

International YMCA Outbound Programs Emergency Protocol Information Sheet

**Please describe in detail how the host site staff will respond to the following
emergency situations:**

Growing Political Instability:

In spite of the current world financial crisis, there is no political instability in Brazil. We have our budget planned to manage the Go Global volunteer during his/her program.

Natural Disasters (Earthquake, Flood, Hurricane, Tsunami, etc.):

Rarely do they happen in Brazil, especially in Sao Paulo. In spite of that, we have our staff to give assistance in any emergency.

Terrorist attack (Country-wide: anywhere with-in the host country)

It is not common in Brazil. For emergencies, the Police Department should be contacted immediately at 190.

Terrorist attack (local: within 100 miles of host site/housing)

As explained before.

Recent direct Threat made to Americans

We have not acknowledged any case like that. However, if it happens, volunteer must contact the International Department of the YMCA Sao Paulo.

What is your organization's communication plan in the event that cellular and land-based phones become inoperable. How will you facilitate the group/volunteer making contact with YMCA staff in the United States?

By accessing the internet.

Please describe (and attach if possible) your YMCA's emergency preparedness/risk management plan.

Attached.

Are there any concerns you have about groups of Americans (youth or adults) traveling visibly in your city or country? (Circle One) (Yes) No

As any big city, participant should not walk in Sao Paulo carrying too much cash, should care for personal belongings and not walk alone in certain areas, late at night.

The goal of this questionnaire is to help provide insight for prospective volunteers or travelers into the specific customs and norms unique to the host country, so they can be as prepared as possible for their visit/experience.

We want our participants to serve as the best possible cultural ambassadors for both the YMCA and the people of the United States.

Please describe behaviors that are not appropriate that are not appropriate in your country which may be acceptable in the United States (i. e. sexual harassment, acceptable language, etc.)

Inappropriate behaviors in Brazilian culture are similar to American. Volunteer should have the sense to notice what is appropriate or not.

Is there any style of clothing or dress which volunteers or participants traveling to your country should be aware of?

Are there any laws or regulations which are unique to your country that Americans (youth or adults) should be aware of?

Smoking: despite the city preparation for banning smoking in all public places, smoking restrictions are not yet as widespread as in the US. Generally it is forbidden to smoke in public places such as metro stations, airports, department stores, shops, any forms of public transportation, cinemas and some restaurants. It is allowed in places if not marked no smoking area. Alcohol: drinking alcohol (including beer) is allowed in restaurants, clubs, etc. Cigarettes and alcohol are forbidden on the YMCA's premises.

How is gender, age, skin color, sexual orientation or weight accepted (or not) as a standart in your country?

Brazil is a mix of races and cultures. From time to time, we have to deal with issues involving minorities such as Indians, Asians, black people, gay community, women and children.

What kind of clothing do you recommend participants to wear while traversing your city on a daily basis?

Most time casual and formal just in special events.

Are there any other concerns or comments you have regarding social and cultural norms of the host country that you want to make aware to groups/participants before they travel?

Touching is common. Kissing on both cheeks is common among family members, relatives, friends and acquaintances. Handshaking, kissing, hugging, patting, embracing and holding hands are common forms of greeting. Personal space and physical space are not emphasized. For example, a person will stand less than a foot away from the other when having a conversation. As for attitudes towards time, punctuality is a challenge for most Brazilians.

What will the general temperature range be for the time period the group/visitor will be with you?

Minimum 33°C/91.40 F

Maximum 37°C/98.60 F

Report Completed by:

Roseli Carneiro, International Programs Director - YMCA Sao Paulo, Brazil

Elaine Geromin, International Programs Assistant - YMCA Sao Paulo, Brazil

Date: 11/13/2008