



# Summer Expectations and Policies

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## General Expectations

- ✓ All participants are asked to exhibit an attitude of humility, flexibility, kindness, and patience. In addition, all participants are to use language that is positive and encouraging, and is useful for building others up.
- ✓ Practical jokes, deception, intimidation, bullying, crude or coarse joking will not be tolerated.
- ✓ Please act responsibly the entire time you serve at Big Creek Missions. Being in a small town, others are watching your actions and are basing their opinions of this mission on your actions.
- ✓ Practice the "hands-off" policy. If it does not belong to you, please keep your hands off. This includes luggage, supplies, tools, equipment, and anything not yours.
- ✓ Participants are to refrain from "PDA's" (public displays of affection), are to keep their hands to themselves, and avoid inappropriate hugging and other inappropriate actions.
- ✓ Use of Alcohol, illegal drugs, fireworks and any illegal products are prohibited at the mission center and ministry sites. Smoking / tobacco products are prohibited for students, and adults may only smoke no less than 50 feet from any door at the mission center.
- ✓ The Big Creek Missions staff has been selected to provide a positive experience for your group. Regardless of position or age, staff have been assigned overall responsibility for all activities and are designated by the director.. Let's work together to provide a safe, positive environment for all volunteers.
- ✓ Adult leaders are responsible for the safety and conduct of their church group and are expected to enforce these expectations as their own.

## At the mission center

- ✓ All participants are to abide by curfew, and are to be quiet after to respect others in the facility. Adults are asked to abide by and enforce curfew.
- ✓ The center is also the staff's home. Do not enter areas labeled for "Staff" and respect their need for privacy during break times and quiet times.
- ✓ All participants will be asked to assist with various duties during the week. Some will assist with food preparation and cleanup, sweeping, mopping, cleaning restrooms, sorting lumber, organizing, and preparing for different ministries.

- ✓ Please keep your rooms (and luggage) neat and clean to help prevent fire hazards
- ✓ Group leaders may determine whether phones are allowed for their students. Students and adults should not use phones while in worship or on ministry sites.
- ✓ Students are not to leave the center grounds under ANY circumstances without the prior permission of their group leader AND unless they are accompanied by one of their adult chaperones designated by the group leader.
- ✓ No one shall be in rooms of opposite sex except during group times.

## At your ministry site

- ✓ During the summer months, be prepared to work with volunteers from other churches! We will divide church groups into ministry teams. We strive to have Big Creek staff on each team for safety and accountability reasons.
- ✓ Be respectful of the ministry site. Be sensitive to the needs and condition of the area. Refrain from making comments about the area, the condition of the homes, and poor living conditions, as this is the home of the people we are seeking to show Christ. Speak in a positive manner at all times. Refrain from inside jokes, cut downs, and language that would be questionable to the residents.
- ✓ Form relationships with the residents. Pack extra lunches before leaving to site for homeowners and neighbors. Use discretion when residents desire to offer lunch or dinner: Residents are extremely kind and may overexert themselves financially by giving to a large group of volunteers.

## In Worship Services

- ✓ ALL adults and students should plan to attend all worship services. Worship services are among the most special events of your mission week!
- ✓ Flash photography is not allowed in worship.
- ✓ Please plan to stay the ENTIRE worship service. Those leaving early or going to use the restroom are a huge distraction!



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## Transportation (drivers & adults only)

- ✓ Vehicle Drivers: We will utilize ALL vehicles that travel to Big Creek to transport volunteers. Churches should plan to provide fuel for vehicles (a gas station is located within 500 yards of the mission.) It is strongly advised to have several approved and trained drivers for each vehicle! This enables us to place drivers in their desired ministry tracks!
- ✓ Seats: We recommend you have one empty seat per 8-10 volunteers. This gives us flexibility to add staff to groups. **We do not recommend putting more than 12 passengers in a 15 passenger van for safety reasons.**
- ✓ Vehicle Safety: Groups are expected to inspect and verify that all vehicles are safe to operate, have been maintained properly, all lights and seat belts are working properly (if equipped with seat belts), and tires are in good condition, inflated to a proper level. All vehicles should be insured.
- ✓ NO participants are to ride in the back of any pickup truck at any time during their stay.
- ✓ Vehicles suggested size: We recommend cars, mini-vans, 11, 12, and 15 passenger vans. We aim to keep group sizes at less than 12 people, so we recommend not placing more than 12 in any van. 16+ passenger buses NOT recommended due to road conditions and our group sizes. If you bring a 16+ passenger bus, plan to bring additional vehicles so you can transport 12 in the bus plus the rest in additional vehicles. Big Creek does not provide additional transportation. What you bring is what we have!
- ✓ Driver Safety: Drivers should be responsible and comfortable with the vehicle they are driving, and are expected to enforce ALL seat belt rules and drive safely while transporting students.
- ✓ Drivers and construction: Buses and their drivers are typically NOT assigned to construction. Those desiring to work in construction should drive 15 passenger vans or smaller. Trucks are always helpful! Large vans and buses (and their drivers) are typically assigned to children's and community ministry first.
- ✓ Driving Distances: Because we serve in three counties, drivers should be prepared to travel distances between 5 and 35 miles to their sites. Don't forget about gas expenses!
- ✓ DRIVERS ARE NOT TO USE CELL PHONES WHILE DRIVING UNDER ANY CONDITIONS.

## Clothing Expectations

- ✓ **Construction:** Long pants may be required! Bring some! Closed FOOT shoes required (tennis shoes or boots).
- ✓ **Girls-**
  - clothing should be loose fitting & modest
  - shorts should be fingertip length
  - no tank-tops or sleeveless shirts
  - no clothes with suggestive/negative messages
  - swimwear: please keep swimwear conservative & modest
  - closed toe shoes (closed FOOT for construction)
- ✓ **Guys:**
  - clothing should be loose fitting & modest
  - no tank-tops or sleeveless shirts
  - no clothes with negative/suggestive messages
  - closed toe shoes (closed FOOT for construction)
- ✓ **Extra clothing:** All participants should at least one pair of work pants / jeans for extra service projects. It's a mission trip – prepared to serve!. You should be prepared to work in construction, children's, or community ministries. Laundry is not available.

## Accountability

- ✓ Big Creek Missions does not discriminate against any person, period. We do not condone or tolerate sexual harassment bullying, discrimination, or abuse in any form. **All groups are strongly encouraged to run thorough background checks on all adult participants.**
- ✓ All participants (especially adults) are asked to use curtained dressing rooms and showers to change clothes for accountability and appropriateness.
- ✓ For all participants (including adults): Immaturity, divisiveness, disregard for mission center policies, and disrespect of staff leadership will not be tolerated. In all situations, we will follow the example Christ set forth for Biblical reconciliation in Matthew 18:15-17. *Participants who disregard center policies and expectations may be sent home at the inconvenience and expense of their group. When participants sign the permission and release form, they agree to abide by these expectations and policies of Big Creek Missions. Big Creek missions staff reserves the right to terminate the participation of any individual or group that does not honor their commitment and abide by the expectations and policies of Big Creek Missions.*