

VOLUNTEER GUIDELINES & APPLICATION FORM

Anabaptist Border Ministries is a channel for the church to share gospel truth and encouragement with the migrants, as well as other seekers near the US/Mexico border. Using this opportunity prayerfully and intentionally can be a blessing to both those who share, as well as those who receive. We also feel responsible to disciple new believers in the faith and/or help them find a biblical church fellowship.

We Believe:

1. In the headship order as taught in 1 Corinthians 11. That a man's head is to be uncovered while praying, and the woman's head is to be covered with hair uncut, signifying our acceptance of God's headship order.
2. In total non-resistance, without retaliation, demonstrating the love of Christ in our daily walk as Jesus lived and taught. See Mt 5:38-46; Mt 22:37-40; Jn 18:36; Ro 12:19-21
3. That the personal appearance and lifestyle of Christian men and women should be modest, free from worldly fashion and adornment, maintaining simplicity in all areas of life. See Ro 12:1-2; Ja 4:4; I Jn 2:15-17

Who We Are:

We are from various, conservative Anabaptist churches, with a desire to follow Christ's command to "go... and teach all nations... to observe all things... Mt 28:18-20

Dress Code:

It is our desire that the following guidelines not be viewed as "just another set of rules"; but rather a source of freedom from the distraction of following worldly fads. This mindset helps us focus on the greater work God has for us in ministering to those we meet. We should be willing to sacrifice personal preference and comfort for the blessing of others. We desire to maintain a consistent witness for our Lord and not be a stumbling block to anyone. Please ponder this as you consider the following items.

1. Brethren shall provide leadership in dress by wearing distinctive, separated attire.
 - A. Shirts and pants should be opaque and loose fitting. We will not wear T-shirts or sport knit shirts (Polo shirts). Dress clothes should be worn with shirt tails tucked in when evangelizing. Long-sleeved shirts should be worn for Sunday morning services.
 - B. We will avoid the cowboy look and image, therefore no western wear. Hats are not to be worn while evangelizing unless needed for health reasons such as in cold weather. Their use should be approved by the administration.
 - C. Casual dress identifies us with the casual spirit of our time and does not contribute to respectful, reverent worship, or to alert, watchful Christian living. The hair should not model the current style of being cropped, or shaven on the side, with a mop on top. Beards, if worn shall not be goatees, or doughnut beards. Sideburns should not extend down past mid-ear.
2. Sisters shall have uncut hair modestly covered by an opaque veiling concealing most of the hair. Subdued colors, not sheer, bright, or shiny, are appropriate for dress materials. We desire to be modest in both pattern *and* color. A modest cape-dress, or vest-dress shall be worn with the skirt reaching at least halfway between the knee and sole, and ample enough to conceal the body's form.
3. We encourage sensitivity toward our audience in the type of clothing we wear, and how we present ourselves in general. Please avoid expensive-looking clothing so we can better relate to these people on their level.

Phone & Electronic Device Use:

1. While serving with ABM, phones are to be used as a tool, not as a toy, or for entertainment. We expect all volunteers to honor your home church position for all computer use; email; and internet; etc.
2. Please remember, you are coming to minister to the migrants, not to maintain an up-to-date connection with family and friends.
3. We require ALL devices to have an accountability program, and/or filtered/restricted internet access.
4. We plan to have regular accountability times for all volunteers. Men with men, and ladies with ladies.

Personal Conduct:

