



Hands for Peacemaking Visitor Policies

The Hands for Peacemaking Foundation is heavily invested in a long-term plan for work in the Barillas area of Guatemala. Sometimes visitors do or say things that are well intended but that detract from our work. Please help us by trying to understand our situation and by observing our policies.

- 1) The group should select one leader and one alternate. This person is the primary contact while the group project is being developed, as well as being responsible for decisions during travel to and from Guatemala.
- 2) Once in Guatemala, our Field Director is the person responsible for housing arrangements, travel seating assignments, and all other aspects of local leadership.
- 3) You may have terrific ideas for future projects, but should discuss them only with the Executive Director once you return to the States. Comments made to villagers may be interpreted as a promise from Hands for Peacemaking that we may or may not be able to fulfill.
- 4) Any money tips should be given to the Guatemala Field Director to be distributed equally among the staff. Giving tips or gifts to individual staff members may lead to resentment by others who have worked just as hard.
- 5) Check with HFPF administration before taking unapproved items for distribution to villagers that are outside the primary project. These may conflict with local customs or cause the government to withhold similar items that were planned for the villages.
- 6) The Guatemala Field Director (or the group leader if asked by the FD) will immediately deal with any disruptive behavior, negotiate a remedy, and, if necessary, require the individual to remain at the Mission House or leave the group (at personal expense). Disruptive behavior sidetracks the group goals, demoralizes the group, and wastes valuable staff time and energy.
- 7) Project planning is accomplished through communication between the Executive Director and the designated group leader. Attempts to organize a project directly with the Guatemalan staff bypasses the authority, fundraising commitment, and long-range plan of the US Board of Directors.
- 8) Villagers or village leaders will sometimes approach team members, asking for special gifts. There is a real temptation to help and agree to these gifts. In the past we have been asked for scholarships, travel to the U.S., etc. If you feel moved to make special gifts, please discuss them with Marco, who will follow our formal procedure. Remember, in the short time that you are in Guatemala it is impossible for you to anticipate the problems you can unwittingly create.
- 9) Alcohol and smoking can be problems due to the huge impact of these substances on the indigenous population. In Barillas, the Mission House, or in the villages it is imperative that you consult with Marco if you wish to smoke or drink alcoholic beverages. In Antigua and Guatemala City, where you are viewed as a tourist, these are not a problem.
- 10) Photographs will be taken by HFPF staff while working on your Work Week project. Your signature below gives Hands For Peacemaking Foundation permission to use the photographs for public relations and marketing purposes. I have read and agree to abide by the policies described above.

Signed: _____