



# STATEMENT OF ETHICS

Adventist Volunteer Service

[www.adventistvolunteers.org](http://www.adventistvolunteers.org)

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Adventist Volunteer Service (AVS) is to send volunteers around the world to proclaim to all peoples the everlasting gospel in the context of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-12, to lead them to accept Jesus as their personal Savior, to encourage them to unite with His church, to train them to be disciples, and to prepare them for His soon return.

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

Since you have decided to volunteer with AVS, we want to ensure that you know and understand the principles and values of the Seventh-day Adventist Church so that you are not surprised or embarrassed/uncomfortable at any time during your volunteer service.

Seventh-day Adventists believe:

1. **In the soon and literal return of Jesus Christ**, at which time He will honor His committed followers by giving them perfect, safe and peaceful living for eternity. Hence, the name "Adventist" which means "coming."
2. **In the observance of the Sabbath** (7<sup>th</sup> day) of the Bible, which begins at sunset Friday evening and concludes at sunset on Saturday evening. Our weekly activities are set aside as much as possible on the Sabbath so that we can participate in meaningful personal and corporate fellowship with God.
3. **In the Bible as the Word of God** and the primary reference for life's direction.
4. **That the body is the temple of God.** Therefore, we promote healthful living principles including: hygiene; abstinence from smoking, alcohol and drugs; vegetarianism as an ideal, health education, exercise, and proper rest.
5. **In proper social relationships according to Biblical principles.** This includes the sanctity of marriage and the family together with abstinence from sexual relationships outside of marriage.
6. **In and encourage a simple lifestyle.** We believe that service to humanity, rather than materialism, is the driving force in all we do and accomplish.
7. **That all peoples are precious to God**, and thus our mission is to promote healthy, holy and happy lives.

## ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF AVS VOLUNTEERS

Because AVS is sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and is perceived as an Adventist organization in other countries, we ask all of our volunteers to respect and adhere to Adventist principles while in the field. Please take the time to read all of the following information so that you know what is expected of you as a volunteer through AVS.

We expect all of our volunteers to:

1. *Respect the Sabbath by resting from everyday labor. We encourage you to participate in the cultural activities of the Adventist church while you are serving as a volunteer. Most particularly, we invite you to attend church and Sabbath school services.*

2. *Refrain from drinking alcohol, smoking and using illegal drugs during volunteer service.*
3. *Abstain from sexual relations, if single, and remain faithful to a spouse, if married.*
4. *Dress and behave with modesty. We discourage the wearing of excessive jewelry. It may also be wise for volunteers to research what type of clothing is appropriate to wear in the country and culture visited during volunteer service.*
5. *Respect and uplift colleagues and those in authority. Volunteers should refrain from intentionally placing colleagues in a position of embarrassment, disrespect, or harassment.*
6. *Respect the property of the Church organization. Please use the property, facilities, and resources solely for the benefit of the organization unless otherwise permitted or when financial compensation for such use has been arranged.*
7. *Use their time efficiently. Volunteers' time should be honestly devoted to the assignments entrusted to them.*
8. *Conduct themselves with personal integrity in financial matters. Volunteers are expected not to engage in theft or embezzlement of any kind including the misuse of expense accounts, falsification of reports, or the misapplication of resources. Neither should volunteers offer nor receive gifts, favors, payments, or other forms of reward directly or indirectly in exchange for a specific gain or action.*

NB Your group leader may or may not require your signature of compliance with the above Statement of Ethics. Keep a copy of this Statement of Ethics with you while on assignment.

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I have read and understand what is expected of me while serving with AVS, and I will conduct myself in such a manner as to uphold the good name of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



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When completed, keep this statement for future reference, but return the Declaration Form to the Home Division Volunteer Coordinator.