


¡Bienvenidos! You've arrived - and once you're through the airport, you can finally take a breath. During your drive to Casa, take time to look out the window and notice the contrast between where you came from and where you are now. That first impression alone can be life-changing.

Everything will be prepared for your arrival. Whether your flight comes in late at night or early in the morning, your rooms, common spaces, and schedule have been arranged with care. Our hope is that your time here immerses you in life at Casa Hogar and helps you understand what it meant for Father Walijewski to walk these grounds. This experience is meant to form the foundation for living out "reverse mission" when you return home.

Please remember: this is not a vacation. While we want this to be meaningful and deeply rooted in Peruvian culture, we must emphasize that your presence here is for mission, service, and formation. The schedule for your week has been intentionally designed to give you the most authentic experience of Casa Hogar and the legacy of Father Walijewski.

  **LIFE AT CASA HOGAR**  

 **Rule of Thumb**

- Your presence at Casa Hogar is a gift, and we're grateful to welcome you into our home. To ensure your visit is both meaningful and respectful, please keep the following in mind:
- Please respect the time and space of our Maestros (Family Teachers). Their family routines and responsibilities vary, and unplanned visits can cause disruption.
- If a Maestro invites you into their home, please remain in shared spaces such as the living or dining room.
- Before organizing any activity with a child or group, check with a Maestro, Msgr. Hirsch, or the volunteer; some children may be grounded or unavailable.
- Children may never leave campus without explicit permission from their Maestro.
- Before offering or accepting any gifts (even small treats), ensure their family teacher is informed and in agreement.
- Make a genuine effort to include quieter or more reserved children who are sometimes sitting on the sidelines. Every child deserves attention and inclusion.
- It is not appropriate to provide money, gifts, or personal financial assistance directly to any child, graduate, or staff member. If you are asked directly or indirectly for financial support or gifts, notify us immediately.
- Lending money to children or staff is not permitted unless authorized by Msgr. Hirsch. If someone approaches you with such a request, notify us immediately.
- If you see anything that feels inappropriate or concerning, speak directly with Msgr. Hirsch or the volunteer assistant.

 **Faith Life at Casa**

- Participation in daily Mass and Holy Hour is expected of all team members. It's a central part of life at Casa and helps you fully experience the heart of our community.
- Arrive on time and dressed respectfully.
- All are welcome at Mass; however, only those in full communion with the Catholic Church may receive the Eucharist.
- Confession is available daily for anyone who desires it.

Community Expectations

- Use respectful and appropriate language at all times.
- Follow all dress codes guidelines outlined in What to Know Before You Go.
- Romantic relationships between mission team members and Casa Hogar staff or children are strictly prohibited.
- Alcohol is not permitted during the mission trip, including during outings and meals. Alcohol purchased as a souvenir must be given to Msgr. Hirsch and returned at departure - it cannot be stored in your room.
- Out of respect for the children's routines, all outdoor activity should end by 8:30 p.m. unless part of a special event. If attending a gathering in Father's house or garden, quietly return to the dorm as you will walk past apartments with children already in bed.
- Lights out at 10:30 p.m. This is mandatory as most of the children are in bed far earlier than that time.

Leaving Casa Hogar Campus

- Visitors may only leave the grounds when accompanied by Msgr. Hirsch, a staff member, or the volunteer assistant.
- For your health and safety, avoid eating food off campus unless factory-sealed or approved by staff.
- Keep valuables secure at all times while outside Casa.

Staying Busy

- Beyond your main service project, look for additional ways to help-cleaning, yard work, hill and grotto maintenance, and more. If you're unsure, just ask!
- You're invited to pray, reflect, or meet as a group in the chapel, grotto, or Father's garden. To access the grotto or pray the Stations, please ask for the gate to be unlocked.
- Tutoring or assisting with schoolwork is a nice way to be part of life at Casa. Ask a teacher if you can help in this way.
- Group activities planned in advance are welcome. Approval and planning in advance is essential for the event to be successful - so don't wait until you arrive at Casa. Past favorites include game nights, crafts, field days, and ice cream social.

TECHNOLOGY

Technology & Social Media

- The Wi-Fi password will be given to group leaders to distribute as appropriate.
- Please remain present-limit phone and social media use.
- If phones used excessively for non-mission purposes, limitations will be put in place.
- Photos of most children are permitted; we will inform you of any exceptions.
- At other orphanages, no photos are permitted, even if not posted. To avoid difficulties, please leave your phone behind when visiting another institution.

Staying Connected

- Keep your family up to date during your stay.
- Sharing your mission trip on social media is a great way to include your family and those that supported you both financially and prayerfully.
- Feel free to tag Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II-we'll share it, too!
- All posts must follow Casa Hogar's Technology and Social Media Guidelines and the Safe Environment guidelines of the Diocese of La Crosse.

Visitor Communication & Conduct Policy

To protect the well-being and dignity of the children entrusted to our care-and to ensure appropriate boundaries that safeguard both the children and our visitors-direct communication outside approved channels is not permitted.

- Visitors may not initiate or maintain contact with any child, graduate, or minor through personal email, social media platforms, Messenger, WhatsApp, text messages, or by sending or accepting friend or follow requests. Because these platforms cannot be properly supervised or documented, they place both the child and the visitor in a vulnerable position. For this reason, all communication must remain within established and accountable channels.
- If you wish to send a message to a child or maestro, please email nfurger@frjoesguild.org. and your correspondence will be reviewed and appropriately forwarded. If a minor outside of Casa wishes to connect with someone at Casa, a parent or legal guardian must be included in the email communication.
- These policies are in place to preserve healthy boundaries, protect all parties, and maintain the integrity of the mission. We sincerely appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

SANTA ROSA

Santa Rosa General Care

- The kitchenette is available-please clean after each use.
- Laundry may be done by hand on the rooftop; no other laundry facilities are available. Do not wash large items in sinks.
- Turn off lights when rooms are unoccupied.

Security and Keys

- Casa children are never allowed in dorms.
- Staff may not enter dorms without approval from Msgr. Hirsch or the volunteer assistant.
- Keep dorm doors locked at all times.
 - Only two sets of exterior door keys will be given to chaperones only. We ask leaders to monitor key use regularly.
 - Lost keys will be billed: \$3 for a bedroom key, \$10 for an outside door set.

Bedrooms

- Do not tape, glue, nail, or hang items on walls, doors, or furniture.
- Do not move or rearrange furniture.
- Stay only in your assigned room; unassigned rooms may be reserved or unprepared.

Bathrooms

- Toilet paper and sanitary products must not be flushed - use the trash bin provided.
- Be mindful to turn off faucets and showers after use.
- Report plumbing issues immediately. Most problems originate from flushed toilet paper, which is costly and avoidable.

Departure Checklist

Before leaving, please:

- Leave your room key in the door.
- Return all exterior keys to Msgr. Hirsch or the volunteer assistant.
- Strip all bedding and place it in the pillowcase.
- Leave towels in corner in the bathroom.
- Dispose of all trash in designated dumpsters.
- Clean all assigned areas-bedrooms, bathrooms, common areas, stairs, and kitchenette. Supplies are located in the dorm cabinet. Mopping before you leave is best if you "mop your way out the door".