____ Birth Date _____

email _____ Day Phone _____

Evening Phone _____

Home Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Emergency Contact _____ Relationship _____

Emergency Phone _____

Occupation _____ Employer _____

Business Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

If you have any health limitations, please explain:

Are you currently affiliated with a disaster relief agency? If yes, name of agency:

Special skills and/or vocational/disaster training:

SKILLS: Please check all that apply.

Medical

- Doctor Specialty:
- Nurse Specialty:
- Emerg. Medical cert.
- Mental health
- Veterinarian
- Vet. technician

Communications

- CB or ham operator
- Hotline operator
- Own a skyphone
- Own a cell phone
- Public relations
- Web page design

Public speaker

Languages

- English
- Spanish
- Other: _____

Office Support

Clerical (filing, etc.)

Data entry-Software:

Metal construction

Commercial driver

Phone receptionist

Wood construction

Class & license #:

Services

Block construction

Camper/RV capacity

Food

Cert #

& type:

Elderly/disabled asst.

Plumbing

Wheelchair transport

Child care

Cert #

Labor

Spiritual counseling

Electrical

Loading/shipping

Social work

Cert #

Sorting/packing

Search and rescue

Roofing

Clean-up

Auto repair/towing

Cert #

Operate equipment

Traffic control

Transportation

Types:

Crime watch

Car

Supervising others

Animal rescue

Wagon/mini-van

Equipment

Animal care

Maxi-van Capacity:

Backhoe

Runner

ATV

Chainsaw

Disability Service:

Off-road veh./4WD

Generator

Structural

Truck Description:

Other:

Damage assessment

Boat - Capacity, type:

While serving with The Union Church of San Juan, I agree to abide with the on-site guidelines. I understand that this is a Christian organization and there will be prayer and Bible reading (or reference) on-site.

If you are not associated with any other local, national or international organization, and will serving directly and solely with our church, we would appreciate a letter of recommendation from your local pastor or faith community leader.

Signature Date _____

Printed Name

Received by: _____ Date _____
Union Church Representative

Volunteer Liability Release Form

In consideration of my desire to serve as a volunteer in disaster relief efforts to be conducted by The Union Church of San Juan, I hereby assume all responsibility for any and all risk of property damage or bodily injury that I may sustain while participating in any voluntary relief effort, disaster exercise or other activity of any nature, including the use of equipment and facilities of The Union Church of San Juan. Further, I, for myself and my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, hereby release, waive and discharge The Union Church of San Juan and its officers, directors, employees, agents and volunteers of and from any and all claims which I or my heirs, administrators and assigns ever may have against any of the above for, on account of, by reason of or arising in connection with such volunteer relief efforts or my participation therein, and hereby waive all such claims, demands and causes of action. Further, I expressly agree that this release, waiver and indemnity agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect. I currently have no known physical or mental condition that would impair my capability for full participation as intended or expected of me. Further, I have carefully read the foregoing release and indemnification and understand the contents thereof and sign this release as my own free act.

Signature

Date

Print Name

Guidelines for Volunteers

I realize that the following elements are crucial to the effectiveness, quality, and safety of our short-term mission's trip. As a member of the group, I agree to:

- 1. Remember that I am a guest working at the invitation of the local pastor or missionary.*
- 2. Remember that I have come to serve. I may run across procedures that I think are inefficient or attitudes that I find closed-minded. I will resist the temptation to inform our hosts about how I would do things. I will be open to learning people's methods and ideas.*
- 3. Respect the host's view of Christianity. I recognize that Christianity has many faces throughout the world, and that the purpose of this trip is to witness and experience faith lived out in a new setting.*
- 4. Develop and maintain a servant's attitude toward all nationals and my teammates.*
- 5. Respect my team leader(s) and his or her decisions.*
- 6. Will not leave my assigned area of ministry or separate myself from my assigned group without first obtaining permission from the team or group leader(s) assigned to me.*
- 7. Refrain from gossip. I may be surprised at how much each person will blossom when freed from the concern that others may be passing judgment.*
- 8. Refrain from complaining. I know that travel can present numerous unexpected and undesired circumstances, but the rewards of conquering such circumstances are innumerable, and flexibility is key.*
- 9. Respect the work that is going on in the country with particular church(s) or person(s) with whom we are working. I realize that our team is here for a short while, but that the local church is here long term. I will respect their knowledge, insights and instructions.*
- 10. Refrain from negative political comments or hostile discussions concerning our host country's politics.*

11. Remember not to be exclusive in my relationships. If my significant other, fiancée or spouse is on the trip, we will make every effort to interact with all members of the team, and not just one another.

