

OSCAR FOUNDATION
VOLUNTEER NETWORK PROGRAMME (GLOBAL INTERNS)

Oscar foundation is a not for profit human rights organization committed to promoting social justice and legal literacy and awareness amongst the poor vulnerable in Kenya.

One of our projects is the volunteer network programme which seeks to place volunteers and interns around the world in community development and humanitarian projects in Kenya.

Here, volunteers are presented with the opportunity to be involved with a variety of work projects and selected programmes all over the country, whilst gaining knowledge, traveling and exploring.

These projects include:

- Human rights and legal education.
- HIV/AIDS education and counseling.
- Youth empowerment
- Community based health care
- Teaching in child orphanages and destitute children's homes

Our projects are non- profit making and are not supported by the government hence along with these program fees, a donation of choice from the volunteer towards the undertaken host is required for smooth running and commensuration.

The volunteer network aims to reach out to people from all walks of life, across the globe.

To ensure smooth running of our volunteers in offering their services, the relevant public(who are the project hosts) are approached i.e (schools, orphanages, animal shelters, homes, health stations and surrounding communities) to facilitate co-operation and need for volunteer services and approved to worthy cause. We have registered a steady rise and positive recipient base and networking growth is underway to ensure more nationals and their communities both within Kenya and the rest of east Africa (Uganda and Tanzania) benefit from these programs.

Over the past year, the programme has worked closely with international church organizations, universities, community colleges, environmental groups, humanitarian organizations and various individuals seeking to experience Kenya, its culture and its people whilst still being productive and pro-active.

As volunteers operate on low cost budgets due to the nature of visits, many do not get to explore Kenya's expansiveness and due to this, the programme is low cost, in comparison to other networks in the market. Another aspect of our network is the one unique culture of the world and synonymous with Kenya is that of the *maasai* people. Our network

offers a complimentary trip open to all volunteers, once in a month to visit and live with the maasai, to sample the ‘ *Maa* experience’. Other exotic rural itineraries are also included depending on the program weeks and all volunteers, a certificate of service is awarded by the organization and signed by the undertaken project host at the end of the allocated program.

We make a difference so you can make a difference. To be consistently helpful in another culture requires expertise in programme management and volunteer coordination. This means in our work:

- We protect host community independence
- We guard against exploitation of local people
- We are vigilant in monitoring our cultural impact
- We provide appropriate financial project support
- We employ opinion experts in development and service
- We choose our local hosts and projects carefully

The network seeks locally initiated and maintained work projects for our volunteers. Communities embody their cultural, social and economic issues and know their needs and priorities.

Our network not only aims at reviving the humane in humanity but also offer all a chance to rejoice in new experiences, lean acceptance and endurance and rediscover our purpose in life.

PROGRAMS IN KENYA

Summary

Volunteer providing legal KENYA

Program description

This program is limited to medical students, doctors, nurses and any other person in the medical field though in the area of volunteering in a hospice. Applicants interested in spending time and aiding out in the day to day running of these homes of terminally ill are welcome.

Volunteers also have the opportunity to touch the lives of the less fortunate in the slum areas, one of the better known being the *kibera* slum which received much awareness in the movie film ‘The Constant Gardener’

PROGRAM DETAILS

OFFLACK VOLUNTEERS

FEE STRUCTURE FOR ALL PROFESSIONALS.

Location	COUNTRYWIDE-KENYA
Minimum length	3 weeks

Maximum length	1 year
Program dates	Year-round(state and end, your choice)
Requirements	Native speakers of English are preferred, any other additional language a plus
Schedules	Decision depends on your project host
Accommodations	Host family
Meals	Host family
Program fee (USD)	2 weeks \$1700 3 weeks \$1800 4 weeks \$1930 5 weeks \$2100 6 weeks \$2500 7 weeks \$3065 (extra weeks: \$95 each)
Included	Pre trip guide Airport pickup/drop off In-country introductions Placement in programs All meals Accommodation 24/7 support
Not included	Airfare Visa Insurance Vaccines Internet Phone calls/ mobile phone Extra sightseeing
Application accepted	Year round
Application deadline	None
Pre-trip 'to do' checklist	Send online application E-mail resume or CV Photocopy of passport identity page Send flight details Sign/send participant agreement Obtain Visa for Kenya (on arrival) Send dietary requirements (if any) Send medical conditions Send program fees* *(this will facilitate accommodation, meals and airport pick-up from date of arrival)
Combine programs?	Yes. You can also volunteer in one of these areas: teaching in child orphanages or destitute children's homes

APPLICATION PROCESS (Explained)

