**Student Travel Behavioral Contract**

If a student breaks the code of conduct as described in the **Student Travel Behavioral Contract**, the student can expect consequences, with the ultimate infraction including the student being sent home at the parent’s full expense. In such extreme cases, no refunds are given.

*As you travel, you are representing your family, your school, your community and yourself. The key to a successful trip is your open-mindedness and willingness to accept new cultures and the occasional inconveniences of travel. If you keep your eyes and your mind open, you will bring home something of lasting value. For these reasons, please read the following guidelines taken from the* ***Student Travel Behavioral Contract.***

**Adaptability**

You should be courteous and congenial at all times, even when encountering things you don't like (especially food). Flexibility is a key component to travel. Places may get crowded, traffic may be busy, planes or buses may be delayed. Practice patience, embrace a sense of humor and soak in all that the trip and new culture has to offer!

**Alcohol**

Students are not permitted to consume alcohol on this trip.

**Attendance at Meals**

You are expected to be with your group at breakfast and dinner each day. You must report on time and be dressed in the appropriate attire for the venue. Be prepared to tip appropriately for any meals you eat on your own. An acceptable tip is 15-20% of the total bill.

**Connecting with home**

Students are encouraged to bring cell phones and are permitted to bring tablets and other electronic devices. We will remind students that part of the ultimate value of this experience is participating in the culture. Students will be reminded of appropriate and inappropriate times when those devices should be used. Students who do bring these devices do so at their own risk of lost, damage, or theft. We encourage students to SKYPE or email with friends and family back home at the end of each day

**Cell phone usage**- students should check with their cellular provider to be sure of cost and coverage. The school is not responsible for roaming or long distance charges.

**Culture Shock**

Culture shock is a reaction to losing all familiar signs and symbols of what you are used to. Most common areas of culture shock surround conveniences such as food, language, cultural customs and living conditions. It should be expected that basic conveniences of life will be different when travelling to different parts of the country and world. A big part of gaining cultural and personal maturity is how you deal with such changes.

These, and other experiences, are all normal responses to a new culture and environment. Remember, you will adjust and these events will become an integral part of your memories. Commit yourself to be immersed by being an active participant in the visiting culture so you get the most out of the experience.

**Curfew**

A general night curfew will be set by chaperones. Unless there is a late teacher-supervised activity running past curfew, students must be in their room from curfew until the next morning. Respect other students and guests of the hotel by keeping noise to a minimum after 10 p.m.

**Hotel/Bus/Travel Behavior Guidelines**

Be especially careful with your room, bus or plane. You will be held personally responsible for any damage you cause, and you will not be allowed to leave the hotel until the damage is paid for. Cleaning and repair charges are the parent’s responsibility.

Show consideration to other. As an ambassador of our school, show consideration and respect for other cultures and their way of life.

Included Group Activities require your participation. These include possible night activities, sightseeing and local excursions, which are among the very reasons for your taking the trip! Absorb it all.

**Discipline**

*The first infraction of the Student Travel Behavioral* *Contract* will result in a meeting with your chaperones. If necessary, a collect phone call will be made to your parent(s) or guardian(s). A restriction will be imposed.

*Continued or similarly occurring infraction:* A collect phone call to your parent(s)or guardian(s) will be made at this time. Additional restrictions will be imposed. A serious violation (such as alcohol consumption, sexual misconduct, absence after curfew, theft, etc.) will result in a collect phone call to your parent(s) or guardian(s). At this time the chaperone will place a call to trip administrative sponsor at Explorica, Inc. to collectively discuss consequences. Together, they will decide whether to send you home at the full expense of the parent or guardian. Explorica, Inc has the ultimate authority to remove someone from the trip.

**Dress Code**

Your attire is an important way of showing respect for your host culture.

Keep your attire neat. Proper attire will be discussed at the pre-trip orientation. All attire is to be modest and unrevealing for both boys and girls. A neat appearance as a sign of respect.

D**rug Possession & Use**

The possession or use of illegal substances is forbidden and will result in dismissal from the group and a return home at the parents' or guardians' expense.

**Free Time Periods**

Even when no organized group activities are scheduled and you are on your own with your group, your chaperone must know where you are, whom you are with, and when you will return. You must be in groups of three or four when you are not with your group leader. Students are never to go off on their own. Be sure to carry your ID card and contact info with you at all times. You are expected to be mindful of your own safety and well-being at all times. Take caution in whatever you do or wherever you go, especially in unfamiliar areas. When in doubt- consult your chaperone!

**Homesickness-** It is not uncommon for students to adjust slowly to being away from home. The chaperones discuss homesickness in advance and during the trip. Students are encouraged to discuss feelings of homesickness with the chaperone. Sometimes, immediate contact with home is not the best solution. If homesickness is a major concern, please speak with us in advance of the trip.

**Photo and Video:** Students are encouraged to take photos and video of their travel experience to share with friends and family upon their return. It is important to remember, however, that photos of minors may not be posted to the internet without the consent of the parent/guardian. To avoid any confusion, do not post photos/videos of other students to social media sites or online blogs.

*Please initial here if you permit the teachers to post pictures/videos to school affiliated websites and accounts (Golda Meir Homepage, Ms. Brown’s Website, School Youtube Page, etc). \_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**Respect for Local Culture**

The local people you meet are not "tourist attractions." This is their city, their home; remember to act like a guest. Monuments are made for admiring; please do not climb on them. Toss trash in public wastebaskets (or put them in your pocket). Behave the way you would want visitors to behave if they were to visit your favorite places. Blending into another culture means that your cultural preferences, differences and behaviors do not demonstrate ignorance or disrespect towards others.

**Sexual Misconduct**

You can expect to be sent home at a parents' or guardians' expense for inappropriate sexual conduct. This includes if a chaperone has to remind you about inappropriate or consistent displays of affection. Such reminders would be considered disrespectful and a breach of the code of conduct. Consequence for disrespect could include being sent home at the parents’ or guardians’ expense or being removed from portions of the activities offered on this trip.

**Student Health and Travel**

Student safety is always our primary concern. Please inform us of any pre-existing health conditions, disabilities, or other medical concerns we should be aware of BEFORE the departure date. Also let us know if you will be carrying medications with you and times/frequency in which they need to be taken.

**Weapons**

Weapons such as knives, firearms or firecrackers are not permitted.

**Accepting the Student Travel Behavioral Contract**

It is understood by attending student/participant and parent/guardian that the following behavioral guidelines serve as a behavioral contract. By typing in your name, you acknowledge and agree to abide by the guidelines set forth in this document. Typed names or printed signatures are binding acknowledgement that the consequences of guideline infractions could result in the participant being sent home at the full expense to the parent/guardian with no refund or reimbursement. Trip chaperones are employees of Advantage-USA and are responsible for consequences or restrictions enforced while on the trip. The ultimate safety of each individual is up to each individual to make wise, safe decisions while traveling abroad.

**PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**PARENT/GURADIAN SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**STUDENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**