12. Refrain from any activity that could be construed as a romantic interest toward a local. I realize certain activities that seem innocent in my own culture may seem inappropriate in others.

13. Abstain from the consumption of alcoholic beverages, the use of tobacco, drugs, and smoking while on the trip.

14. Dress comfortably, safely and modestly. (leggings, short shorts, cut-off shirts, deep cut necklines, excessive accessories are not recommended)

14. Refrain from distributing money to locals. There are many needs that you will see while serving. Bring these needs to your group leader; they are equipped to help determine the best course of action.

Signature of Volunteer

Date Signed

Printed Name of Volunteer

14 Keys for effective Missions Teams

By Beth Tatum

1. Be flexible.

Plans will change often. The missionary you are working alongside knows that many North Americans want to know a plan and become flustered with last-minute changes. Living cross-culturally means that nothing is constant, except change. The most common phrase I tell our teams is, “There’s been a change!”

2. Be open to “God moments.”

Leave your expectations in the US and travel cross-culturally to discover what God is doing around the world. Don’t expect immediate results. Our call is to serve and to be obedient to God’s work, and that might include not seeing the end results.

3. Be prepared before you get on the plane.

A well-trained and prepared team makes the trip run more smoothly and avoids conflicts and embarrassing moments. You never want the host missionary to have to apologize for incidents after you have left.

4. Try to learn a few words in the language where you will serve.

Have fun with the locals, laugh at yourself, play charades, draw pictures. The locals will appreciate that you are trying to speak with them. Pray with people, even if in your native language.

5. Be patient.

You might find yourself rushing, just to sit and wait. People in many countries spend more time building relationships and less time on tasks than North Americans do. Much time can be spent waiting for others to arrive, for the program to begin, or sitting in traffic. Make the most of these moments and talk to the locals. Car rides are a good time to journal or take photos, if appropriate, to document your experience.

6. Work alongside your local missionary.

The host missionaries are the people who live and work with the people they serve, so allow them to plan your schedule. Serve in their ministries and find out in advance what type of lesson or craft would benefit their current work.

7. Be incarnational.

You may think there is a better or faster way to get the job done, but it may not be culturally acceptable. Respect the culture of the people you are serving and try to do things their way.

8. Be respectful with photographs.

Photos tell a great story, but, before you snap the photo, ask the host missionary where and when it is appropriate to take photos.

9. Be considerate.

Follow the dress code of the host country. Engage with others, not with your phone. Try everything and be aware of your facial expressions when you try a new food or walk into a home. Eat snacks on the bus, not in front of those you are serving, unless you have enough for everyone. Of course, ask your host missionary first.

10. Avoid temptation.

Leave your expensive jewelry at home and be careful to not tempt others. Find out where to store your personal belongings.

11. Talk to the host missionary before giving something to a local.

This includes everything from a gift such as a bracelet to money. It is easy to have your heart strings pulled for the people you will serve. Missionaries do not want the people they work with to expect to receive a gift every time a team arrives.

12. Do not make promises to the people you serve.

When a team member promises to write or send something and doesn't, the local people blame the missionaries. Relationships are damaged and trust is broken.

13. Find out what the host missionary needs.

Host missionaries do not expect gifts, but a favorite chocolate candy bar might be exactly what they have been craving! Ask if gift bags are needed for the people you will be serving.

14. Relationships are important!

Anyone can paint a wall or play with kids. The heart of missions is relationships! As missionaries who work day in and day out with the local people, it brings us joy to see team members using their hearts to build new friendships. As North Americans, we often find it much easier to build a wall than a relationship, but remember that both are important.