

GO-MED

Greater Outreach Medical / Educational Destinations Society

Guiding Principles

When volunteering on medical/educational missions with the GO-MED Society, we are representing our professions and our home communities. Each individual is therefore personally accountable for his/her actions in the country chosen for a mission. And each is expected to support the vision and mission statements of GO-MED and these Guiding Principles of PROFESSIONAL CARE:

Professionalism

Professionalism is not about the job we do. It's about the way we do it. GO-MED team members take pride in what we do, whether we are physicians, nurses, educators or support staff. It's really an attitude!

Respect

We value and respect those with whom we work and those we serve. We will share our expertise whenever and wherever possible and in turn, we will be open to learn from our hosts.

Openness

While we may be seen as experts in our own fields, we remain open to new ideas and we are always looking for better ways to do things. And sometimes those better ideas may come from others.

Flexibility

Team members are flexible and adaptable and enjoy the challenge of working in less than ideal conditions.

Ethics

Professional ethics are a set of moral principles or rules of conduct adopted for a particular form of work, and as professionals we will apply these ethics consistently in the treatment of all our patients.

Standards

We will attempt to maintain Canadian professional standards, but we acknowledge that there may be times when we have to adapt to local conditions and simply do the best we can. Regardless, patient health and safety will always remain our prime concern.

Supportiveness

We will be collaborative and will support each other as would the members of a championship team, recognizing that the whole is greater than the sum of its individual parts.

Integrity

We recognize that we will be representing our professions and our home communities, and that we will be seen by some as role models. We will therefore conduct ourselves in a manner that is exemplary and beyond reproach at all times, whether it is during our work periods or our recreation time.

Observant

While we are likely to encounter periods of being very busy and under some stress, we will be observant of those around us, particularly our patients and those whom we are trying to help. Their needs are likely to be far greater than our own.

Neighbourly

Although the country we visit may seem far away from our own (in both geographic and cultural distance), we are all neighbours on this small planet and we will treat the people we meet as if they lived next to us.

Appreciation

We will view cultural differences as a learning opportunity for ourselves, and we will encourage friendship and understanding among those with whom we work. We will approach each unfamiliar situation with an open and accepting attitude. We will respect those cultural differences and focus on what we have in common, rather than what makes us different.

Laughter

We will look for the humour in adversity, and will share that perspective with those with whom we work and those we serve. After all, laughter is the best medicine!

Courtesy

We will extend every professional courtesy to our colleagues in the countries in which we serve. Even when we disagree with them, we will respect their opinions, beliefs, procedures and cultural practices. After all, it is their country and we are only guests.

Acceptance

We will recognize our own good fortune and we will therefore value, respect and enjoy each individual with whom we work or interact.

Responsibility

We will see ourselves as caretakers of this small planet, and in everything we do we will acknowledge the ultimate consequences of our actions. We will endeavour to leave a small footprint from our mission, but one that leads in a positive direction.

Empathy

We will be sensitive to the emotional state of the patients we are serving by visualizing ourselves in their situations, acknowledging that fate has been kinder to us.

GO-MED Administration

The administrative structure of GO-MED is as follows:

- **Members:**
 - members must remain in good standing
 - membership annual fee = FREE
- **Board of Directors:**
Board consists of 8 local directors and 2 regional coordinators;
- Elected directors will be voted on at the AGM for a 1-year term.
- **Officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer):**
The President is normally elected at the Annual General Meeting.
All other officers are appointed by the Board of Directors.

Note: We have listed the members at the top and the Board of Directors and Officers down below, since they are there to serve the members (something that many corporations seem to have forgotten these days!).

GO-MED Medical/Educational Mission Team:

The “Mission” team consists of members in good standing, who have been selected by the Mission Organizing Committee to fulfill positions required by the specific mission in question.

Mission Team Structure:

The GO-MED Mission Team will consist of some or all of the following: Mission Coordinator, Team Leader, Surgeons, Anesthesiologists, OR Nurses, PACU Nurses, and Support Staff (including health educators & other non-medical volunteers).

Mission Organizing Committee:

The members of the Mission Organizing Committee must normally have been GO-MED members in good standing for a period of two years prior to their being appointed by the Board. The positions are:

- **Mission Coordinator**
- **Surgical Coordinator**
- **Anaesthesiology Coordinator**
- **Nursing Coordinator**
- **Membership Coordinator**

Mission Financing:

GO-MED is a registered Canadian charitable organization that currently has only limited sponsorship (see our web site www.go-med.ca). As a result of this, our surgical missions rely almost entirely on donations obtained in two ways:

1. through the fund-raising efforts organized by the GO-MED officers and Board of Directors, and;
2. through the fund-raising efforts of the individuals who volunteer to be, and are accepted as, members of the surgical mission teams.

