

Helpful Questions to Ask when Securing a Retreat Facility or Visiting A Mission Trip Site:

- What are the sizes of the meeting rooms, sleeping areas, kitchen, bathrooms, etc. ?
- Are these areas suitable for young people?
- What's the capacity of the sleeping area? Are the areas for males and females separated by walls and in designated areas AWAY from one another? What's the capacity if we have a CO-ED group?
- How many showers and sinks are in the bathroom areas?
- Is there a chapel, a room for a quiet space and a room for liturgical prayer?
- Will the facility be difficult to supervise? Is it compact or spread out? Are there numerous exits and hiding places?
- Is the facility well-maintained? Are there opportunities for accidents to take place? What must be prepared in advance to avoid such accidents?
- Is there only one entrance that can be used and re-locked, with other entrances locked at all times?
- Is the setting residential, urban or rural and what specific situations may arise in that setting?
- Will there be access by other groups while we are at that setting?
- Does the facility have an on-site contact in case of emergencies?
- Are staff members of the facility safe environment trained?
- Are fire extinguishers, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in place?
- Can bathroom facilities be designated for attending youth only or must they be shared by the public?