



**Santa Clara
University**

CASA DE LA SOLIDARIDAD SAFETY COVENANT

INSTRUCTION

Please read the Safety Covenant Form very carefully. Sign it and return to Santa Clara University along with your Medical Form and your \$500 confirmation deposit.

When one travels or lives in El Salvador, it is imperative to address the question of security and to adopt measures that seek to maximize the safety of the individual and group visiting the country, and equally important, the security of our hosts and those with whom we meet. Therefore, security measures that we must all observe are not only for our own protection (and that of our group), but also out of respect for our hosts. What we do and say will be associated with the Casa as well as the Salvadorans with whom we work, study, and meet. Our stay in the country will be somewhat brief; others will remain and we must ensure that our temporary stay does not create problems for them later.

The following guidelines have been carefully developed as a result of the experiences of many student groups, delegations, volunteers, and foreigners who have worked in El Salvador over many years. They are not meant to restrict participants' freedom; rather, they reflect our commitment to take our responsibility as seriously as possible to safeguard the security of each participant, those in our host country, and the long-term success of the Casa.

SAFETY / SECURITY GUIDELINES

Respect the requests made and the advice given by the Salvadorans with whom we meet. Our Salvadoran hosts are most familiar with the situation in their country. Trusting them is the best measure we can take. The continual success of student groups and delegations over the years has been largely attributed to the fact that participants have always traveled in groups. Therefore, students will be required to travel in small groups or pairs at all times. At NO time will students be allowed to travel alone after dark (even if walking to a nearby store or restaurant).

Although it is safe to take public transportation (buses, coasters, and micro-buses) during the day, Casa participants will not be allowed to take these forms of transportation after dark. In addition, due to the unfamiliarity of road and driving conditions in El Salvador, as well as a likely lack of insurance, Casa students are not to operate any motor vehicle while they are in El Salvador with the Casa. If a Casa student chooses to ride as a passenger in a car, it must be done safely, which means that students may not ride in the back of pickup trucks.

Participation in any local / national demonstrations is prohibited by any Casa student. Given the risk to students, the Casa program, and our Salvadoran friends, any Casa student who takes part in a demonstration or visibly intervenes in local politics will be immediately expelled from the program.

The attitudes and actions of alcohol use and abuse in El Salvador will be discussed at the beginning of the semester. In order to ensure the integrity of the Casa de la Solidaridad program as well as the security of the Casa and UCA students, Casa students may consume a maximum of two alcoholic drinks at any given occasion or event. Obviously, the abuse of alcohol will not be tolerated as it endangers the safety of participants and also compromises the integrity of the Casa with the Salvadoran community. In addition, any breach of public order, such as intoxication or drug use, can lead to expulsion from the program, the country, or a very stiff jail sentence.

At all times the Casa director(s) will seek to gather suggestions, needs, and concerns of all Casa participants. When it is necessary to make a group decision, the director(s) will facilitate the group process. If a consensus is not possible, the director(s) will make the final decision, always acting in consultation with our hosts. It is important to respect the decisions made by Casa director(s) in such situations.

By signing below, I understand the safety / security guidelines which are presented above. I recognize that these guidelines have not been established to limit my freedom, rather they are meant to insure the safety of myself, my peers, and those with whom I will meet while living in El Salvador. Therefore, I agree with and will abide by these requests made of me. I am also aware that certain situations may arise during my semester which may require a change in our safety guidelines and procedures. I am willing to participate in constant conversations with regards to safety and security as the semester progresses and work collaboratively with my peers and Casa staff / faculty members to ensure the on-going well being of all involved.

Signature _____

Date _____

Print Name _____

Return this form to: **Program Coordinator
International Programs
Santa Clara University
500 El Camino Real
Santa Clara, CA 95053**

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