GO-MED MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership annual fee

FREE

Name: _____
(First) (Last)

Address: _____
(Number and Street or Post Office Box)

City: _____

Province or State: _____ Country: _____

Postal/Zip Code: _____ e-mail: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Occupation: _____

Please outline your reason(s) for wanting to join us.

How did you hear about us?

Please mail this form with your payment to:

GO-MED
374 - 280 Nelson Street
Vancouver, BC, Canada V6B 2E2

GO-MED Mission Team Application

1. Applicants for the GO-MED Mission Team must be GO-MED Members in good standing.
2. The initial contact and information exchange is between the applicant and any or all members of the GO-MED Mission Organizing Committee.
3. Applicants for each mission will submit:
 - a. Completed application form;
 - b. Curriculum vitae (for medical professionals);
 - c. Copy of current medical registration (for medical professionals);
 - d. Signed GO-MED Mission Agreement & Personal Safety Waiver;
 - e. Three post-dated cheques as per the Donation Schedule in the Team Handbook.
4. When selecting team members, the following criteria will be considered:
 - a. Appropriate skills and experience for the planned mission;
 - b. Current registration with the appropriate licensing body (for professionals);
 - c. Previous satisfactory service with GO-MED;
 - d. Recommendation by a member in good standing of GO-MED;
 - e. Previous satisfactory service with another volunteer organization;
 - f. Suitable personal and work references;
 - g. Satisfactory criminal records check (may be required for some missions);
 - h. Order of receipt of application;
 - i. Satisfactory interview with the Mission Planner/Mission Coordinator/Team Leader.
5. Applications will be reviewed by the Mission Coordinator and Mission Organizing Committee and their recommendations will be made to the Board of Directors.
6. Final appointment is made by the Board of Directors.
7. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance by the Mission Coordinator.

GO-MED Mission Policies

- 1) **GO-MED Mission Agreement & Personal Safety Waiver** - A signed GO-MED Mission Agreement & Personal Safety Waiver must accompany the Mission Team Application. By so signing, the applicants confirm that:
 - a) they have read and agree to the GO-MED Guiding Principles and Mission Policies, and;
 - b) they understand that the underdeveloped country chosen for the mission may not have the same standards of safety that we are used to in Canada and that while GO-MED will do everything possible to maintain the safety and well-being of team members during the Mission, GO-MED cannot accept responsibility or liability for their safety and well-being.
- 2) **Travelling to the Mission Destination** – Team members are expected to arrange their own airfare to the mission destination, although they may opt to join the GO-MED group leaving from Vancouver. After the mission has been completed, they may return whenever they wish. This will allow individual members to stay longer to enjoy a well deserved vacation.
- 3) **Transporting Medical Supplies** – Each Team member must agree, if asked, to transport one box of medical supplies to the destination country (max. weight currently 23kgs (50lbs)). This will take the place of one of the two checked bags allowed on international flights.
- 4) **Non-compliance** - Team members are expected to respect the decisions of the Board, Mission Planner, Mission Coordinator and Team Leader. In exceptional circumstances the Board or (during the mission) attending members of the Mission Organizing Committee have the authority to request the resignation of a team member who does not comply with the GO-MED Guiding Principles or Mission Policies. Any costs that may occur as a result of such resignation are the responsibility of the individual in question.
- 5) **Accommodation** – While GO-MED will make every effort to meet accommodation requests, the composition of the team and the accommodations available may result in these requests being modified or denied.
- 6) **Working arrangements** – Unless otherwise stated, each two week mission will have 9 working days. It is our intention that working days will start at 07:30 and end by 17:30, with operations scheduled between 08:00 and 16:00. However, the variable nature of the missions may require changes from this suggested schedule.
- 7) **Working with local professionals** - Occasionally team members will be expected to work with local medical staff. In keeping with our principles of respect and openness, surgeons and anesthesiologists may operate with local surgeons and anesthesiologists, and OR nurses may scrub and circulate with local nurses.
- 8) **Off duty time** – The middle weekend is free time. We will also attempt to give all volunteers one half day per week off duty but this will depend on available staff and workload and will be at the discretion of the Mission Coordinator/Team Leader. Although every effort will be made to accommodate specific time off requests, this may not always be possible.
- 9) **Scheduling** - The Mission Coordinator/Team Leader will have final responsibility for scheduling, allocation of patients and staff to OR rooms and coordination of time off.

