

Do's and Don'ts

1. Moldova is a poor country, though the poverty looks different than that of warmer climate countries such as Mexico or India. Please do not spend your time worrying about the lack of material things. Remember that most Americans can afford more things than people in the villages of Moldova. Please leave your i-pods and laptops where you are staying and carry only your camera (you will want lots of photos). Also, don't eat snacks or drink soda in front of the children or people in the villages. They can't afford them. Don't offer them candy, coke, snacks, etc., unless you have enough for the whole village because they will all find you once the word is out.
2. Many short-termers build great connections with Moldovans and desire to leave gifts for their new friends. **Ask the missionary** before you give a gift. Though gifts are given with a good heart, there are times when they can bring more harm than good. Simply ask one of the long-term missionaries if the item or money you desire to give would be appropriate. ***Never give without asking first!*** This includes gifts to translators, kitchen help and pastors. Never send funds later either (and please let us know if someone is asking you)!
3. Do bring pictures of your family. They will ask you about your spouse, children, grandchildren, fiancée or sweetheart. Plan ahead and take special pictures for this occasion. Take them in front of a wooded area, a beautiful shrub, a waterfall or looking off a mountaintop. Place them in a small presentation book that you can pass around if asked. DON'T take pictures with your fine home or new vehicle in the background. Don't bring pictures that document how well you live or how well your home is decorated. It is important that they understand your joy comes from Christ and not from the things you have.
4. Everyone involved with the American mission team should refrain from entering the room of members of the opposite sex. This is even more important when that person is a national. Please be aware that one-on-one time together with them (outside the group activity setting) is strongly discouraged. Their culture is quite unlike ours, and what may seem harmless/innocent acts of friendship may be interpreted much differently than we would realize.
5. Men, please do not wear earrings. Women, please pack small, inexpensive jewelry. If you have piercings outside of the normal earlobes, please remove them while in Moldova. You can put them in while you sleep to keep the hole open.
6. Do not invite anyone to America! We want to see our country of Moldova transformed, and people are not able to do that once they've left the country! Moldovans will take your invitation seriously, and might receive a call asking for help to get them there. **We are not tour agents, matchmakers, or US Department of Immigration. We are here to build the Kingdom of God in Moldova!**

