

# EXPECTATIONS FOR AFE VOLUNTEERS

AFE places great value in its international volunteers. They bring a global perspective to AFE's students and international expertise. To ensure the best possible experience for our volunteers and that AFE's mission is aided through their service, we have prepared the following description of expectations for volunteers serving with AFE. Please review this document carefully before accepting a position with this Christian development project.

## ***I. Serving as if it were in a paid position: Time Commitment***

No matter if we come with the very best intentions, it is often easy for volunteers to treat their responsibilities and positions casually. Yet, in the international setting of AFE in which volunteers serve in the same positions as paid staff, it is especially important that volunteers serve ***as if they were in a paid position***. This means showing up to work on time, calling your supervisor if you are sick and unable to come in, clearing time-off and vacations with your supervisor, and putting your work responsibilities before personal interests.

## ***II. Your Christian Witness in Honduras: "Above reproach"***

Honduras' evangelical culture is generally more conservative than much of Christian culture in the United States. Most Christians in Honduran believe fervently that drinking alcohol, dancing (unless "unto the Lord") and listening to certain types of non-Christian music (specifically regaeton and hard rock) are particular sins that identify you as a non-believer. Rather than pass judgment on beliefs which may be different from our own, come with the understanding that there are important reasons behind this perspective (for example, alcoholism is a debilitating presence in Honduras) and respect the Honduran culture's beliefs by not openly engaging in these behaviors yourself. Please use 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 as a guide while serving in another culture.

## ***III. Church and Community Involvement***

International volunteers get the most out of their experience in Honduras if they involve themselves in community life—both in their neighborhoods and in their churches. This helps them to learn how to communicate and serve in Honduran culture. This could entail interacting with the children of the community, making friends with your neighbors, and serving at church (Amor y Vida) in some capacity. Pastor Jeony suggests, at the minimum, that each international volunteer join a small group at church. Creating this network both in your community and church is integral to a volunteer's personal development during his or her time in Honduras.

#### ***IV. Interacting with AFE Kids as a Positive Mentor***

AFE's children come from broken homes. Often one or more guardian suffers from some sort of addiction. Many children have been abandoned by their parents. In addition to educational programming, one of the ***most important*** resources AFE offers children of the garbage dump is positive mentors. AFE's staff is more than just teachers. They pray for and love their students deeply. They offer hugs and encouragement if a child is feeling down. They are available after class if a student wants to chat about their home life. If a student is consistently having problems in class or missing school, teachers go out of their way to find out why and often will visit his or her house. Many teachers worship with their students on Sunday's at Amor y Vida Church and engage in field trips and afterschool activities to get to know their students better. Because AFE's teachers engage so deeply in their students' lives, AFE expects its staff to serve as a positive example in speech and behavior, to always speak well of AFE, its leadership, and the church, to love its children unconditionally, and serve as model of someone being transformed by Jesus Christ.

#### ***V. Learning from a Missionary Mentor***

Transitioning to life in another culture and developing country is difficult. For this reason, AFE connects its international volunteers with a missionary mentor, someone who can help navigate the changes and teach the new volunteer about health and safety in Tegucigalpa. We ask that AFE volunteers submit to the advice of their mentor (such as where it is safe to travel, not walking around alone at night, etc.) for their own health and safety.

#### ***VI. Living and working in a foreign country: Humility and Flexibility***

Sometimes things don't work out the way we are used to (in terms of time, schedule, or expectations). We ask that volunteers come to work at AFE with a spirit of humility and flexibility; that they would be willing to do whatever job needs completion, whichever role needs filled, that they are here to help even if they don't feel qualified to do what they have been assigned. We try to match volunteers with the job and role that they request and feel comfortable in. However the need is so great that at times the volunteer may have to change duties for a little while. For example, a teacher may be asked to translate for a medical brigade. A shy person may be asked to give a group a tour of AFE. Please come willing to help in whatever way is needed, be flexible and humble as a guest in a new culture, and patient with things that you do not understand at first.