

# Tips for Running a Successful Short-term Mission Team

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## 1. Be Compliant

All short-term team members **MUST** complete the application process through GEM Teams to meet GEM's policies of compliance. This includes a background check, references, ministry safe, liability insurance, and GEM's statements of faith and Christian conduct. More information regarding GEM's compliance policy can be found at [www.gemteams.org/compliant](http://www.gemteams.org/compliant)

## 2. Be Prepared: Pre-field

Running a successful team requires you to be prepared. You'll need to create budgets, schedules, as well as arrange transportation, meals, lodging, cultural excursions, and any other little details. Begin this process as early as possible – often 6 to 9 months before the project. You can never be too prepared!

You'll also need to prepare your team. Ideally, your team should meet several times for team-building activities, bonding, cultural research, and general project preparation for the project **before** they arrive at the airport. Be available to coach them through these things via Skype, phone calls, or email.

Your preparation speaks volumes to your team and to the ministry you're serving. Being well prepared allows you to better deal with unexpected situations that you may encounter.

## 3. Be Diligent: On-field

Spiritual warfare is real – and Satan doesn't want any good thing coming out of your team's service – so he'll do his best to make sure your efforts are destroyed. Spend the first part of your day together in God's word!

Culture shock and jet lag are real – and they will show up in unlikely ways. You'll need to gracefully attend to your team members, while realizing that what they're experiencing may be solved by a simple explanation and a good nap!

The needs of the ministries you're serving are real – and they're counting on you and your team to help meet them. If short-term teams are not run well, they can be more of a burden than a blessing to the ministry.

## 4. Be Available: Post-field

Your team members will have experienced many new things and may leave with more questions about their future and God's plans than they came with. A successful short-term team doesn't end when you drop the team members off at the airport – debriefing what they experienced is perhaps the most valuable part of the trip. Send emails. Make yourself available for Skype calls. Encourage team members to seek out how and where God may have them serve next.