GO-MED MISSION APPLICATION

Name (as it appears on your passport):

(Last)

(First)

(Middle)

Mailing Address: _____
(Number and Street or Post Office Box)

(City)

(Province/State)

(Country)

Postal/Zip Code: _____ e-mail: _____

Tel Home: () _____ Cell: () _____

Tel Work: () _____ Fax: () _____

Citizenship: _____ Occupation: _____

Previous foreign medical or volunteer work: Yes No

If yes, please briefly describe what, where and when.

Passport Details: **(fill-in passport section below and attach a copy of photo section of your valid passport)**

(Nationality)

(Number)

(Place of Issue)

Date of Birth: _____ Date Issued: _____ Date Expires: _____
(DD / MM / YYYY) (DD / MM / YYYY) (DD / MM / YYYY)

List any other skills that may be useful on a mission (e.g. languages, cooking, computer, photography)

Health Status: Do you have any medical problems we should know about? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please give details: _____

T-shirt size (circle one): S M L XL XXL Glove size (for OR staff): _____

Emergency Contact in Canada: _____
(Last) (First)

Address: _____

Tel Home: () _____ Tel Work: () _____

Relationship to you: _____

GO-MED Mission Agreement & Personal Safety Waiver

I have read, understand and agree with the following:

I understand that when working and travelling in an underdeveloped country, there may be inherent dangers to my health and safety. I hereby agree to accept personal responsibility for taking appropriate precautionary measures, actions, medicines or immunizations that are necessary to protect my health and well-being.

I, for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, and anyone else who may claim on my behalf, covenant not to sue, and waive, release and discharge the GO-MED Society, its directors, officers, employees, sponsors, administrators and assigns, or anyone acting for or on their behalf, for any and all claims or liability for personal injury, death, damage to property or loss of any kind of whatsoever nature or kind and howsoever caused.

I agree to supply all the necessary documentation required by GO-MED. I agree to make the necessary payments according to the specified payment schedule. I understand that these payments become non-refundable once payments have been made by GO-MED. I agree that while working for GO-MED all my work will be on a volunteer basis.

I have read the 'Guiding Principles' and 'Mission Policies' of GO-MED (included herein). I agree to respect and abide by these policies. I agree to accept the decisions of the Board of Directors of GO-MED, the Mission Planner and the Mission Coordinator/Team Leader while in an underdeveloped country.

I understand that if I fail to abide by these policies, I may be asked to resign from GO-MED and any costs incurred as a result of this action will be my responsibility.

Applicant's name (print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please mail the completed **GO-MED Mission Application**, the **GO-MED Mission Agreement & Personal Safety Waiver** and your Membership and/or Donation cheque(s) (payable to **GO-MED**) to:

GO-MED 374 – 280 Nelson Street, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6B 2E2

Official tax-receipts will be issued in accordance with CCRA regulations in the fiscal year of which the mission was held.

Check List

Attention to all applicants! Please ensure the following are sent together to GO-MED:

Completed GO-MED Membership Application (if not already a member)
Completed GO-MED Mission Team Application
Completed GO-MED Mission Agreement & Personal Safety Waiver
Membership and/or Donation cheque(s) made payable to:

GO-MED

Documents to be included for first-time mission physicians, nurses and support staff:

- 1) Copy of original qualifications;
- 2) Specialist qualifications (if appropriate);
- 3) Brief CV or resume;
- 4) Copy of current license.

Documents to be included for returning professionals:

- 1) Copy of current license.

Please mail cheque(s) (payable to **GO-MED**) and forms to:

GO-MED
374 – 280 Nelson Street
Vancouver, BC, Canada V6B 2E2

The following are the additional responsibilities of each Team Member:

- 1) Passport valid for at least six months after the expected return date (a visa is not necessary for Canadian Citizens);
- 2) Entry visas may be necessary for non-Canadian citizens;
- 3) Any necessary immunizations for travel to underdeveloped countries (please check with your local travel clinic).

For more information and important contacts and links, please see GO-MED's current mission Team Handbook, which will be e-mailed to all applicants.