

Traveling Ministry Team Expectations

It is a tremendous and rare privilege to be invited to lead worship for various churches, ministries, mission organizations, schools, and camps. The people calling on us to lead are entrusting a key part of their event to us and we really want to honor their trust and, in doing so, bring glory to the Lord.

Obviously being musically prepared is a big part of succeeding at the event. Another important aspect is the way we handle ourselves off stage. We're on stage a couple hours a day at most; the way we carry ourselves the other 22-23 hours a day will either earn credibility and the right to be heard, or detract from it.

Through the years I have noticed that sponsors* love it when guest worship teams do certain things (and are turned off when they do other things). While the following is not a comprehensive list, these are some of the biggies for building trust and respect with those we are serving.

*The term "sponsors" means the person/organization who booked us to come. This could be a pastor, program director, teacher, chaplain, etc. as well as the ministries they work for.

Team

- Be part of the team, be a team player. This means hanging with the group, having a positive attitude, overlooking the minor annoyances that are an inextricable part of team life on the road, and generally enjoying the unique gifts that each team member brings to the picture.

Outward Focus

- Reach out to students**. Throughout our time together, make a point to engage students in conversation, asking them about themselves. For example: meals...at some meals we'll sit together as a team, but make a point to sit with campers and get to know them. They feel special and included when band members reach out to them. We may not participate in every activity, which is fine, but engaging campers and getting to know them is important. When you take an interest in them, it's a powerful thing.

**Students/campers is a general term I'm using for those who attend an event at which we are the guest worship leaders. This could be students (youth camp, mission trip, etc.), adults (church, conference, etc.), or both.

Model good choices

- Honor the rules that the sponsoring organization has for campers.
- Be above reproach, keep yourself out of questionable positions.
- Never be alone with a minor.
- Never be alone in private with someone else's spouse (opposite gender).

- No questionable or inappropriate language around campers.
- No consumption/possession of alcohol during events that are attended by minors or at events sponsored by groups that wouldn't approve of the guest worship team drinking alcohol.
- No consumption/possession of illegal drugs. Seems obvious, but I'm just sayin'.

Support the program

While you/we may not agree with every aspect of our sponsor's ministry philosophy or programs, it's important to be respectful of their guidelines. We are guests and we want to honor our hosts.

- Listen to the talk. Be respectful of the event speaker. Playing and then bailing for the message sets a bad example. Plus you'll miss out on some great talks.
- Don't publicly or privately rip on the ministry or it's leaders.
- If it's quiet time, be quiet (honor lights out times in camp).
- Don't talk in front of campers about leaving the event to do things that campers aren't allowed to do (even if those things are perfectly legal).
- Don't trash your room/living space- leave it as nice as you found it.

Music

- Be prepared. Know the charts. Rehearsal is for arranging the songs, not teaching you the songs. Check out the tunes on Planning Center beforehand, print any charts you need, and come prepared.
- At set-up and sound check, set your rig up first, then look for ways to help the group as a whole. Examples: help the sound person or another musician set up their rig. We are not done setting up until we are all set up.
- No noodling during set-up or sound check. We know you can play, that's why you're on the gig.
- Only play at sound check when it's your turn to sound check.
- Focus during sound check. Point up or down to let the sound guy know volume adjustments of the item being sound checked in your mix. Don't zone out or talk to your neighbor. Focus. It makes sound check go much faster.

Travel

- Stay together (unless agreed that we are separating for a particular reason). This is especially true in other countries.
- Keep your receipts for gas/other items purchased on behalf of the group.

I realize some of these instructions come across as very direct. My heart in saying all of this is to promote the best possible experience for us as a team *and* to knock it out of the park for the sponsoring organization. Following these guidelines through the years has resulted in many happy trips and invitations to return to play music again. Thanks for joining us, I'm glad you're on the team!

-Peter Neumann