

Academic Service Learning Agreement - Students Guatemala 2008

1. Whereas the purpose of the 2007 Academic Service Learning Semester in Guatemala is to learn about, with, and from the people of Guatemala by standing in solidarity with them in the classroom, in the home, and at service sites,
2. Whereas traveling abroad and life in Guatemala can be physically and emotionally challenging, exhausting, stressful and confusing,
3. Whereas I must be responsible for my own physical, intellectual, moral, and spiritual needs, as well as for those same needs of the practitioners and other Xavier students,
4. Whereas I must attend to not only my own safety but also that of the practitioners and other Xavier students,
5. Whereas Guatemala does not have the same age limits for alcohol consumption, whereas alcohol is widely available and relatively inexpensive for United States citizens, whereas some Guatemalans disapprove of alcohol consumption, whereas public intoxication is especially dangerous for foreigners and whereas it is culturally inappropriate to arrive intoxicated at a Guatemalan family's residence or to be sick the next day from overindulgence,
6. Whereas recreational drugs are available in Guatemala, whereas there are penalties for selling, buying, and using drugs, and whereas a United States passport does not exempt a United States citizen from Guatemalan law,
7. Whereas acceptable dress in Guatemala differs from those standards in the United States, and whereas Guatemalan men and women may wear a variety of clothing that might be acceptable in certain areas or situations and not in others,
8. Whereas Guatemalans can misinterpret or stereotype Western behavior and/or can be forward with foreigners regarding relationships,
9. Whereas the Student Handbook and all other University procedures continue to apply while I am participating in an off-campus activity,

10. Whereas by participating in this Academic Service Learning experience I am representing Xavier University in general, and whereas by participating in this experience I am establishing a reputation for Xavier students and for professors or employees who will participate in the program in the future,

11. I promise to embrace this academic experience with all my physical, mental, and spiritual abilities.

12. I certify that I am physically and emotionally capable of full participation in this program.

13. I promise to attend to my physical, intellectual, moral, and spiritual well-being, and to the physical, intellectual, moral, and spiritual well-being of the practitioners and other Xavier students.

14. I promise to strictly limit my consumption of alcohol to levels, times, and locations which are culturally appropriate and which do not compromise my safety, judgment, or health.

15. I promise to consume no recreational drugs during my entire stay in Guatemala.

16. I promise to wear conservative clothing at all times during my stay in Guatemala. If a woman, I promise not to wear any clothing that might be considered revealing in Guatemala. Such apparel that I promise not to wear includes spaghetti straps, tank tops, dresses, or skirts that do not extend below the knee, shorts that are more than two inches above the knee, midriff-baring blouses, any garment that leaves bare skin or underwear showing, or any clothing that may be considered revealing or inappropriate. If a man, I promise not to wear tank tops, or shorts that are more than two inches above the knee, and I promise to wear long pants, rather than shorts, at more formal meetings.

17. I promise not to engage in any sort of romantic or sexual relationship with any Guatemalan person, person from another country, or with any of the practitioners or other Xavier students, during my entire stay in Guatemala. I agree that all sleeping arrangements will be single-sex specific by room, and when at a Guatemalan family's home, I promise not to be in the bedroom of a member of the opposite sex, unless invited by the Guatemalan family parents. Additionally, if I am visited during the program by a friend or significant other, I promise to abide by

the promises contained within this paragraph, as well as the rest of this document, with respect to that visit.

18. I promise to be a good citizen and neighbor, to exercise common sense and good judgment, and to conduct myself at all times in a manner that is alert to the differences between my own culture and Latin American or Guatemalan culture, and thus be sensitive to the feelings of the people with whom I interact.

19. I promise to communicate with the trip leader in a timely, candid and straightforward manner about any difficulties I am experiencing regarding the learning situation (including my service site), the practitioners or other Xavier students, and the living situation.

20. I promise to abide by the trip leader's discretion regarding any particular interpretation of any of these terms and promises, and I promise to follow the trip leader's directions at all times.

21. I promise to obtain the trip leader's prior approval for any independent (not with the group) travel plans. I recognize that asking any members of a Guatemalan family to accompany me or other members of the group on independent travel is inappropriate and I therefore promise not to ask or travel with such individuals. Further, I promise not to drive at any time during my stay in Guatemala, or while traveling elsewhere during this trip.

22. I promise to let someone in the group know where I am at all times during my stay in Guatemala. Whenever I leave the group without the trip leader, whether for independent travel or for any other reason, I promise to leave the trip leader with an itinerary of where I will be, and a phone number where I can be contacted.

23. I recognize that the week is an academic experience involving standards of academic performance that are not waived by the challenges of living in a developing nation or foreign culture.

24. I recognize that by breaking any of these promises my participation in the program may be immediately terminated, and I may be sent directly back to the United States. I understand that separation from the program for any reason may result in the loss of some or all academic credit related to my participation in this program and that I will continue to be responsible for all program costs and any additional costs resulting from my early departure or dismissal.

