

EXPECTATIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS TRAVELING TO COSTA RICA

As you know, expectations for any event can make an experience positive or negative. It is, therefore, important to discuss realistic expectations for the trip abroad. Fundamentally, we are guests of Costa Rica and the facilities/people who host us; therefore, we must behave in such a manner that would not bring embarrassment to LaGrange College. Some things in a new culture are difficult to prepare for specifically, but the following issues are offered as points of discussion.

The trip participants must be students of the culture. When in doubt, follow the lead of your guide in giving proper respect, especially in formal settings, in religious settings, in visiting national hero's monuments, and more importantly for our trip, national parks and the environment.

- I agree to obey all laws regarding alcohol consumption. The abuse of alcohol is never appropriate. Underage drinking or the use of illegal drugs is strictly prohibited.
- I understand that I will be rooming with a number of different people, and will do my best to get along with each person.
- All rooms are to be non-smoking rooms.
- Smoking is not allowed in parks, reserves, or on trails.
- I agree to be discreet and not behave in a manner offensive to our hosts.
- I understand that I must put the group's wants and desires ahead of my own.
- I agree to be on time when there are group activities.
- I agree to be tolerant, kind, and non-judgmental toward others in the group.
- I agree to assist others in the group when necessary.
- I understand that I must be flexible when things do not go as planned.
- I am willing to take the advice from the professor or guide when confronted about a given issue that may be a sensitive issue with our hosts.
- I agree to be gracious when served food that I am not accustomed to eating. (Remember your hosts are carefully observing you. Your response reflects upon the entire group).
- I must be in good shape and be able to carry my own luggage, as well as things I buy.
- I agree to pay for my return trip back home if my behavior causes me to be dismissed prior to the conclusion of the trip.

I agree with the importance of the above-mentioned issues and agree to try my best in every situation to abide by these expectations.

Student Signature

Date

Professor Signature

Date