

LEADER EXPECTATIONS

MEXICO 2012

Please remember first and foremost that this trip is about the students. As a leader, your responsibilities are to look out for students before yourself. Please go to be a servant. We believe that Mexico is a very valuable experience for students, and that the leaders play an irreplaceable role in the lives of students. We also believe that God will pour abundant blessings upon you as you participate in and witness His amazing work.

Values of Mexico 2012:

Relationships	Worship
Service	Evangelism
The Word of God	Spiritual Gifts
Prayer	Excellence

Your Role:

1. Protect

As a leader you are being trusted to physically, emotionally, and spiritually protect the students. Remember that harsh words or destructive criticisms may stick with a student for a long time. Whenever possible find positive approaches. It has been said that it takes ten positive actions to counteract a negative one.

2. Lead (Modeling /Guidance)

Modeling: As a leader you will need to model the life you want to see in your students. In 1 Cor 11:1 Paul writes to the Corinthians, "*Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ.*" I'm sure you will agree that it is harder to get yourself to change than it is to demand change of others. So be critical in examining your character, your actions, and your words. If you want students to speak encouraging words, then make sure that your words are encouraging.

Guidance: As a leader, part of your role may include offering guidance to students as they face decisions in their lives. Please remember that you are not on your own. There will be a community of leaders for you to turn to for counsel. On the other hand, do not sell yourself short. You have the Spirit of God living inside of you. James 1:5 says, "*If any of you lacks wisdom, they should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to them.*" When in doubt, pray and ask the Holy Spirit for guidance, and encourage the students to ask God for guidance as well.

3. Connect

It is important to remember that as a leader it is your job to reach out to students, rather than waiting for them to connect with you. As tempting as it is to often congregate with other leaders, resist the urge and chose a group of students to hang around with instead. Relationships with the students will be most effectively built by spending quality time with them.

4. Love

As a leader, love must not only characterize your heart, but your role as well. If you intend to model your leadership after Jesus then you will be a leader who loves.

As we lead students, we will need to demonstrate a patient/persevering and self-less love. Students can be extremely selfish and demanding, but our leadership must reflect the same love that we receive from Christ. It has been often said that a person does not care how much you know if they know how much you care. This is especially true in student ministry. As you love students, they will agree to open their hearts, share their lives, and begin to learn from you. If you can only do two things well on this trip, pray often and love extravagantly.