

What a Local Coordinator Needs to Do

Below is a list of common tasks associated with being a local coordinator. (The list is long—not to overburden you, but to provide all the information you might need and answer all of your questions in advance.)

1. Provide programs for the tour group in your local area. Seek help from universities, churches, schools, art galleries, and museums.
2. Enlist the assistance of volunteers. If you are having the monks for a series of activities, it is a good idea to have a different volunteer charged with the responsibility for each of the activities.
3. Publicize the events. There are sample flyers and ads on the web site:
www.gomang.org/csspacket.html

Please make sure that your flyers and ads refer to “donation”—not “admission price.” The tour is under the shield of Friends of Drepung Gomang which is a USA-based not-for-profit organization. “Donations” are always acceptable and appreciated but we are not to use the terminology “charge” and “admission price.”

4. Contact your local politicians and ask them to attend the events. Provide media opportunities, particularly photos, with the politicians. We wish to inform politicians and the public about Tibet and its current political situation.
5. Provide informative handouts for the public. These are available on the web site:
www.gomang.org/csspacket.html.
6. Arrange for the monks to have a table to display and sell their merchandise at the locale of their presentation. This merchandise is hand-crafted (except for the jewelry and t-shirts) at the Drepung Gomang Handicraft Center (www.gomang.org/hcraft.html)
7. Arrange for accommodations for the monks. These need not be fancy in any way. The monks bring sleeping bags with them and are used to sleeping on the floor. Often times they are very happy to bed-down in a school gym or someone’s family room. They just need bathroom facilities.
8. Arrange for meals for the monks—particularly on the day they arrive after a long journey on the road. Actually, the monks like to cook for themselves if this is possible (they always clean up afterwards). They will go grocery shopping with you to pick out the foods they prefer. If it is better for you to provide meals, then that is fine also. Tibetan monks are not vegetarian but they prefer beef to other meats. They love noodles and rice and vegetables. The local coordinator is not expected to foot the bill for the groceries. Please find donations to cover all of your costs. If it is necessary, give the receipts of the money spent to the monks and they will deduct the amount from the donations they receive.
9. The monks will bring their own slide projector for their slide show. Please provide them with a blank wall or projector screen. The monks also carry with them the slide show on a computer

disk. If your facility has a computer projector available, the presentation will be of higher quality.

10. Please provide materials for the monks that they will use when they perform pujas (prayer sessions). These materials are usually fruits, rice, and flowers. Just ask the translator what they need to have. (Of course, you will be reimbursed—unless you choose to make a donation.)
11. If possible, introduce the monks to as many people and families as possible. Monks really enjoy family life and love little children.
12. Most of all, be flexible and enjoy your visit with the monks. As they firmly state, “We are not enlightened beings—just people like you who are trying to live a good life and be of some use to others.”

**ALL CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO
“Friends of Drepung Gomang Monastery”**

Please arrange to have all cash donated written into a check (or checks). Please give all proceeds to the monks. They will fed-ex all the checks and credit cards to Bloomington, Indiana for deposit in the bank. Periodically, the money is wired to the monastery in India.

All donations not given directly to the monks should be mailed to

*Friends of Drepung Gomang Monastery
9503 S. Pointe LaSalle’s Drive
Bloomington, IN 47401*