WESTMONT
POTTER'S CLAY

PARTICIPANT COVENANT | SPRING 2027

Mission Statement: "Potter's Clay seeks to humbly and sustainably affirm the self-efficacy of the Ensenadan community through relational and ethical ministry, celebrating in fellowship the unity and diversity of the global church as the body of Jesus Christ."

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAM

Essential Elements. Westmont College aims to ensure that all participants are able to meet the "essential elements" of the program. All participants must be able to meet these requirements, either with or without reasonable accommodations, regardless of their health condition and regardless of whether they have a disability. The College will provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities who request them in order to help students meet the essential elements listed below and successfully participate in the program.

College-wide expectations. All students traveling must:

- Be in good academic standing at Westmont or another college or university in which the student is enrolled. Students on academic probation or suspension at Westmont or another college/university are not eligible for a Westmont College sponsored travel program.
- Be in good standing with Student Life. Students on disciplinary probation or suspension are not eligible for travel programs.
- Agree to follow the Westmont Community Life Statement standards while abroad, any additional student conduct standards adopted by the particular service abroad program in which the student is a participant, and local laws.
- Comply in a timely manner with all travel preparation protocols including, but not limited to, **attending weekly pre-trip training sessions, completing all assigned preparation tasks, fulfilling fundraising commitments, feedback assignments, participating in post-trip debrief,** etc.

Program-Specific Essential Elements. The following program-specific essential element(s) may be used to evaluate applicants.

New Students: First Years and Transfers.
As a freshman or new transfer student your acceptance to Potter's Clay is conditional upon your attaining a minimum GPA of 2.00 for the fall semester. By signing and dating below you are giving permission to the Records/Registrar's Office to release your academic information to Campus Ministries Staff for verification purposes after your fall grades have been finalized.
Signed _____ Date _____

Returning Students:
To be accepted into Potter's Clay you need a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00 *and* cannot be on academic probation during the spring semester of orientation. By signing and dating below you are stating that you meet these academic requirements and give permission to the Records/Registrar's Office to release this information to Campus Ministries Staff for verification purposes.
Signed _____ Date _____

STUDENT AGREEMENT

I. Statement of Personal Commitment

I am aware that the Community Life Statement as stated in the Westmont College Catalog is fully in effect for the entire program starting January 2027 and ending May 2027. I also agree to comply with the standards of our hosts while a program participant. If in the judgment of the staff program director I fail to live by either set of standards, I may be sent home at any time at my own expense and with the forfeiture of program costs already incurred.

I will familiarize myself and comply in a timely manner with the travel policies, protocols, schedules and standards established by Westmont College and the specific program for which I am applying. This includes attendance at all mandatory college-wide and program sponsored pre-trip orientations and paying my trip account in full (if applicable) by the payment due date – see support model section below. I understand that my failure to comply at any point in the preparation process may disqualify me from the program and may result in the forfeiture of deposits and other charges. I will also sign and fulfill all terms of the *Potter's Clay Assumption of Risk, Release and Participation Agreement* prior to departure.

II. Consent for Release of Information

I authorize the Registrar and Dean of Student Life to access and review my academic and judicial records at Westmont College and any higher education institution that I have attended. Furthermore, I authorize the release of information contained within any health/emergency forms submitted in preparation for this travel program to my physician, program leaders, Westmont College officials, the foreign host institution or third party provider (if applicable), the hosts (if applicable) to inform and discuss reasonable accommodations and/or to deal with any health related emergency that directly concerns me or involves me in any way, shape, or form while participating on this trip.

III. Global Ministry and Service Covenant

I will constantly strive to mirror the attitude that was modeled in the life of Jesus Christ *(Philippians 2:3-11)*. I commit to serve - with a heart of love - all teams, members, our in-country partners, and those that I come in contact with during the Spring as our Community Life Statement affirms.

IV. Spring Orientation & Debrief Sessions

- ***Weekly Training Sessions***

I will attend the weekly team training sessions from January 27th-March 3rd, 2027.

- ***Debrief Session***

I will attend the debrief session Sunday, April 11th, 2027.

V. Finances

Potter's Clay is committed to working alongside all participants to raise the necessary support needed for their upcoming trips. That said:

1. Personal Investment of Resources

I understand that there will be one initial contribution – the $200 registration fee – due on January 31st, 2027. *Please specify if this will be charged to your student account or if you will pay by card. If you prefer to pay by check, please make this check payable to "Westmont College" and designate "Potter's Clay" in the memo line. Please note that this is non-refundable.*

___ **Check this box if you would like to have this fee charged to your student account.** *By checking this box, you affirm that you have notified and received approval from the person responsible for paying this account.*

2. Personal Investment of Time & Energy: Required Fundraisers

I will willingly participate in all designated fundraisers, which include:

- **Support Letters -** I will identify a list of 25 names/addresses to whom I will send prayer & financial support letters to in February. The Potter's Clay Core Team will supply me with a sample support letter, letterhead, and envelopes. I will cover the cost for postage.
- **Follow Up Photo Post Cards –** I agree to send an additional Potter's Clay thank you letter to my entire list of financial and prayer supporters in April.

3. Prior to Departure

Each team member with a *negative personal balance* will be required to submit a check in the amount of that balance prior to departure.

Please know that we do not want individuals to feel they cannot participate in this ministry for financial reasons. If you think this commitment will be an issue for you, please come in to the Campus Ministries Office and make an appointment with the Director of Student Ministry and Outreach – Kelley Funk –- to discuss other options. DO NOT REMOVE yourself from the process prior to meeting to discuss your particular circumstances and options.

Also, if you are unable to attend or if you choose to not attend AFTER you have started receiving donations, the funds collected will be used to support others to go on a trip.

VI. Passport

It is my responsibility to cover the costs of a new or renewed passport for my spring travels and I realize that I have to apply for my passport during the Fall Semester and submit proof of application with my registration fee on January 31st, 2027.

VII. Immunizations

I understand that in order to participate in Potter's Clay, I am responsible for the costs of recommended immunizations and all medications that may be required for my safety when traveling to Mexico. Resources will be made available to determine specific immunizations you will need.

VII. Spring Debrief Session

I will attend the *Potter's Clay Debrief* session to be held once we return – Sunday, April 11th, 2027. I understand that I will be required to complete an online evaluation, share photographs and stories of my spring experience with the Westmont community, and meet with the Director of Student Ministry and Outreach, Faculty/Staff Mentors,

and/or the Potter's Clay core team to give feedback and process my experience. *Note: The Director of Student Ministry and Outreach and the Potter's Clay Core Team will utilize the information you provide in your evaluation while making decisions about ministry partners and programming for next year.*

Print Name _____

Signature _____

Date_____

Permission for trip participation by parent/guardian (required for students under 18 years of age)_____

Please upload this covenant and picture of your Passport to your application – and should you choose to pay your own registration fee, then please drop off the fee by January 31st, 2027 to the Potter's Clay office (2nd Floor, Kerr Student Center) - should you be accepted.

If you have any questions, feel free to email potters_clay@westmont.edu

If under the age of 18 years old, please have your parent/guardian complete this section below.

Print Name_____

Signature_____

Relationship to applicant_____

Date_____