Outreach Participant Cell Phone Policy

Purpose

To encourage participants to remain fully engaged in outreach activities, build meaningful relationships, and be present in the communities they serve, cell phone use will be restricted during Students International (SI) outreaches.

This policy is intended to promote presence, relationship-building, and meaningful engagement while prioritizing participant safety and emergency communication. Participants are responsible for planning ahead and communicating with the appropriate people before the outreach, recognizing that they will not have access to their phones during the outreach.

1. Student Participants (High School and College)

- Cell phone use is not permitted during outreaches. Participants may use their phones while traveling to and from the outreach location, but phones will be collected upon arrival.
- Exceptions must be approved in advance by the Student Life Coordinator and are limited to medical necessity.
- Exceptions must be requested by team leader, in the event of an individual partipant they must communicate with the Student Life Coordinator prior to the outreach.
- In the event of an emergency, participants can be reached through the established emergency communication procedures.

2. Adult Participants

- Cell phone use is prohibited during outreaches unless an exception has been approved in advance. Participants may use their phones while traveling to and from the outreach location but must put them away upon arrival and keep them stored for the duration of the outreach, unless an approved exception applies.
- Exceptions must be approved in advance by the Student Life Coordinator and may be granted for medical necessity, work responsibilities, or family obligations.
- Exceptions must be requested by team leader, in the event of an individual partipant they must communicate with the Student Life Coordinator prior to the outreach.
- When an exception is granted, cell phones may be used only at designated times and in a designated area, as established by the Student Life Coordinator.
- Cell phone use must be limited and must not interfere with responsibilities, relationships, or participation in the outreach.
- In the event of an emergency, participants can be reached through the established emergency communication procedures.

3. Team Leaders

- Team leaders may retain and use a cell phone during the outreach.
- Cell phone use should be limited to the following purposes:
  - Emergency situations.
  - Communication with the sending organization and participants' parents or guardians.
- Cell phone use should be limited and kept to appropriate times and places as determined by the Student Life Coordinator.
- Team leaders are responsible for ensuring that:
  - The cell phone policy is clearly communicated to all team members before the outreach.
  - Team members understand the policy and agree to comply with it.
  - Team members' families know whom to contact in the event of an emergency.

4. Emergency Communication Procedures

- Refer to the Team Leader and Member Handbooks for established emergency communication procedures.
- Participants and their families should review these procedures before the outreach and ensure that they understand how to communicate in the event of an emergency.