

POLICY GUIDELINES FOR SWIM SHORT-TERM MISSION (STM) TEAMS

1. Short-term mission (STM) trips must support the mission, vision, and core values of SWIM. As a general rule, the mission opportunities are those identified by the long-term missionaries at SWIM in Solomon Islands. For this reason:
 - Typically, as far as it is possible, a SWIM missionary and/or staff person will accompany each short-term SWIM team on their mission trip;
 - Short-term SWIM teams are expected to work in close consultation with the SWIM long-term missionary that will accompany them on their mission trip. This will include:
 - o Contacting the SWIM Directors to identify mission opportunities;
 - o Maintaining correspondence and consultation throughout the planning and preparations stages of the trip; and
 - o Heeding the guidance and advice of the SWIM long-term missionaries both in the planning of the mission trip and during the mission trip itself.
2. SWIM short-term mission teams should consist of no more than 10 participants. Permission may be sought from the SWIM directors for any exceptions to this rule but will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.
3. All team leaders must be confessing Christians and actively involved in their local church. Team leaders are required to submit a reference letter from their local church pastor confirming this.
4. Since SWIM is a mission community of Christ-centred people serving in Solomon Islands in Jesus' name, all STM team leaders and team members are to indicate their commitment to abide by the Christian values and principles of SWIM by signing the STM Agreement Form provided by SWIM.
5. All teams leaders and team members are to participate in and complete adequate and appropriate STM Training and Orientation prior to the mission trip. The SWIM Director will ensure that this Training and Orientation has been completed. The 'Helping without Hurting in Short Term Missions' video based study is highly recommended for Short-term Mission Trip training. SWIM will provide guidelines and recommendations for orientation programs that should be undertaken by Teams preparing to do a STM in Solomon Islands. Team leaders should also read and be familiar with the SWIM document: 'Long Term / Short Term Missions' available on the SWIM website resource page.
6. Consumption of alcohol, betel nut or any illicit drug and smoking (including cigarettes) is strictly prohibited at all times while part of a STM team in Solomon Islands.
7. Coarse or crude language, swearing, and/or blasphemy are not Christian virtues, and are not to be expressed at any time.

8. All team leaders and team members are to wear appropriate and modest attire. The dress code for males and females are given below.
9. Team leaders and team members must respect culturally appropriate ways of interacting with members of the opposite sex while in Solomon Islands. Generally this means that team leaders and team members are to have no physical contact (except hand shaking) with members of the opposite sex (both with other team members and with Solomon Islanders). The focus of a STM should be on the mission itself and building Christian friendship with members of the same gender.

SWIM Team Dress Code

Females:

- Loose-fitting shorts (over the knee) or loose-fitting skirts (over the knee). In some villages, girls will be required to wear skirts only (no shorts). Please check with your SWIM contact person to confirm requirements well before your departure to SI.
- A dress or skirt (over the knee) and a top/shirt covering the shoulders must be worn to church.
- T-shirts or tank tops (with wide shoulder bands – no spaghetti straps). All shirts / tops should be loose-fitting, modest (no tummy or cleavage) and cover bra straps.
- Swim wear – longish board shorts or loose fitting ordinary shorts and a T-shirt. Swimsuits and bikinis are for underneath only.
- Clothing that does not have confronting or obnoxious pictures or words on it.

Males:

- Clothing that does not have confronting or obnoxious pictures or words on it.
- Swim wear – loose fitting shorts or board shorts. Preferably a T-shirt or tank top as well (good for sun protection, and also what many SI men and boys do).

Males and Females:

- Light-weight cotton and viscose clothing is best in the tropical climate.
- Thongs are good for anywhere, anytime. Bring a spare pair.
- A good strong pair of sandals is useful for walking along muddy tracks.
- A hat is essential.

Please be aware that, especially in Honiara itself, you may see Solomon Islanders dressed differently to what is outlined in this dress code. However, if you follow the guidelines given, you will fit in well with the majority. This dress code is deliberately conservative as we wish for all SWIM team members to be above reproach in all manner. This dress code will also offer the best sun protection and offer the most comfort in the heat and humidity. No one expects you to buy a whole new wardrobe. If your wardrobe does not contain any sufficiently modest clothing, your best bet is to borrow or to visit your local second hand store.