

Volunteer Ethical Guidelines

1. General Principles:

Think before you act: DC emphasizes mutual interaction between volunteers and local community

- 1.1 Volunteers try their best to learn the local life
- 1.2 Volunteers do their best to work on Dream Corps projects
- 1.3 Volunteers must NOT hold any value judgment to the local
- 1.4 Volunteers do NOT expect gratitude from the local community

2. Before the Trip:

Expect the living conditions in the following aspects

- Food: quality and flavor
- Weather: heat, humidity, sun
- Hygiene: restrooms, bathing needs, and insects
- Transportation: bumpy road, muddy path, long hikes, blisters on feet
- Language: dialects other than mandarin
- Mutual understanding: gaps both in personal experience and cultural difference - the key is to learn from our hosts

3. Living Locally

- 3.1 Respect the way hosts treat guests
- 3.2 Adapt to the hosts' daily schedule and customs of eat, drink and living
- 3.3 Make no self-centered demands or excessive requests
- 3.4 Avoid unnecessary monetary or labor burden on the hosts
- 3.5 Promptly reimburse hosts
- 3.6 Understand needs of the hosts and provide help when appropriate
- 3.7 Establish trust and long-term friendship

4. In Local Schools

- 4.1 Win trust and participation through commitment, care, and effective actions
- 4.2 Keep in mind that we will return in the future with more volunteering; do accordingly
- 4.3 In working with local teachers
 - 4.3.1 Be prepared for difficulty in establishing communication and cooperation
 - 4.3.2 Respect teachers and their experience

- Be humble
- Respect teachers' working habits
- Understand their responsibilities and needs and be helpful
- Avoid creating extra pressure on and workload for teachers
- Actively communicate with teachers

4.4 In working with local students

-- 4.4.1 Be prepared for difficulty in initial interaction

-- 4.4.2 Learn about students' life both in and out of school

- Listen carefully and respectfully to what students have to say
- Understand students' specific needs and provide help accordingly

-- 4.4.3 Never underestimate the difficulty in teaching "basic" material

- Make it concrete and enjoyable
- Be prepared for the irrelevance of one's own book knowledge and past learning experience
- Avoid being judgmental and imposing

-- 4.4.4 Be a loving and caring big sister or brother through one's own words and conducts

5. In Local Communities

5.1 In general: strive for understanding and avoid stereotypes

5.2 Respect local customs, Avoid passing judgments before understanding

5.3 Respect local officials

-- 5.3.1 Avoid disparaging comments on local affairs

-- 5.3.2 Appreciate difficulty of local administration and avoid creating difficulty

-- 5.3.3 Establish trust with local officials, understand and learn from them

5.4 Respect local residents

-- 5.4.1 Understand their needs and difficulties

-- 5.4.2 Cultivate an appreciation of their way of life

- Respect the curiosity of local people
- Do not exaggerate one's difference;
- Keep one's activities open;
- Strive for acceptance of the local residents

5.5 Be frugal but not stingy in spending in local communities

5.6 Show respect for crops, vegetation, buildings, and agricultural infrastructures

6. In Working With Fellow Volunteers

6.1 Be open, trustworthy, encouraging, caring and committed

-- 6.1.1 Be open about one's difficulties but avoid self-centered conduct

- 6.1.2 Be constructive in difficult situations avoid blaming
- 6.1.3 Cherish shared experience and cultivate long-term friendship
- 6.2 Strive for agreement without forcing it
- 6.3 In action, follow decision of the team
- 6.4 Actively share experience and thoughts
 - 6.4.1 With fellow team members
 - 6.4.2 With other teams through phone and email communication
 - 6.4.3 With future volunteers through writing down reactions and reflections that provide reference for future and sustained activities
- 6.5 Enjoy companion of (varieties of) kindred spirit!