

GETTING ALONG WHILE LIVING WITH A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THE SAME HOUSE

You'll be sharing a room, and you always have to be with at least one other person when outside the house (groups at night). You live together and work together, and there are a lot of people living in the same house, often with very different personalities and ways of being raised. You'll be spending a lot of time with each other, often under very stressful and intense circumstances whether it's in the house or in the orphanages. Sometimes that can be hard, so you need to be aware of this beforehand so you're prepared to deal with it. Everyone needs to be patient and respectful of others and treat everyone nicely. The atmosphere in the home affects everything, and when it's sour, it's noticeable everywhere else, including in the work we do in the orphanages, so please come prepared to work hard to get along with everyone and be friendly and inclusive.

In both our houses in Cuenca and Quito, we have several common areas for the volunteers to hang out in and interact together. We do not have many areas where you can go to be alone.

Some volunteers upon leaving have expressed sadness at how difficult other volunteers made the living conditions and spirit in the home because of selfishness or immaturity, and we don't want anyone to be affected negatively by others, so in an effort to improve "prepping" those who are interested in serving with OSSO, please keep these things in mind before applying and after accepted!

Here's some advice on what you can do to get along better with the other volunteers:

- from the minute you begin this experience on the flight down, reach out to the volunteers and befriend them; you'll all be in this together
- have activities to unify the "old" and "new" groups of volunteers so that there's one unified group of friends who support each other and have fun together
- unfortunately, as we've seen over the years, there will undoubtedly be some volunteers who choose to have bad attitudes...go out of your way to help them and serve them
- when the volunteers care about each other and serve each other, everything's better; doing random acts of kindness can go a long way to improving relationship and feelings
- if you're hurt or offended by someone, go talk to *them* about it, not the rest of the volunteers, and for the reverse, if you hurt or offend someone, be sensitive enough to notice and approach them first

Practicing The Golden Rule is a win for everyone.