



Standards of Personal Conduct and Community Behavior

Note: AMIGOS is a challenging program that requires a significant amount of responsibility from participants. This includes a strict adherence to the Standards of Personal Conduct and Community Behavior. Keep a copy of the Standards of Personal Conduct and Community Behavior for future reference.

The AMIGOS participant will not:

1. engage in any behavior that may be harmful to the health and safety of the Volunteer or others, nor will the Volunteer engage in any behavior that may be detrimental to the program;
2. use or possess any drugs which are illegal under the laws of the United States or the host country;
3. consume any alcoholic beverage;
4. leave his/her assigned work area without prior permission from a member of the AMIGOS Project Staff;
5. engage in amorous conduct;
6. operate any motorized vehicle or ride on a motorcycle;
7. handle firearms; or
8. use tobacco products.

Each AMIGOS Volunteer and his/her parents should understand that the following rules, known as the AMIGOS Standards of Personal Conduct and Community Behavior, apply during all phases of AMIGOS participation. The Standards of Personal Conduct and Community Behavior are also discussed in the AMIGOS Volunteer Handbook.

Procedures in the Event of a Violation of the Standards

An infraction or disregard for the Standards of Personal Conduct and Community Behavior may result in the Volunteer's immediate dismissal from the Training Program or the Volunteer's removal from the Latin America Service Program and return to the United States, country of origin, and/or home residence at the expense of the Volunteer and his/her family.

If it is suspected that a Volunteer has violated the Standards of Personal Conduct and Community Behavior, the AMIGOS Project Staff may discuss and document the alleged violation with the Volunteer. When the AMIGOS Project Staff writes a formal incident report, the Volunteer may add personal comments to the report and request a copy of the incident report. The formal incident report is signed by the AMIGOS Project Staff and the Volunteer and is filed with the International Office. The decision to send a Volunteer home is made by the Executive Director of AMIGOS, or his/her designee, after consulting with the AMIGOS Project Staff and reviewing the formal incident report and the Volunteer's personal comments. Any Volunteer involved in a rule violation may appeal the decision in writing to the AMIGOS Executive Director, whose decision shall be final and non-appealable. When the decision is made to return a Volunteer, the appropriate travel arrangements are made and a member of the Project Staff escorts the Volunteer to the departure airport in Latin America. The Volunteer may be met by a member of the AMIGOS International Office Staff or a designated representative for consultation and debriefing before returning home.

Penalty for Dismissal Due to a Violation of the AMIGOS Standards

When a Volunteer is returned to the United States, country of origin, and/or home residence due to an infraction of the AMIGOS Standards of Personal Conduct and Community Behavior, the entire program incurs intangible and tangible losses. A Volunteer's violation of the Standards and subsequent early departure will harm the image of the AMIGOS program at home and abroad, particularly in the Volunteer's assigned community; disturb the normal operations of the Volunteer's work team; and cost time and attention for the Project Staff and the International Office staff. More tangible expenses are those such as increased travel cost due to the Volunteer's early departure, food and lodging for the departing Volunteer and his/her escort, penalty charges associated with the cancellation of the Volunteer's original return plane ticket, and certain administrative expenses associated with affecting the premature return of the Volunteer. Any Volunteer who is dismissed from AMIGOS due to a violation of any Standard of Personal Conduct and Community Behavior will be solely responsible for all costs associated with an early departure, which includes changes in airfare, as well as any additional lodging and administrative expenses.



Acknowledgment of Standards of Personal Conduct and Community Behavior

Note: The applicant and, if the applicant is under 18 years of age, his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must read the Standards of Personal Conduct and Community Behavior and then sign and return this Acknowledgment.

Participant Name: _____ CV or Chapter: _____

We, the AMIGOS participant and custodial parent(s) or legal guardian(s) have read the AMIGOS Standards of Personal Conduct and Community Behavior in its entirety:

- The AMIGOS participant will not:
1. engage in any behavior that may be harmful to the health and safety of the Volunteer or others, nor will the Volunteer engage in any behavior that may be detrimental to the program;
 2. use or possess any drugs which are illegal under the laws of the United States or the host country;
 3. consume any alcoholic beverage;
 4. leave his/her assigned work area without prior permission from a member of the AMIGOS Project Staff;
 5. engage in amorous conduct;
 6. operate any motorized vehicle or ride a motorcycle;
 7. handle firearms; or
 8. use tobacco products.

I, the AMIGOS participant, pledge to uphold and abide by the AMIGOS Standards of Personal Conduct and Community Behavior while in any event sponsored by AMIGOS training, while in Latin America, and while traveling to and from Latin America. I understand that if I violate the AMIGOS Standards of Personal Conduct and Community Behavior, I may be dismissed from the AMIGOS training program or dismissed from the Latin American Service Program before my scheduled return date.

We, the custodial parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s), fully understand the policies, procedures, and penalties associated with the AMIGOS Standards of Personal Conduct and Community Behavior. We agree to fully compensate Amigos de las Américas for any and all penalties and expenses incurred in the event of a rule violation and resulting early return from Latin America.

We, the AMIGOS participant and custodial parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s), understand that a Volunteer who is dismissed early from the AMIGOS Latin America Service Program due to a violation of any component of the Standards of Personal Conduct and Community Behavior will be solely responsible for all costs associated with an early departure, which includes changes in airfare, as well as any additional lodging and administrative expenses.

Signature of Participant: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Mother (or Legal Guardian): _____ Date: _____

Signature of Father (or Legal Guardian): _____ Date: _____

Note: If the Participant is under 18 years of age, all custodial parents or legal guardians must sign this release.