

Standards of Personal Conduct and Community Behavior

Note: AMIGOS is a challenging program that requires a significant amount of responsibility from volunteers. 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.

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.

The AMIGOS volunteer 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; ride a motorcycle
7. handle firearms; or
8. use tobacco products.

Procedures in the event of a Violation in 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 Latin America and return to the United States 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 staff may discuss and document the alleged violation with the volunteer. When a formal incident report is written by the AMIGOS staff, 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 staff and the volunteer and is filed with the International Office. The decision to send a volunteer home is made by the President of AMIGOS, or his/her designee, after consulting with the AMIGOS 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 President, whose decision shall be final and non-appealable. When the decision is made to return a volunteer from the field, 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 from the field 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 effecting the premature return of the volunteer to the United States. Any volunteer who is dismissed from AMIGOS due to a violation of any Standard of Personal Conduct and Community Behavior will be charged a penalty of \$500 plus any costs related to airline ticket changes.