

NEW BEGINNINGS MEXICO

New Beginnings hosts visitors who desire to volunteer their services. As well, New Beginnings will encourage and enable visitors to volunteer at other locations, such as orphanages, daycares, safe houses etc. in the Puerto Vallarta area. If you wish further information, please email New Beginnings at andyjanet12@hotmail.com

Please complete and sign one form for each applicant and return to New Beginnings Mexico.

Name: _____

Trip Dates Requested: _____ Trip Duration (days): _____

REGISTRATION

Please provide the following information and return the original signed form to the New Beginnings Mexico office **with a clear photocopy of your passport ID page.**

Legal name in appearing on passport: _____

If you are a medical professional and are volunteering to use these skills on the trip, please also include a photocopy of your Diploma and current professional license to practice.

Home Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Date of Birth: (mm/dd/yy) _____ Age: _____ Birthplace: _____

Tel: Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

Email address: _____

Occupation: _____

Describe any specific talents you have which may be beneficial to New Beginnings Mexico:

Please describe any prior missions experience that you have:

How did you hear about us? _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Emergency Contact: Name #1: _____ Relationship: _____

Tel: Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

Emergency Contact: Name #2: _____ Relationship: _____

Tel: Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Are you a Christian? _____ For how long? _____

Name of your church. _____ Tel: _____

Name of your Pastor _____

It should be noted that New Beginnings Mexico may require references to be provided prior to acceptance for participation as a volunteer. This will be determined at the time your application is reviewed.

TRIP PLANNING AND ARRANGEMENTS

New Beginnings Mexico is not responsible for making arrangements for transportation for individuals or teams to/from Mexico, accommodations while in Mexico, or for any associated expenses incurred while in transit or in Mexico. On occasion transportation to/from the Ministry worksite may be available but this cannot be guaranteed. Rental cars are available at the Airport.

LEGAL STATEMENT

I have read this statement and agree that New Beginnings Mexico and any associated Ministry staff and volunteers, acting officially or otherwise, are absolved from any and all liabilities, claims, demands, actions or causes of action on account of my death, injury to me, illness and damage to or loss of my personal property, which may occur as a result of, or in connection to, any cause, including negligence of any type, during my time travelling to/from the New Beginnings Mexico Worksite and at the Worksite itself.

MEDICAL RESPONSIBILITY

There are many health precautions that must be taken before and while travelling abroad. It is very important that you book an appointment to see a doctor at a Travel Medicine & Vaccination Centre at least 12 weeks prior to departure. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are healthy, your vaccinations are up to date, and that you bring any personal medication and/or medical supplies with you.

EXPECTATIONS and REQUIREMENTS

New Beginnings Mexico is a Christian Organization that is committed to protecting the men, women and children in the communities in which our Ministry operates. As such, we have set the following regulations listed in **Appendix A** (attached) that all volunteers, short term missions team members, and visitors must follow. Please read the following Sections entitled “**Code of Conduct**” and “**Definition of Appropriate and Inappropriate Behavior**”, sign where indicated and provide any information requested.

I have read the conditions listed in this application and agree to abide by the above as well as the conditions stated in attached Appendix A. I hereby state that my information provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. In the situation that I leave out or disclose false information that jeopardizes the New Beginnings Mexico Ministry, its staff or volunteers, or the residents of the neighbourhood, I will surrender the right to participate and will be required to leave the worksite immediately return home at my own expense.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

Please send an original signed copy of this document to the address noted below.

New Beginnings Mexico
4117 157A Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5Y 0A4

APPENDIX A

CODE OF CONDUCT

As a worker, volunteer or visitor to a New Beginnings Mexico worksite, you are expected to follow the Code of Conduct as indicated below. Please read the following and sign where indicated:

- I will remember that I am a guest working at the invitation of New Beginnings Mexico. If my hosts are offended by my dress or behavior I'll remember the missionaries' prayer: "Where you lead me, I will follow: what you feed me, I will swallow!"
- I will remember that I have come to learn, not to teach. I may run across procedures that I feel are inefficient, or attitudes that I find closed minded. I'll resist the temptation to inform our hosts about "how we do things." I'll be open to learning other people's methods and ideas.
- Respect the host country's customs and social structure and respect the people and neighbourhood in which the worksite is located.
- Respect the hosts' view of Christianity. I recognize that Christianity has many faces throughout the world, and that one of the purposes of this trip is to witness and experience faith lived out in a new setting.
- Develop and maintain a servant attitude toward all nationals and my teammates.
- Respect the New Beginnings Mexico Ministry leaders and will abide by their decisions.
- Refrain from gossip. I may be surprised at how each person will blossom when freed from the concern that others may be passing judgement.
- Refrain from complaining. I know that travel can present numerous unexpected and undesired circumstances, but the rewards of conquering such circumstances are innumerable. Instead of whining and complaining, I'll be creative and supportive.
- Respect the work that is going on in the country with the particular church, agency or person(s) with whom we are working.
- Refrain from negative comments or hostile discussions concerning the politics of our hosts' country.
- Remember not to be exclusive in my relationships. I will make every effort to interact with the residents of the neighborhood, not just with my teammates. A key element of my time with New Beginnings Mexico is relationship building.
- Avoid any behavior that could be considered as inappropriate to the people of the host country or to New Beginnings Mexico Ministry staff, volunteers or visitors. Inappropriate behavior is further defined below.
- Refrain from any activity that could be construed as romantic interest toward a national. I realize certain activities that seem innocuous in my own culture may be inappropriate in others.
- Refrain from any behavior that would be considered as risky and could put my safety or the safety of others at risk. I will follow New Beginnings Mexico Ministry staff instructions regarding areas that can and cannot be visited without an escort.
- Abstain from the consumption of alcoholic beverages, the use of tobacco and/or illegal drugs while on the trip.
- Giving gifts of any kind directly to the residents of the neighbourhood, including money, is forbidden without first receiving instruction and approval from New Beginnings Mexico Ministry staff. I recognize that giving gifts can cause tensions within the community.

