



This Code of Conduct is applicable to all WCC Gap Program students.

The mission of WCC Gap programs is to create life-changing, experiential-education experiences through a service-learning framework. These programs are tailored for high school graduates and college students. WCC Gap programs are for those looking to pursue various interests outside the classroom and can be a valuable stepping stone towards future educational opportunities and career paths. Participants will make long-lasting connections through the group experience, while exploring and contributing to the communities they visit.

Since 1982, WCC has brought young adults together from around the world to share unforgettable experiences. We focus on creating safe, fun, and socially comfortable group environments where participants are encouraged to step out of their comfort zones, explore the world around them, make lasting new friendships, and grow.

In order to have a successful program, it is important that participants join with proper expectations in mind. The core values of WCC Gap programs are **respect** for yourself, others, and the program itself:

Respect for Yourself

- Participants are expected to self-monitor their health and well-being. From getting a good night's rest, to drinking enough water and eating a balanced diet so they can be their best selves throughout the experience.
- Participants must be able to self-administer and monitor their own medication dosages without assistance from WCC staff, aside from any emergency situation.
- All participants share in the responsibility for their own safety and that of the group, and must abide by our policies and those of any contracted suppliers and accommodations. Wherever required, helmets, life jackets, seat belts, and other safety equipment must be worn.
- For your protection, participants should always have another WCC Gap participant with them when traveling in unfamiliar areas and internationally.
- Unpermitted activities (as a driver or passenger) include *but are not limited to*: jet skis, car rentals, ATVing, kite surfing, skydiving, bungee jumping, hang/paragliding, or motorcycle/scootering.

Respect for Others

- Participants need a good attitude, to cooperate and show respect for others. There are times the group needs must come ahead of one's own needs and all participants should expect equal attention.
- Arrive with an understanding that your actions and words impact others. Unkind behavior towards others in any form is unacceptable.

- Participants must work together to achieve both the individual goals and the group goals that will be developed and shared during the experience. This involves arriving with a sense of selflessness, commitment to group contribution, and the common mission.
- In order to have a successful program, participants must be on time and accountable for their own responsibilities within the group.
- Due to the tight-knit nature of our group and respect for each other's health and safety, privacy and personal space, group activities and accommodations are exclusive to WCC Gap participants. You are welcome to visit local friends and family during non-group time.

Respect for the Program

- Participants must attend and participate in all volunteer and educational components of the program. This includes reflection and debrief activities that involve group discussion and idea sharing. Participants are expected to positively contribute and actively engage in these conversations as a constructive member of the group. This also includes development of individual Capstone Projects.
- Participants are expected to also attend all pre-planned recreational activities, helping to foster a positive group dynamic and bonding.
- Honor the commitment to the local communities and service providers; we work rain or shine. It is not always glamorous, but it is necessary and others are counting on us.
- Recognize that during the program, you are not only representing yourself, you are also representing WCC Gap programs overall when interacting with suppliers, and members of the public.
- Participants are required to sleep at our accommodations. Our nightly check-in is typically around midnight to 1am, and participants must remain on site thereafter.
- Any smoking or vaping must be done in designated areas outside of WCC transportation, accommodations and not during group activities or meals.
- Participants may not purchase, possess, sell, conspire to obtain, use any illegal or non-permitted drugs (marijuana is not permitted even where legal), drug paraphernalia, or any substance that can be used to create an unnatural high.
- Alcohol is not permitted on WCC Gap programs in the U.S.. Internationally, we allow the privilege of local custom and culture to prevail regarding alcohol; provided participants act responsibly and in moderation. Those not following these guidelines will be dismissed from the program.

Current WCC Covid-19 protocols are available upon request and will be provided prior to departure. As guidelines and restrictions are ever-changing, WCC reserves the right to update and change protocols at any time prior to or after departure.

WCC will not tolerate behavior that endangers the participant, others, or is otherwise detrimental to the program. As a result, our staff can, in their discretion, dismiss a participant from the program, if they present a safety concern or medical risk, engage in illegal, dishonest or inappropriate behavior, or otherwise conduct themselves in a manner detrimental to the program – including a failure to abide by our policies, as described here, or as explained to the group by the staff.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this Code of Conduct, please contact our office.