

## Youthlinc Divergent Itinerary Waiver for Participants 18 and older

*Please read carefully before signing. This is a legal document.*

*Please sign and upload this waiver to <https://youthlinc.org/service-year/information/diverging-itinerary/divergent-waiver-over18-upload> by or before January 15.*

*If we do not receive your signed form by this date, you may not be able to diverge from the team.*

### **Youthlinc Policy regarding divergent itineraries:**

A divergent participant is any participant who diverges from the team for the purposes of tourism or any other activities unrelated to the team before or at any point during the team's international trip, starting at and returning to the Salt Lake City airport. Any itinerary purchased by an individual team member or members rather than by Youthlinc, even if on all the same flights as the team, is also defined as a divergent itinerary.

Youthlinc actively discourages divergent itineraries, the number of divergent itineraries is limited, granted on a first-come, first-serve basis. We especially discourage divergent itineraries for unaccompanied minors, even with parental approval. Mentors that wish to diverge may be declined, as Youthlinc must ensure there are enough adults to accompany the team to and from the international destination.

All those requesting divergent itineraries are required to sign this additional divergent itinerary waiver. After the submission of this form, you will receive an email confirming whether or not you can diverge. Do **NOT** purchase airfare until you have received confirmation of divergent approval.

When a participant is flying on a divergent itinerary, Youthlinc is in no way responsible and **should not be contacted for any issues, changes, or problems with those flights or travel arrangements** – *even if Youthlinc changes the service site within the country or to a different country based on extenuating circumstances that are of importance to our organization or our teams.*

Additionally, Youthlinc staff is **not responsible in any way for assisting with divergent activities**. By signing this waiver, you agree that you are responsible for buying **ALL** your flights and ensuring flight details are correct (both to and from your international destination). Upon request, we may offer participants the contact information for the travel agents we use to book team international service travel.

Youthlinc will not be involved in negotiating costs, organizing itineraries, receiving or paying funds or any other activity associated with tourist or any outside travel before or after our international service experiences. The extra cost of a divergent itinerary for tourist or any other purpose, as well as any cost associated with purpose unrelated to service travel, is not a tax deductible expense. **The full cost for divergent flights must be paid directly to the travel agent or airline, not to Youthlinc. Usually that cost must be paid at the time of booking.**

Many Youthlinc participants fundraise for their international trip, a large portion of which is the flight cost. When a participant decides to diverge, they pay the travel agency or airline directly for their flight, which reduces their overall balance due to Youthlinc. Consequently, divergent participants are not able to fundraise through Youthlinc for their flight. Legally, Youthlinc cannot refund money that is donated to a participant to cover the flight costs. Please read our [Refund Policy](#) for more information (section J). Check with your tax advisor because the out of pocket cost of airfare for the service trip may still be tax deductible for the participant.

NB: Youthlinc issues refunds for eligible trip overpayments on June 1 of each Service Year. This policy applies to those who choose to diverge as well.

**Participant Release:**

I am a participant in the Youthlinc \_\_\_\_\_ (year) Service Year to \_\_\_\_\_ (international site).

I am 18 years of age or older. I wish to travel apart from the Youthlinc team’s flight itinerary. I understand that:

1. This waiver must be received by Youthlinc **no later than January 15** of any calendar year.
2. Divergent itineraries are limited, first-come, first-serve, so I may not be able to diverge even if this form is presented by or before January 15.
3. Waivers received later than January 15 of any calendar year will not be honored. If I am to participate in the Youthlinc Service Year, I must then travel on the team’s itinerary.
4. Upon receipt of this waiver, my Youthlinc account will be reduced by the airfare amount, this amount will be reflected on my next Youthlinc Statement, and I am responsible to buy **ALL** my flights to and from my international destination.
5. Divergent airfare must be **paid directly to the travel agent or airline**, not to Youthlinc. Divergent airfare for a service trip may be tax deductible for the participant. Check with your tax advisor.
6. If I decide I want to travel with the team after sending this waiver and **after** Youthlinc has purchased team flights, I am still responsible for purchasing my own airfare. The policies expressed in this document still apply.
7. Any overage that could be legally refunded in a participant’s account – whether through participant payment or donor contribution - cannot be refunded **until June 1** of any calendar year, as per Youthlinc Policies which are part of every Service Year application.
8. I must provide Youthlinc with a soft or hard copy of my flight itinerary **by February 1st** of the Service Year. **If I fail to present this information, my permission to diverge from the team will be revoked.** I understand that Youthlinc staff and team leaders have no way of knowing my itinerary and are not responsible to check the details of my itinerary.
9. I must be present at the airport or other designated meeting area when the team arrives and must stay with the team up until the last day of the service trip. **It is my responsibility to secure this information** from the team leader.
10. I understand that the team arrival or departure, and international site, may change due to unforeseen circumstances. I understand that my travel plans may change due to unforeseen circumstances. It’s my responsibility to deal with any unforeseen circumstances related to an unforeseen change in the team or my schedule.

Because I am choosing to travel apart from the Youthlinc Service Year team, I understand that:

- I am completely responsible for all costs of transport, accommodation, any activity or incident incurred while I am not with the team by my choice.
- I take full responsibility for my actions and safety during the time I am apart from the group due to my choice.
- I take full responsibility for all my travel plans and arrangements, including those that arise due to unforeseen circumstances involving me or the team.

I acknowledge that during this diverging time, I am not participating in Youthlinc or able to benefit from Youthlinc Service Year normal arrangements for travel supervision, coordination and accommodations. It is my decision to make these arrangements, and not the choice of Youthlinc which prefers all participants to stay with the team at all times.

Signature of participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name of participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Date(MM/DD/YY): \_\_\_\_\_