

Guidelines for Hope Summer Orphan Programs Birmingham, AL

1. All orphan children and accompanying adults will have living arrangements reserved in one home together.
2. Directors from each orphanage will select the children that will participate in the summer orphan programs. Hope maintains a position not to select the children that will participate in the summer orphan program.
3. In order to provide opportunities for more orphan children to experience summer programs, “Hope” will request that all participants are newcomers, as well as children that have not had previous opportunities to travel out of their home country.
4. “Hope” will continue to request that orphanage directors select children that are in three different classifications: (1) children that are registered, (2) children that are eligible to be registered and (3) children that may never become registered. Children that do not become registered can certainly be sponsored in their future even though they will remain in Ukraine.
5. Multiple orphan groups will not visit simultaneously, nor overlap unless a situation arises that is unavoidable. The number of orphan groups hosted each year will be dependent upon the home reserved for the group's accommodations.
6. An adult (age 18 or over) must accompany any volunteer or visitor under the age of 16 at the home accommodating the orphan group.
7. Printed material will be provided for all volunteers and visitors, which will include: Purpose of the summer program, daily schedules, important things to remember, the group's family home guidelines, expected behavior guidelines, transportation specifics, resource listings, adoptive parents' contact information (for Q's & A's), guidelines for out-of-town volunteers and visitors, etc. “Greeters” stationed at the group's accommodating family home will be available to distribute printed information noted above.
8. The “Hope” website will contain the information noted in #7 above and will also contain updates to schedules, task assignments, meals, etc.
9. Preparatory meetings will be held several weeks before the summer orphan program begins. These meetings will be mandatory for all core volunteers. Information will be sent out electronically in advance for review. Items to be addressed will include general summer program information, expected behavior guidelines, special treatment and/or exclusion of orphan children during visits, daily visiting hours, pre-selection laws in orphan children's home country, risk involved in participating in the summer program, how to handle certain situations and numerous other topics.
10. All volunteers involved in the summer program must complete and submit volunteer applications 72 hours prior to serving in the summer program.

11. All orphan children will be transported in one vehicle together when traveling on outings away from the reserved home. No others will be allowed to ride with the orphan group. The vehicle will be driven by a pre-approved driver only.
12. At various times during the summer program, information/support meetings by local agencies on adoption may be held for interested persons. These meetings will be strategically scheduled away from the reserved home.
13. Absolutely no discussions related to adoption, representations of adoption nor discussions with adoption agencies or facilitators are allowed to take place on the property of the reserved home. Any discussions related to adoption will be conducted off the reserved home grounds. This pertains to translators, guardians and children. Printed adoption resource information will be available upon request from a "Hope" board member.
14. The "Hope" board members and family accommodating the orphan group, reserves the right to address and take immediate action regarding behavior of any volunteer or visitor that is not within the expected behavior guidelines or any other action that they deem as inappropriate.