



## Youthline Cultural Committee Home Visit Planning Worksheet

Committee Members: \_\_\_\_\_

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Site: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Home Visit Planning

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#### What Home Visits Are

Home visits are small group experiences where volunteers visit families in the community to listen, learn, and build connections. This is not a tour or a service project. It is a moment of cultural exchange and shared humanity. The goal is to approach each home with humility, curiosity, and gratitude.

#### What Home Visits Look Like

Home visits typically involve a small group of 5–8 volunteers entering a family's home together with an interpreter. The group may sit together with family members who are present and spend time asking thoughtful questions and listening to their stories. Conversations often include topics such as daily life, family structure and relationships, cultural customs, traditions, education, hopes for the future, and the challenges families may face. The tone should feel relaxed, respectful, and conversational, not like an interview.

Home visits can also be most meaningful when they are connected to a shared activity. Instead of only sitting and talking, volunteers may participate alongside the family in daily tasks. This might include helping plant in a garden, assisting in the fields, preparing palm leaves for weaving, gathering materials, or helping with simple household work. These shared experiences often create deeper connections because volunteers learn through doing, not just asking questions.

Whether seated in conversation or working side by side, the goal is the same: listen with humility, honor the family's story, and build genuine human connection.

Students must be mindful of their reactions to the way families live. Avoid comparing your life to theirs or making comments that unintentionally diminish their lived experiences. Many community members are proud of their homes, their work, and what they have built for their families. Your role is to honor that pride. Approach every home with respect, humility, and gratitude. Listen more than you speak, avoid expressing shock or pity, and remember that difference does not mean deficiency. Our goal is to build connection, not judgment.

At the home visit, you will present the family with a gift from the team, in gratitude for letting you visit their home. \*More discussed below.

## Coordination and Confirmation

All home visits must be confirmed and organized through the Team Leader and In Country Coordinator (ICC).

Before departure, confirm:

- Number of families participating
- Group sizes for each visit
- Interpreter availability
- Cultural expectations for visiting homes
- Any topics to avoid
- Photo permission guidelines

No home visits should be arranged independently.

## Preparing Conversation Questions

Each group should have a short list of respectful, open ended questions prepared in advance. Take a look at the additional resources, “Cultural Conversations” and “Utah Photo Book”.

Questions should:

- Focus on daily life, traditions, hopes, and family
- Avoid sensitive topics such as income, trauma, or politics
- Invite sharing from both sides

Each group should bring a printed question sheet and be ready to adapt naturally.

## Gratitude Gift for the Family

Every home visit should end with a small, thoughtful gift as a sincere thank you. Gifts should feel practical and respectful, not charitable or excessive.

The gift may be:

- Planned by the Cultural Committee
- Created in partnership with another committee
- But must be coordinated with the Team Leader and ICC

Examples:

- Individual water filter
- Seeds for planting
- Hygiene kit
- Solar lantern
- Polaroid photo of the family
- Simple household staple

All gifts must be approved before travel. Think, what gift can we provide that will benefit the life of this family, on an individual level. Think about sustainability and best practices.