1. For maximum impact among those we serve; our spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being is of utmost importance. Since God is the ultimate source of life in all three areas, our commitment to spending regular quiet time with Him is not optional. This is crucial to each one's total well-being.
 - A. Therefore, we commit to being very intentional, and to following the guidelines below for how we use our time.
 - B. We will refrain from unprofitable activities such as watching movies or meaningless screen time; but rather spend our time in meaningful conversations, spiritual development, and rest-time for our body, mind, and soul.
2. We will not tolerate tobacco, drugs, alcoholic beverages, and foul language since they mar the testimony of any professing Christian.
3. Please respect the personal conviction of fellow volunteers. We come from various backgrounds and cultures. Serving away from home is not the time to flaunt our liberties in music, dress, etc. but is a time to serve one another. Gal 5:13 Team unity is our goal. We can accomplish much more when we pull *together*.
4. We will avoid the use of musical instruments and their recordings.
5. We ask that each volunteer take responsibility for his/her laundry and general housekeeping, including making their bed each morning.
6. Due to the nature of our work, and for security, posting personal information of the migrants on social media or online is strictly prohibited.
7. There is to be NO sharing of personal contact information between the volunteers and the migrants of the opposite gender.
8. We encourage you to share your testimony with the people we are working with, but it is very important to NOT pressure them, or speak condescendingly to them. Even handing out literature should be done discreetly and carefully.
9. Respect for the authority of the board, administrator, house parents, and team leaders, etc. is required, regardless of your level of understanding of, or appreciation for what is being asked.
10. Due to the nature of the work and the daily, close interaction of the team, we do not accept dating couples serving together. There will be no special boy/girl relationships begun during your time with ABM.
11. Due to the need for getting a good night's sleep, and respect for other staff, we practice a 10 pm curfew unless otherwise announced.

Off-Duty Time:

1. Group meals are provided per the team's schedule, and are group time, not personal time.

2. Volunteers shall attend Sunday and mid-week church services and be willing to participate.
3. Unless they are sick, volunteers shall attend staff devotions; debriefings, share-times, prayer-times, etc.
4. Please communicate with the Administrator about time spent away from the base.

Memo of Understanding:

Please be advised that working in this part of Mexico can be dangerous. It is not uncommon to hear of cartel activity. However, the cartel's reach does not end at the US border. We are told that some even live on the US side of the border. Sharing this information is not meant to scare, but rather to simply make you aware that sharing the gospel in this part of the world does come with some risk. Here is a website with travel information you may find helpful before traveling abroad. www.travel.state.gov

Orientation for serving with ABM includes instructions on simple things we can do to avoid unnecessary risks, like making sure the vehicle has plenty of fuel before entering Mexico; staying with the group; avoiding back alleyways; etc.

In case of a staff member being held hostage or kidnapped, ABM does not pay ransom since this would reward the perpetrators and may encourage them to do it again. This could result in ABM needing to discontinue their ministry in that area.

As you consider the dangers of serving in Mexico, remember that the command in Matthew 28:18-20 also has a promise. Here it is: And Jesus spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Personal Information:

Full name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____; State: _____; Zip code: _____

Ph number: _____; Email: _____

Date of birth: _____; Age: _____; Gender: M _____; F _____

Your parents' names (if living at home): _____

Name of emergency contact: _____; Ph number: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Are you a born again, follower of Jesus? _____

Give a brief testimony of your relationship with God: _____

What church are you a member of? _____

Are you a faithful, supportive member of this congregation? _____

1. Your pastor's name: _____

Pastor's phone number: _____; Email: _____

2. Your pastor's name: _____

Pastor's phone number: _____; Email: _____

Do you meet the requirements above for **Phone & Electronic Device Use**? _____

Give a brief description of the internet filter and/or accountability program you are currently using:

Do you have experience relating to other nationalities? _____; if yes, please share a few details below:

Service commitment:

What length of term are you able to commit to? 2 mo: ____; 6 mo: ____; 1 yr: ____; Other: _____

(We ask for a minimum of 2 months for general volunteers, & 6 months for administrators/house parents)

Date you are available to begin serving: _____

Send your completed application to Marc Sommers at: marcls71@icloud.com; Ph: 903-413-8280

Marc's mailing address: 1588 CR 4822; Wolfe City, TX 75496

*It is important that you **read** and **understand** this document. By signing, you agree to willingly support these guidelines; not only in the letter of the law but more importantly, in the spirit of the law so as to not be an offence to anyone or mar our testimony for Christ. You are also agreeing that you understand that serving in Mexico can be dangerous, but you choose to commit this into God's care. Please inform your family of ABM's 'no ransom' policy.*

Disregarding these guidelines may result in your time with ABM being terminated.

If in doubt, please ask. Don't assume.

Signature: _____; Date: _____

Signature: _____; Date: _____

If married, spouse may sign here.