I have read and agree to abide by the above Code of Conduct,

Signed: _____

Appropriate and Inappropriate Behaviour

New Beginnings Mexico recognizes that the residents of the community, particularly the children, may initiate physical contact such as hugs or requests to be picked up. It is important that staff, volunteers and visitors be aware that we want to ensure the safety of the community as well as our staff, volunteers and visitors from accusations of inappropriate behaviour. As such it is expected that you will abide by the following rules of conduct.

- The 'two-adult rule' is the preferred standard for ministry to children.
- It is at the discretion of New beginnings Mexico Ministry staff to require volunteers and visitors to the community to wear visible identification. If requested to do so, I agree to display that identification at all times.
- Only parents or residents of the neighbourhood will take children to bathrooms.
- Diaper changes will be done only at the request of the parent and under their supervision.
- Any injuries to children will be reported immediately to NB staff or leaders.
- Incident reports will be completed by the discretion of NB.
- All trips and outings will be supervised by a minimum of two approved, unrelated adult ministry personnel,
 - Preferably male and female.
- Children will not be left unattended in a vehicle.
- All off site excursions must have prior approval from NB
- Children, family or family members are not to be invited to the home or personal residence of a volunteer or visitor without permission from New Beginnings Mexico Ministry staff. Unless it is considered as a New Beginnings Mexico sanctioned function, activities of volunteers or visitors with residents of the community at any off site location (e.g. play ground, fun house, movie theatre, etc.) is prohibited without permission.
- Volunteers and visitors are not to be left alone with a child or youth.
- It is recognized that current Blackberry, iPhone and cell phone technology allows easy access to the internet and potential inappropriate information and images. These devices also contain digital cameras. Children will sometimes ask to see pictures that you have taken of them and that is acceptable. However, it is expected that this will be done in a public area with other adults present. Displaying inappropriate information, images and photos on electronic devices is not acceptable.
- Hugging of members of the opposite sex is highly discouraged.

Children (Newborn to Adolescent)

Appropriate Touch:

Recognizing that children need appropriate displays of affection that reflect pure, genuine and positive displays of God's love, appropriate touch with children will be age and developmentally appropriate.

We encourage ministry leaders to:

- Hold a preschool child who is crying,
- Speak to a child at eye level and listen with your eyes as well as your ears,

- Hold a child's hands when speaking, listening or walking him or her to an activity,
- Gently hold the child's shoulder or hand to keep his or her attention while you redirect the child's behaviour,
- Put your arm around the shoulder of a child when comforting or quieting is needed,
- Pat a child on the head, hand, shoulder or back to affirm him or her.
- All touch must be done in view of others.

Inappropriate Touch:

Recognizing that the innocence of children must be protected, ministry leaders will be made aware that the following actions are deemed inappropriate and will not be permitted:

- Do not kiss a child or coax a child to kiss you,
- Do not engage in extended hugging and tickling,
- Do not hold a child's face when talking to or disciplining the child,
- Do not touch a child in any area that would be covered by a bathing suit (strictly prohibited except in cases of diapering and assisting preschoolers as outlined in washroom policies),
- Do not carry older children and do not allow them to sit on your lap,
- Avoid prolonged physical contact with any child or youth.

YOUTH (Adolescent to Young Adult)

Appropriate Touch:

- One-arm hugs
- Shoulder-to-shoulder hugs
- Touch on the back or shoulder

Inappropriate Touch:

- Chest-to-chest hugging
- Extended hugging
- Over-exuberant affection
- Lap-sitting
- Kissing
- Touching of thighs, knees or inappropriate spots of the body

Volunteers and visitors must be cognizant of conduct that could be misinterpreted:

- Horseplay
- Tickling
- Extended backrubs

I have read and agree to abide by the above rules regarding conduct around children and youth and agree to abide by the above rules regarding appropriate and inappropriate conduct and touching.

Signed: _____