

Impact The Valley 2026
Behavior Guidelines and Expectations

To All Group Leaders,

Thank you for choosing to lead and participate in ministry through Impact the Valley. We are praying and working for our week together to be life changing for both the volunteers and those we are serving. We view all of our participants as ministers of the gospel 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. Listed below is some basic information which you and your group will also need to review prior to the event. We will also go over everything below on Sunday evening during our opening celebration.

Housing

For those who are staying overnight, we will be guests of Shenandoah University. All university rules apply to our participants. There will be other groups sharing the campus as well. It is important that we show the utmost respect for SU and for the other guests.

Meal and Worship Time

College Park Church of Christ has invited us to use their space for supper and worship each night. Please respect their facility by avoiding damages, and cleaning up thoroughly after yourselves and those around you. Remember, we are not only serving at our work sites, but should show kindness and graciousness to everyone you meet during this week.

Additionally for group leaders: transportation to both work sites and to the dinner and worship time 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.

Work Sites

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 to whom you are ministering. Take time to get to know the families and please be respectful of any rules or expectations they may have.

Attitude and Teamwork

Remember: **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. We are in this together and it is best if we can honor the schedule so we can do the best work and ministry we can!

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 greatly appreciated. Join us in praying for God's outpouring during our week together. We are praying for you and your group as we get closer to our week together. Please don't hesitate to call with any questions.

With Gratitude,



Steve Jennings and the Impact the Valley Leadership Team

IMPACT THE VALLEY 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 EVEN AFTER YOU LEAVE!**

Group Concerns

Please remind your people that we have negotiated and made arrangements with the home owners 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.

Please remember that Impact the Valley is multi-denominational. 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.

Please review all the policies that follow and convey them to your group.

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

- 1) 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.
- 2) It is imperative that all youth maintain an attitude of respect for leaders and for the families we serve.
- 3) No knives or other weapons

- 4) Use discretion with PDA (public display of affection)... holding hands, etc., may distract from what we are trying to accomplish! We are here to meet the needs of others and not our own!
- 5) No drugs (except for medicine), alcohol, or tobacco products may be used at any time.
- 6) Read and understand the dress code listed below.
- 7) Absolutely **no cell phones** may be used by youth during the day at the work sites. Leaders at the sites will have cell phones for communication, taking photos, and emergencies. Additionally no youth may use cell phones during dinner and worship time. We want to cultivate relationships, not only with those whom we are serving, but with those we are serving alongside as well! Please encourage your groups to connect with their own group as well as making friends with other groups and volunteers. Leaders: it is your discretion to set up cell phone rules for your group outside of these times. We suggest that cell phone usage is kept to a minimum, but if you wish to allow your teens to have their phones once they are in the dorms, this is up to you. Please let us know if there are any extenuating circumstances where a teen would need to have their phone and we can discuss exceptions.
- 8) No energy drinks for youth during the day.

Safety Zones

While on campus and at the church where we will have supper and worship, we will designate safety boundaries. Any youth who wants to go outside of those boundaries must have an adult within eyesight/earshot.

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

- 1) EVERYONE must wear closed toe shoes at all times at the work sites. This is a safety requirement. If you have boots or work shoes, even better!
- 2) EVERYONE should be prepared with long pants. It may not be required for all sites, but some work, such as demolition, will require it.
- 3) EVERYONE should bring at least *one long sleeved* shirt. It may be required for some work situations.
- 4) MEN will not be allowed to remove shirts at work sites. We understand that it could be hot, but this is a safety requirement for all sites.

General Dress Rules

- 1) NO questionable logos on shirts, sweatshirts, etc (ie beer ads, profanity, inappropriate images etc)
- 2) WOMEN: no halter tops, spaghetti straps, or tube tops. Tank tops are OK.
- 3) Shorts are OK, but please be mindful of length. Fingertip length is a good rule of thumb!

Things to bring:

Please make certain that you bring bedding (or sleeping bag), pillow, wash cloth, towel, hygiene articles, and other personal items. Please bring shoes that would be suitable for construction site use (see above). Bug spray, hats, and sunscreen are essential!

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 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.

Activities at Shenandoah

Game Room: There is a game room on the bottom floor with a pool table, air hockey and other games.

Outdoor Activities: There is a soccer field behind Parker Hall. We may use it if no other groups are using it. If another group shows up while you are playing, you may need to turn the field over to them as they may have it reserved. Feel free to bring soccer balls, frisbees, etc.

Jobsite Assignments:

We will continue our policy of mixing groups up on job sites this year. 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

Our dorm has rooms situated in quads with 4 rooms sharing a bathroom. Please let us know if there are youth who should stay together, and/or youth who might be better off staying apart. Shenandoah University needs to know the names of the people staying in each room. Please let our on-site staff person know if you need to switch so we can notify SU.