



## Ceiba Foundation for Tropical Conservation Tropical Conservation Semester CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT

The Ceiba Foundation strives to provide a positive, safe, inclusive, welcoming, and productive learning experience for all of our students that also delivers benefits to and positive interactions with the Ecuadorian communities and individuals with whom we interact during the program. As a foreigner in Ecuador you represent not just yourself but the program, the Ceiba Foundation, your university, and the United States (or your country of origin). As a condition of your enrollment, we ask that all students read and pledge to abide by this Code of Conduct during the time they are a participant on the Tropical Conservation Semester:

- 1) I will endeavor at all times to treat everyone I meet with courtesy and respect, and to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all participants on the program.
- 2) I will strive to act in a culturally appropriate manner, be sensitive to the impact of my behavior on others, and avoid drawing negative attention to myself, my peers, and the program.
- 3) I will prioritize the safety of myself and others at all times, and will refrain from engaging in activities or behaviors that unnecessarily put myself and others at risk. This includes but is not limited to abiding by current safety guidelines and recommendations issued by the Ceiba Foundation and the Universidad San Francisco de Quito during orientation in Ecuador as well as over the course of the semester.
- 4) I agree that I will not travel independently to regions of Ecuador listed by the U.S. State Department as Level 3 or Level 4 at any time during the Tropical Conservation Semester, including during Spring Break or weekends off.
- 5) I understand that Covid-19, flu, and other illnesses represent a changing landscape of risk, and agree to abide by any and all health safety precautions that are required or requested of me, such as masking, social distancing, isolating, or getting tested. This includes posted rules as well as verbal requests from the course instructors and staff, from my host family, or at the sites we visit.
- 6) I will let the program staff know as soon as possible if I am feeling sick, or exhibiting any symptoms of illness, and will take necessary precautions to reduce the risk of spread to others.
- 7) In addition to the items above, I agree to exercise common sense to avoid injury, illness, or becoming the victim of a crime. This includes but is not limited to: refraining from excessive drinking, never walking alone at night, keeping my valuables safe, letting my host family know where I am going and when I plan to be back, keeping emergency phone numbers with me at all times, avoiding consumption of risky street food, not accepting drinks or rides from strangers, and only using authorized transportation services.
- 8) I will make an effort to learn about the Ecuadorian culture and advance my Spanish language skills by speaking with local people and my host family in Spanish whenever possible.
- 9) If at any time I need a safe space to discuss in confidence any issues, concerns, or problems I am having, I will seek the guidance of the program coordinator, instructors, and/or support staff who will direct me to available resources.
- 10) If I find myself in a conflictive or confrontational interaction, I will do everything that I can to de-escalate, diffuse, or resolve the situation.
- 11) I will not use drugs, and if I consume alcohol will do so only in moderation and in compliance with applicable laws.

I have read this document in its entirety, and agree to abide by this Code of Conduct. I acknowledge that if my conduct violates this code, I first will be issued a warning, but that further non-compliance may lead to my dismissal from the program and being sent home at my expense. I understand that my adherence to the agreement will ensure that the program is as educational, productive, stimulating, safe, and rewarding as possible for myself and my fellow participants.

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_