

Child Protection Code of Conduct

Children working and living in tourist areas are especially vulnerable to physical, emotional and sexual abuse. World Expeditions is committed to the protection of children everywhere. On itineraries where travellers are volunteering at a school, we have in place a Child Protection Code of Conduct, which is modelled on World Vision's Child Protection and Trafficking best practice protocol. Please read, sign and return this code of conduct to your reservations consultant.

Additionally, all volunteers will be required to obtain a Criminal Record background check from government authorities in the state where you reside or last resided in the United States. The procedures for obtaining a copy of your history vary between states so please consult local law-enforcement authorities. Your local police department should provide the necessary forms required to apply for a criminal record check. The process should take 2-3 weeks to complete and may cost approximately US\$25.

I, _____ [insert name], agree that while I am involved in World Expedition community projects and activities, I will:

- treat children with respect regardless of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.
- not use language or behaviour towards children that is inappropriate, harassing, abusive, sexually provocative, demeaning or culturally inappropriate.
- ensure that another adult is present when working in the proximity of children. This is for the child's protection and to protect you from possible false accusation.
- not invite unaccompanied children into my room or tent, unless they are at immediate risk of injury or in physical danger.
- not sleep in close proximity to a child. In particular, please take this into consideration when staying in home stay style of accommodations. We will provide you with sleeping arrangements away from children. However if you are ever concerned about sleeping arrangements you should raise concerns with your guide.
- always ask permission from children and their parents before taking photos of them and consider their right to privacy before posting their photos online.
- refrain from physical punishment or discipline of children (excluding my own children)
- refrain from hiring children for labour which is inappropriate given their age or developmental stage, which interferes with their time available for education and recreational activities, or which places them at significant risk of injury.
- comply with all relevant American and local legislation, including labour laws in relation to child labour.
- not engage in any forms of sexual activity or acts with a person under the age of 18 years. This includes any sexual contact, exposing them to sexual materials or participating in the procurement of a child for sexual purposes, the inappropriate use of computers, mobile phones, or video and digital cameras, and never to exploit or harass children or to access child pornography through any medium. Child sexual abuse is a criminal offense in your country and the country you will be visiting. Under American law you can be punished for any child sexual abuse acts committed overseas.
- immediately report concerns or allegations of child abuse to local authorities.

Project Name: _____

Name of person: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____