

Impact The Valley
Behavior Guidelines and Expectations

To all group leaders,

Thank you for leading a group to participate in ministry through Impact the Valley. We are praying and working for our week together to be life changing for everyone involved. We view all of our participants as ministers and believe that responsibility covers the entire week, from the time you leave home on Sunday until you return home on Friday. Attached to this letter are rules for the week. Please review them in detail with your group prior to arrival on Sunday afternoon. They will be reviewed on Sunday evening during our opening celebration. Listed below is some basic information which you and your group will also need to review prior to the event.

Those who are staying overnight will be guests of Shenandoah University, so all facility rules apply to our participants. It is important to show the utmost respect for the facilities and for the other guests with whom we may be sharing the facilities.

All of us will be guests in the various ministry sites where we will be serving. We expect each participant to show the highest level of respect to those with whom you are ministering. Take time to get to know the families and please be respectful of any rules or expectations they may have.

It is important to remember that we have negotiated and made arrangements with the home owners, management, and leaders of the communities in which you will be ministering. Their rules...***no matter how inconvenient...*** must be followed to have an ongoing relationship established for future ministry to occur. You and your group will be representatives of Jesus Christ, Impact the Valley, Teens Opposing Poverty, and your church. Your attitudes and actions should be consistent with the teachings of our Lord.

Two things to emphasize with your group are ***BE FLEXIBLE*** and ***BE POSITIVE***. We work hard at trying to have all the details arranged prior to your arrival. However, sometimes there are delays and interruptions. When these times come, and they likely will, learn to look at what God is doing in the situation and look for ways you can help things move forward.

As a group leader there are a couple things you need to anticipate for the week. First of all, transportation to work sites and to dinner and worship in the evenings may require some ride sharing. Please be open to working together to get everyone where they need to be. We are also asking each group to stay on schedule. We are in this thing together and it is best if we can honor the schedule. Also, be open and willing to help with pool supervision as the campground does not provide a life guard.

Again, we are grateful that you have chosen to be a part of Impact the Valley this summer. Your help in preparing your group for this exciting ministry is appreciated. Join us in praying for God's outpouring during our week together. We are praying for you and your group. Please don't hesitate to call with any questions.

With Gratitude,

Dave Thompson and the Impact the Valley Leadership Team

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Behavior Policies

As your group becomes involved in Impact the Valley, it is important that they understand and adhere to our expectations for individual behavior. This is to remind group members that we have to take the responsibility to be uniform in our ministry settings. **REMEMBER! EVERYWHERE IS A MINISTRY SETTING!** If a group or individual breaks the rules or offends someone we are attempting to share the Gospel with, our ministry is damaged, and the reputation of Jesus Christ whom we serve is tarnished. These policies are made to help us **CONTINUE TO MINISTER AFTER YOU LEAVE!**

Group Concerns

Please remind your people that we have negotiated and made arrangements with the homeowners you will be serving. Their rules ... ***no matter how inconvenient*** ... must be followed to have an ongoing relationship established for future ministry to occur. You will be representatives of Jesus Christ, Impact the Valley, Teens Opposing Poverty and your church. Your actions and attitudes should be consistent with the teachings of Our Lord.

As far as identification of group goes: Please remember this is a multi-denominational concern. We are here to be Christ's hand extended, not to promote one denomination or group over another. Please minister and pray as the Lord directs.

As with all missions, *the key word for the week is Flexibility*. We try to have all the details arranged prior to your arrival, but sometimes there are delays and interruptions. We encourage you to lead your group to use these times of unpleasantness to see what God is doing around you. *Flexibility* is crucial to a positive mission experience. Being the key leader for the group, your attitude will be interpreted and carried by everyone else. Train and prepare your group thoroughly! Make sure they come to serve and work. It is not time for a vacation! Be on time to all ministry sites and activities.

When problems arise at the ministry site, please work through the site leader or other adult leaders. Please do not have disagreements in front of the residents, neighbors, or even your group members. Remain cool in the above situations.

Follow all policies set by Shenandoah University, site leaders, and any other place you are.

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Individual Concerns

Please review and understand the behavior policies. IV leadership reserves the right to send participants home for violations.

Please do not allow your youth to bring their individual vehicles to Impact the Valley. This becomes a major supervision issue and liability concern for ALL of the churches and organizations involved.

It is imperative that all youth maintain an attitude of respect for leaders and for the families we serve.

No knives or other weapons

Use discretion with PDA (public display of affection). It may distract from what we are trying to accomplish. We are here to meet the needs of others and not our own!

No drugs (except prescribed), alcohol, or tobacco products may be used at any time.

Read and understand the dress code.

No cell phones for youth are allowed during Impact the Valley. The youth group leader should collect cell phones upon arrival and return them on departure. Exceptions may only be made under extraordinary circumstances.

At least one ADULT on each work site should have a cell phone.

Dress Code Policy

The following dress code policy had been established for all those who serve with Impact the Valley ministries. We feel this is the best way to present ourselves while we are serving at any ministry site. We ask that all abide by this policy.

How to Dress for Work Sites

On all sites, including the motel ministry, *everyone must wear closed-toed shoes*. Flip flops and sandals are not permitted on work sites.

Everyone should *bring long pants* to wear on worksites. It may not be required for all sites, but some work, such as demolition, will require it.

Everyone should bring at least *one long-sleeved shirt*. It may be required for some work situations.

Policy for Females (casual clothing guidelines)

T-shirts with questionable logos (i.e. beer ads, profanity, etc.) are not acceptable.

Halter tops and spaghetti straps are not acceptable.

No short shorts

Jeans, modest shorts, and Capri pants are acceptable.

Policy for Males (casual clothing guidelines)

Shirts must be worn at Construction sites.

Tank tops with large cutouts for arms are not acceptable.

T-shirts with questionable logos (i.e. beer ads, profanity, etc.) are not acceptable.

No short shorts

Dress code philosophy: When in doubt, choose modesty

Things to bring:

Please make certain that you bring all the things you would normally bring on a camp out. (sleeping bag or bedding, pillow, towels, etc.) Please bring shoes that would be suitable for construction site use. Bug spray and sunscreen are essentials.

Don't forget your medical forms and video/photo releases from your group!

A full schedule will be provided Sunday upon arrival.

Other Critical Information:**Poison Ivy**

Some work sites contain a lot of Poison Ivy. Caution must be taken in these areas. We will give a poison ivy ID talk Sunday evening to be sure everybody can identify this plant. Also, we will make *Technu* and other preventative treatments available.

Jobsite Assignments:

We will continue our policy of mixing groups on job sites this year. Our goal is to have youth from at least 2 different groups on an individual site. Group leaders should consider what youth need to be with adults from your own group and what youth you would like to separate or keep together on the job. An adult from your group will be at all sites where middle-schoolers from your group will be working. Youth group leaders will be contacted before IV week to finalize job assignments. Job assignments will shift some during the week as we finish some jobs early or need additional people on other sites.

Room Assignments

We have had requests from a number of youth leaders to keep their youth groups together as much as possible at the campground. We will make every effort to do so, but logistics may require us to have mixed groups in some cabins.