



# *Ecosystem Field Studies*

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## *Caribbean Ecosystem Field Studies*

### Program Participation Agreement/Student Code of Conduct

Safety, both physically and emotionally is the priority of the course. Therefore, we have the following rules in place that all participants must agree and abide to. Failure to follow these rules can result in dismissal from course without receiving academic credit or a refund.

1. Safety boundaries. Participants will not be allowed off-site of the immediate La Playa Xpu Beach Club property for any reason. Boundaries will be clearly designated upon arrival/. Participants are allowed to walk on beach during non-program time. Students are highly encouraged to bring a buddy whenever leaving immediate property.
2. Communication of whereabouts: If leaving property during non-program time participants are required to communicate with another of their location and time of return. A whiteboard will be utilized to write down this information.
3. Night-time travel. All participants are required to travel with a buddy when leaving immediate property area.
4. Quiet hour. Quiet hour is enforced at 10 pm in the property area and the campground.
5. Respect of local community. All participants are encouraged to strive to maintain positive relationships with the local community.
6. Respect of personal property. All participants shall remain aware of personal property and keep all belongings secure and out of sight of public.
7. Personal Health & Safety. Students must maintain sound judgement and strong awareness to maintain physical safety. Specific instructions include:
  - a. staying properly hydrated, fed and rested
  - b. sun protection, feet protection,
  - c. understanding of water hygiene,
  - d. maintenance of basic physical conditions (cuts, bites, blisters)
  - e. communication to EcoFS staff of any significant situations.

8. Ocean safety. Do not enter ocean alone unless specifically given permission based on proven swimming ability. Always pay attention to waves. Be extra alert for stingrays in the shallows during the evening.
  
9. Alcohol. Alcohol consumption is officially advised against during the duration of the course. EcoFS understands the accessibility of alcohol on the Caribbean EcoFS as well as the 18-year-old drinking age in Mexico and therefore has the following specific guidelines in place:
  - a. No consumption during program time, i.e., before 5:30 pm.
  - b. No consumption in following areas: common, classroom, kitchen, dining.
  - c. Consumption must be kept in moderation and group oversight is strongly advised.
  - d. Any students showing side effects of alcohol consumption will not be allowed to participate in morning SCUBA dives and snorkels.
  
10. Drugs. All recreational drugs are illegal in Mexico and strictly forbidden on course.
  
11. Positive attitude. The success of the course depends on everyone's positive contribution to the group experience. EcoFS encourages everyone to bring a positive attitude. Also, if any emotional issues arise EcoFS staff is always available for discussion.