



2024 Ecuador Service Trip Cell Phone Policy

- Use of electronic devices (phones, laptops, tablets, smart watches, headphones, etc.) is allowed during travel time to and from Ecuador.
- Use of cell phones will not be permitted during the trip. **Student cell phones will be collected and securely stored by the Ecuador Trip Leaders for the duration of the trip.** If students are found violating this policy and do not turn in their device, the device will be confiscated for the remainder of the trip, and a conduct report will be issued upon the return to school. The purpose of this policy is threefold:
 - To protect the integrity and cohesion of the service project, TKA desires participants to be fully engaged with the purpose and people of the service project without the distraction of digital devices.
 - To protect the safety of our students.
 - To avoid any potential liability related to cell phone usage - Ecuador law prohibits taking photos of minors and/or posting any such photos on social media or publication without parent consent.
- Parents will be provided with the contact information for the Ecuador Leaders in case an emergency arises and they need to contact their student(s).
- Trip updates will be communicated and posted in the Ecuador blog for parents and families to view.

We recognize that there may be heightened concerns regarding communication with students during the trip due to the events that transpired in Ecuador earlier this year. In addition to the daily blog posts, parents may opt to be added to the Remind app where they will receive messages from the trip leaders each day with information about where students are and what they will be doing each day. More information about joining Remind will be sent to parents.