

FACE Nepal Volunteer Code of Conduct

Last Update: January 2019

Objective

This document is proposed as a guideline for volunteers to inform them of their responsibilities and to ensure that their stay in Nepal be a satisfying intercultural experience.

The document should be read in conjunction with the FACE Nepal Volunteer Handbook, which will be provided to all new volunteers before they arrive in the country. Please speak to Shreeram and/or any member of the International Board if you have not received this in your first week.

Health and Safety

- Volunteers will need to be responsible for their own safety and take common sense precautions during their stay in the country.
- Volunteers are strongly advised to drink either bottled water/soft drinks or use iodine tablets or other methods to sterilize water throughout their stay in Nepal.. Food prepared by a host family is freshly cooked, but it is important to be careful when eating food outside of the home (such as in local food-stalls), especially meats and fish, food exposed to flies, and street ice creams and lassis.
- Air Pollution can be a problem in the cities, and volunteers should wear face masks if spending long hours outdoors.
- While the Patihani area is fairly safe compared to most places in the world, volunteers should still use the same common sense they would use at home. Volunteers are advised not to go out alone after dark, and if doing so should always let someone know where they are going. It is not advisable to go wandering through the rice fields or off the pathways, except when accompanied by a local. Rhinos, crocodiles, and wild elephants all exist in the local area (though it would be very rare to encounter one). Similar rules apply to bathing in the Rapti or other rivers - if there are no locals doing it- don't do it!
- When travelling in the rural areas, it would be a good idea to minimize one's exposure to the midday sun, Long sleeves, hats, socks and shoes would not only protect against the sun but also mosquitoes and other insects, specially during and immediately after the rainy season. It would be wise to carry a good supply of mosquito repellent spray. Most host families will provide beds with overhanging mosquito nets, if not , volunteers should feel free to ask for one.
- We strongly recommend that volunteers obtain appropriate travel insurance for their time in Nepal and insure this covers volunteering, riding as a passenger on a motorbike (wearing helmets is usually mandated by insurance and is obligatory for volunteers – FACE Nepal has motorcycle

helmets available for volunteers. Do not be afraid to say no to riding on a motorcycle if no helmet is provided) or in local buses, and any activities they wish to do e.g. trekking. FACE Nepal cannot be held responsible for any loss (financial or otherwise) or injury suffered by volunteers when on a volunteer programme.

Dress code

Volunteers are expected to dress modestly. Full guidelines are given in the volunteer handbook.

Host Family and Mealtimes

- It is polite to inform the host family if there is a change in the daily routine of the volunteer, such as being late for meals or not having a meal with the family in the evening sometime. Families assume that the volunteer will be eating meals with them. At any time a volunteer is intending to stay away from home for a night, or going out and will be home late, the host family should be informed as soon as possible. Nepali families will often stay up waiting for the last person to come home. It should be clear that volunteers must not have other individuals (especially those of the opposite gender) in their bedrooms, or after about 10pm in any instance. There are many bars and restaurants in the area where volunteers can meet up with their friends.
- If a volunteer develops a relationship with a Nepali or other volunteer, it is culturally unacceptable to invite this person into their rooms for the night, or to go to their house to spend the night. Hotel rooms are available in Ghatgain if one needs privacy.
- Guidance on alcohol consumption can be found in the volunteer handbook.

Cultural approaches to planning and time

- Volunteers should be aware that Nepali approach to planning meetings and social events tends to be more last-minute and informal than in many Western cultures.
Volunteers should approach this with flexibility and patience, and be aware that things do not always work or start on time.
- If a volunteer finds that their program is not starting as quickly as they would like or if there are any issues with their placement programme they must contact Ashok and or Shreeram. Occasionally there are festivals (in particular the long and important festivals of Dashain and Tihar) which interrupt volunteer programmes. Host families will involve volunteers in the traditions of these festivals and they are wonderful cultural experiences. However, volunteers may negotiate time off to explore Nepal during this

time or contact Ashok and or Shreeram to arrange participation in another project.

If local help/guidance is unsatisfactory volunteers should contact members of the International Board (details below).

Free Time

- Guidelines about free time are given in the Volunteer Handbook
- Volunteers must inform their host family, a member of the advisory board, and the children/adults at their placement location when they are planning to be away from the village and not participating in classes/other parts of their programme, including Nepali language classes.
- While volunteers are encouraged to travel to different parts of Nepal, they should remember that during the time they have committed to FACE Nepal their first obligation is to volunteer and they should balance their volunteering and leisure time accordingly.

Code of Conduct Breaches

- If the Advisory Board believes that a volunteer is not meeting the expectations outlined in this Code of Conduct and the volunteer handbook, they will provide the volunteer with a written warning.
- If, despite the warning, the volunteer continues to breach the Code of Conduct, then they will be asked to leave FACE Nepal, and the Advisory Board will decide whether or not any of their program fee will be refunded.
- If the volunteer believes that they are being unfairly treated, or that any member of the Advisory Board, host family, or FACE Nepal staff is not fulfilling their responsibilities, they should contact the International Board immediately.

We would request you to sign and date below to confirm that you have read and agreed to the **terms and conditions of the Code of Conduct for Volunteers to FACE Nepal.**

Name _____ **Date** _____

Signature _____

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