



### **Short-Term Trip Conduct and Liability Commitment**

Sojourn Church Midtown is committed to demonstrating a deep love of Jesus Christ and a sacrificial love for our global Sent Ones, church planters, partners, and the communities they serve. To ensure that short-term trip participants effectively live out the gospel, and contribute wholeheartedly to the mission, with the above commitments in mind the following code of conduct, liability agreement, and commitments are established:

#### **Participant Information:**

- Team Member Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Short-Term Trip: \_\_\_\_\_

*For participants under 18 years old, a parent/guardian's signature is required as the responsible party.*

#### **Commitment of Participation:**

As a participant representing Sojourn Church Midtown on a short-term trip, I commit to the following obligations to both my team and the church:

##### **Attendance and Training:**

- Attend all five pre-trip training sessions and the required fundraising training.
- Attend debriefing meetings upon the return from the trip.

##### **Adherence to Itinerary and Leadership:**

- Submit to the itinerary and guidance provided by the team leaders and Sojourn staff/pastors before and during the trip.
- Follow instructions and complete all assignments given by the team leader before, during, and after the trip.

Financial Commitment:

- Raise and/or provide the complete amount of money required for the trip as communicated by the church and trip leaders.

Signature of team member: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

**Conduct Agreement:**

By initialing below, I acknowledge and agree to the following terms:

*Submissive Posture to Leadership:*

I commit to following the direction of the short-term trip team leader, church staff, church planter, and global Sent Ones regarding all ministry assignments and responsibilities. I will not undermine the trip leader's authority or contribute to team division through gossip, disrespect, slander, or any other means.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

*Clothing Respectful of Culture:*

I agree to wear culturally sensitive clothing that respects the host city or country. I understand and will abide by the guidelines regarding modesty and cultural appropriateness for attire (this could include head coverings, pants or dresses etc). I will refrain from wearing apparel that could disrupt the mission or offend locals (overtly Christian attire, political attire, etc).

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

*Professional Boundaries and Relationships:*

While acknowledging that meaningful relationships can form during these trips, participants are expected to maintain a respectful and professional demeanor at all times. Participants are strictly advised against engaging in any activities or expressions that may be interpreted as romantic in nature toward other team members, Sent Ones, nationals, or locals during the short-term trip. This is to ensure that the focus remains on serving the Lord and our Sent Ones.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

*Group Participation:*

I agree to emphasize group activities and outings rather than isolating myself or partnering exclusively regardless of my relationship status. This inclusive approach fosters a sense of unity, teamwork, and community among all participants.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

*Child Protection and Background Check:*

I agree to undergo a background check and adhere to the [Child Protection Policies of Sojourn Kids](#). I will never be alone with a child and ensure that children are always supervised by two adults. I will not post photographs of Sent One or local children online.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

*Respect for Local Laws and Culture:*

I will comply with all local laws and respect cultural differences in the places I travel. I will maintain a submissive posture towards local church leaders and consider cultural nuances in interactions with locals (i.e. differences in greetings, voice volume, personal space, time, etc.).

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

*Positive Language and Behavior:*

I commit to using respectful language, avoiding unwholesome speech (this includes, cursing, slander, quarrelsome or harsh speech) and maintaining a demeanor that reflects the teachings of Christ, exhibiting love, grace, and encouragement.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

*Neutrality in Political Matters:*

I agree to refrain from expressing personal opinions about government and politics in discussions with locals or nationals to avoid conflict or endangering the team and Sent Ones.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

*Sobriety in Substance Use:*

I will not bring or engage in illegal substance use, tobacco, or e-cigarettes. I will abstain from alcohol if not permitted by the mission agency or the culture we serve no matter what my personal convictions are. Drunkenness or substance abuse will not be permitted before, or during your short-term trip.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

*Gift-Giving and Cultural Sensitivity:*

I will consult trip leaders and/or Sent Ones before giving any gifts and avoid offering items that may create dependency, offend, or hinder the ministry efforts. This is in an effort not to hinder any ministry being done by our Sent Ones

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

*Motor Vehicle Use:*

I will adhere to the local guidelines and the policies of Sojourn Midtown for operating motor vehicles, both domestically and internationally, ensuring compliance with regulations and seeking prior approval from the Trip Leader, Staff and Pastor. Any traffic violations, or fines are paid for by the trip participant.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

**Liability Waiver Agreement:**

- I acknowledge the risks involved in the activities related to the short-term trip. I assume all associated risks and absolve Sojourn Church Midtown, its staff, volunteers, and representatives from any liability including financial resulting from sickness, injury, disability, death, claims, or property damage incurred during the trip.
- I give permission to Sojourn Church Midtown and its representatives to assist my child/myself during medical situations or emergencies that may arise.

Signature of Team Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

**Fundraising Policy Waiver:**

As a participant, I commit to raising or personally paying for all associated costs for my portion of the trip. I commit to having the full amount paid for by the date of the trip departure. In the event that I have only raised/paid a portion of the cost prior to the trip, I commit to reimbursing Sojourn Church Midtown for any remaining balance of trip costs no later than one month after return from the trip. In the event of my resignation from the trip, I agree to reimburse the church for non-refundable expenses incurred on my behalf within 60 days of resignation. If I fail to provide any funds without prior arrangements with Sojourn Midtown staff or a Pastor by the time of the trip departure I will not be allowed to go on the above mentioned trip.

Signature of Team Member or Parent/Guardian (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

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Failure to adhere to these agreements may result in appropriate disciplinary action, including potential removal from the trip, at the discretion of trip leaders, Sent Ones, or Sojourn Midtown Staff. .