

Qualifications of a Service Team Leader



A successful team depends upon many factors, such as a hosting organization that understands short-term mission trips and is prepared to utilize a Service Team effectively, a missionary or national leader who likes to host Service Teams, a church/school and supporters who are supporting a Service Team, a flexible attitude and a good Service Team leader! What makes a good Service Team leader?

1. **Demonstrates spiritual maturity!** Do you demonstrate an understanding of basic Christian doctrines and values? Do you demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit such as love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness and faith? These are very essential to being a good leader. What would leader be without love or patience or faith? Would you want to be under your own spiritual leadership? Do you show concern for the spiritual development of others? Do you lead with humility? Are you a servant?
2. **Demonstrates personal maturity!** Do you have good relationships with family, friends and other church members? Do you admit when you are wrong? Do you show good judgement in various situations? Do you adjust well in differing social situations? Do you handle stress or unexpected situations with stability?
3. **Demonstrates a knowledge and sensitivity to other cultures!** Have you ever been in another culture or around other ethnic groups? Are you sensitive to cultural issues? Do you adapt well to different cultures or situations?
4. **Has proven leadership within his/her church or group!** Have you ever served your church or group? Have you proven gifts and abilities to your body of believers?

The important thing to remember is that you are not perfect, but you are to be responsible for the well-being of others. Keep coming back to these questions. Bring the areas of your weakness to the Lord and remember: When we are weak, He is strong!

Job Description of a Service Team Leader

- Be spiritually prepared. Make sure that you are spiritually right with the Lord. You are not to carry the burden of this team or trip. The Lord does that while you carry out your responsibilities. He is your Enabler and you need His power, not your own. Daily walk with Him.
- Be humble in your leadership. You are not to be a dictator. Your ministry for this trip is to the team. You are to humbly serve them as you lead. Please be aware of their needs, struggles, issues they are facing, and be available to them with a humble heart.
- Be culturally prepared. You should have a good knowledge of the culture and customs. Do research to provide you with information relating to the area where you will be serving and any cultural etiquette to be aware of. You will lead not only in giving information but also by example while on the field.
- Be logistically prepared. You are responsible to carry out all of the logistics for team training sessions as well as help coordinate logistics on the field. Make sure you are aware of what is needed for passports, immunizations, prayer and financial support, team member's paperwork, flights and travel details, etc.
- Be prepared for the unexpected. Think ahead of everything and have an alternate plan. Expect the unexpected. Take responsibility for making decisions, especially when traveling.
- Be aware of needs. While you are on the field there are many needs: needs of the team, the missionaries and the national staff. Be aware of what these needs might be and meet them when possible. You cannot meet all needs, but you are especially responsible for your team. If a team member is withdrawing (possible culture shock) or appears to be ill, don't let it pass. Talk to them and deal with their need.

- Be a communicator with your team. Pass on information to your team before you leave and on a daily basis while you are on the field.
- Be a spiritual leader on the field. You should hold team devotions and times of sharing daily. We suggest you meet at some point each day as a team to pray, worship and share. Please work with your team host to include this in your schedule. Schedule some team members to share but always leave room for others to share spontaneously. It is also important to meet daily to share logistical information. Be careful not to turn these meetings into complaint sessions or only share information, but make sure to include spiritual refreshment as well. If needed, insist that this devotional time is just for your team and not with nationals or even missionaries. Your team should be free to share without offending national or missionary hosts.
- Be a gift releaser. Look for the gifts of your team members. Once you recognize their gifts, give them opportunity to exercise those gifts. Assign your team members according to their gifts when possible (daily chores, construction leader, devotional sharing, leading worship, prayer warriors, encourager, travel logistics, etc.) Release as many possible to serve the Lord through their gifts.
- Be thoughtful about the true purpose of the Service Team trip. Trips that are focused less on projects and more on relationships, encouragement, prayer, learning, spiritual growth and understanding the ministry tend to make a bigger long-term impact on team members and those whom they are serving.
- Be submissive to the missionaries and national leaders. The primary Service Team Host (missionary or national leader) has final authority for your team's safety and ministry. This person is more knowledgeable and understanding of on-field situations. Please respect and submit to him/her. Talk to him/her in private when discussing decisions for the team.
- Be responsible for all aspects of training the team. Schedule team training sessions and be prepared for each session. Debrief the team while on the field. Plan and schedule follow-up meetings and team reunions upon your return.
- Be a strong leader when traveling. Traveling is one of the biggest jobs of your trip. Keeping a group together and arriving together is quite a task. Be prepared.
- Be a prayer warrior. God is more interested in your experience with Him than He is with the job you are trying to accomplish. Pray for your trip logistics, yourself, your co-leaders, your team members, the missionaries, national staff and children whom you will be working with. Watch God answer prayers!

Standards of Excellence in Short Term Missions (www.soe.org)

Standards of Excellence in Short Term Missions is an organization that desires to promote the pursuit of excellence in short-term missions and to strengthen our collective effectiveness globally. They seek to encourage, enable and equip one another to be better. As members, Kids Alive International, is committed to "The 7 Standards" and hopes that churches and organizations partner with us, sharing a similar desire for excellence and effectiveness in our Service Team program.

Additional Responsibilities of a Service Team Leader

As a Kids Alive International Service Team leader, you are responsible for the fundraising and payments for your team, in coordination with your church or organization. You will also gather and carry with you your team members insurance and emergency information, as well as the signed consent forms of any minors traveling with you. Kids Alive International coordinates with Service Team Leaders, who are responsible for sharing information and making plans with Service Team members.

We look forward to partnering with you to plan and lead a successful Service Team, helping bridge the gap with you between your team members and the local culture and ministry opportunities!