



BASIC POLICIES FOR IRAQ YOUNG LEADER EXCHANGE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

The following policies have been established to maintain a safe and enjoyable environment.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES: Participants are expected to attend all sessions, including social activities, unless the program is marked optional, in which case attendance is recommended. We will check to see that all are present at the morning meetings, at the beginning of each educational session, upon boarding and re-boarding all buses for events, and upon checking-in for all ticketed events.

ILLNESS: In the event of illness, report your condition to a program staff member, host parent, or supervising adult immediately.

HOMESTAY: While staying with your host family you will be expected to participate in family life, which may include performing routine household chores. Be alert to the fact that your host family will have “family rules” by which you are expected to abide.

HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS: Participants will be covered by comprehensive health and accident insurance. You will acquaint yourself with the provisions of the coverage and any exclusions listed.

ROOMING REQUIREMENTS: Sometimes you will be asked to share rooms with other participants. Boys and girls will **NOT** be permitted to share rooms. You are not allowed to enter the room or sleeping area of a participant of the opposite sex. No switching of room assignments is allowed, unless under special circumstances and with the permission of the Program Director.

MEDIA: Students will not participate in any media events without program staff permission and without the written permission of a parent and/or guardian. In the event there is a media event, neither names nor photos will be given to the media outlets.

TRAVEL OR TRIPS: During the exchange you may not travel on overnight or extended trips with your host family or others (ask a leader if you have a question about this). Moreover, you may not participate in any other organized trips, other than those planned and scheduled for the entire group.

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS: Drinking alcohol or using drugs is not allowed. Any violation may lead to immediate dismissal from the program and the student will be sent home at his/her parents’ expense. There is no smoking allowed on World Learning youth programs. Please be aware that it is illegal in the United States to purchase cigarettes if you are under 18 years of age and illegal to consume or purchase alcohol if you are under 21 years of age.

DRIVING: Students are not permitted to drive any motorized vehicle, including any kind of car, truck, minivan, van, SUV, ATV (all-terrain vehicle) motorbike or scooter.

CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR: Participants are subject to the laws of the host country; American youth participating on a U.S. government-funded exchange program with activities outside of the United States will also be held accountable to U.S. law. In many cases, a crime in the U.S. is considered a crime in another country. If a participant breaks a law, including but not limited to theft, battery, and illicit drug use, it is grounds for immediate dismissal from the program and the student will be sent home at his/her parents’ expense.



RESPECT

AND TOLERANCE: Participants are expected to respect the rights of other students and staff, regardless of their political opinion, ideology, race, grade level, age, gender, gender identity or expression, color, disability, sexual orientation, ability, nationality or religion/faith. Participants will be in close living and working proximity with other youth who may have very different opinions, values, lifestyles and cultural norms. Respect, tolerance and understanding of these differences is expected from all participants. All personal, private or public property must be respected and not misused, damaged, or used without permission.

HARRASSMENT: World Learning takes very seriously the importance of providing for all of its participants a learning environment based on mutual respect and one that is safe, comfortable, and free from intimidation, hostility or other offenses. Therefore, no forms of harassment *as defined and otherwise prohibited by U.S. state and federal law*, whether visual, verbal, or physical, between or among World Learning participants will be tolerated. All harassment must be reported to program staff immediately.

VISITOR POLICY:

- Visitors are not permitted to participate in any program activities.
- Program participants may not travel overnight with their visitors and may not miss any program activities.
- Visitors are not allowed to stay in the dorms with the program participants. Visitors will need to make their own arrangements.
- Students are only allowed visitors if they meet the following conditions:
 - Advance approval by the participant parents or legal guardian sent via email to the World Learning Iraq based field staff and the U.S. based IYLEP Program Director. Without advance approval, unannounced visitors will be turned away and will not be permitted to see the student.
 - Time spent with visitors does not conflict with any scheduled program activity, including on weekends and evenings.
- Visitors must meet with the IYLEP Program Director or the local community IYLEP program coordinator.
- Participants are not allowed to leave the program location with visitors even if for dinner.
- The approved visits will take place at the program location and a program staff member will be in attendance at all times.

END OF PROGRAM: Participants are required to return home with the group at the end of the program and may not stay on in the United States for further travel, even if the family offers to cover the additional costs.

OTHER POLICIES: Please be aware that these basic policies are not exhaustive. In specific contexts, there may be specific requirements (for example, conduct in libraries, the classroom, or the dormitory). Students will receive a full briefing on all program rules and expectations during the PDO, and on arrival to the program site.

VIOLATIONS: Participants who violate any aspect of these basic policies will receive a warning or may be subject to dismissal, depending on the severity of the violation. Repeated violations/warnings will not be tolerated and the participant may be sent home at his/her parents' expense.



I have read these policies and agree to abide by them. I understand that my failure to do so will result in my being sent home.

STUDENT Signature _____

Date _____

We have read these policies. We understand that our child's failure to abide by them may result in his/her being sent home. We understand that in such an event we are responsible for any additional expenses incurred.

PARENT Signature _____

Date _____