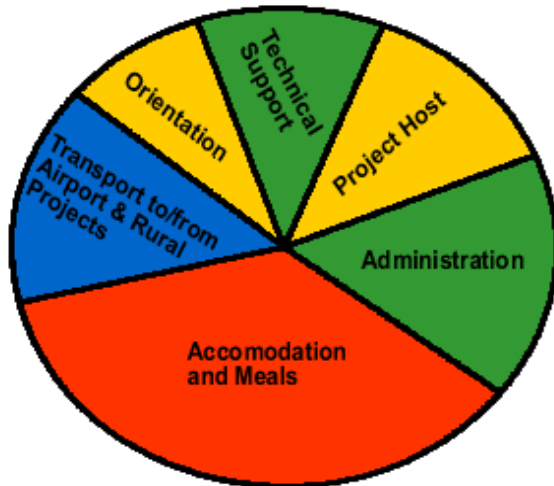
All applicants will be notified by email as to whether their application has been successful.

1. **Complete the Application Form:** Fill out the application form provided and submit it after selecting the project that interests you and indicating your travel date preference. Upon receiving the form, we will assess your suitability for the program selected.
2. **Contact you:** If you are successful, we will then email you a letter of acceptance.
3. **Decision Point:** Once you have read through the letter of acceptance and we have answered any questions or concerns that you may have, we will send you a “Volunteer Manual” and email you informational forms to complete. Complete and return the forms. Upon receiving the requested information and personal preferences, we will accept and process your application. You will then be required to pay 50% of your program application fee 30 days prior to your departure . *(Payment information is included in the informational forms that will be emailed to you and serves the purpose of enabling us to cater for service costs and secure your place in the program. Please note that we will refund your application fee if you decide not to travel.)
4. **Confirmation:** Once the application fee is paid, our volunteer co-coordinator will contact you to ensure that everything is organized and provide the necessary feedback. In the event that you may need to renew your passport, you will have the necessary time to do so and make other travel arrangements. *(Please note that travel dates should be set 30-31 days prior to departure to facilitate extensive arrangement.) You can use your own travel agency, or find a trusted travel agent through *<http://www.travelsense.org/search/agentsearch.asp>.(link). We will also send you the link to our program guide which covers topics such as: country information, travel links, visa application process, fundraising ideas and much more!
5. **Final Payment:** Pay the final 50% balance of your program application fee, due 10 days prior to your departure.
6. **Communication and Support:** Throughout the application process, we are committed to working with you and providing any information you may request on questions or concerns raised. During your placement, we are available 24/7 as a form of support to you as a volunteer and will email or contact you while in the country to discuss on any personal matters arising or pertaining to the program.

PAYMENT DETAILS

Payment details are made available when you successfully complete the [application form](#)

Why Do I Have to Pay to Volunteer?



Why Pay to Volunteer?

As a private, non-profit organization independent from governmental and religious funding, OFFLACK volunteer programs are financed almost entirely by volunteer contributions. This is important because since conception, we've worked in partnership with primarily very economically impoverished communities, who cannot afford to pay for the services we provide. In fact, our paying volunteers provide important support that is out of reach for nearly all our host communities.

In addition to direct financial contributions to local communities' on-going projects, your service program fee pays your costs as OFFLACK Volunteers' "worker extension" in the host community. This includes your food, lodging, work site transportation, program materials, the services of a trained team leader, and administrative costs. In addition, we provide supplemental financing to help meet our host's many, on-going and special needs. But you benefit as well through a wholesome, once in a lifetime experience.

Though a few (longer-term) projects pay a stipend to volunteers, most volunteer vacations will actually cost you money. Why? Because volunteers are asked to pay for their own travel expenses, and even non-profit agencies need to be reimbursed for recruiting costs, volunteer training, and on-site coordination. Volunteer vacation program fees range from \$100 to \$3,000, depending on the agency's degree of involvement and the accommodation provided.

Volunteer vacation program fees are relatively small when accommodation is "basic", such as a tent in a national park, and when volunteers prepare their own meals. At the other extreme, program fees charged by organizations such as OFFLACK Volunteers can be as high as a few thousand dollars. But, in return for higher fees comes the comfort and safety you pay for: extensive pre-trip reading materials, someone to escort you from the airport, security when using public transportation in high risk areas, on-site training, hotel accommodation, prepared meals, a volunteer coordinator on-site at all times, assistance

dealing with local officials, etc. As well, OFFLACK Volunteer Network will use part of your program fee to pay for supplies donated to the hospital, school, or community being served.

Described benefits of paying a program fee to volunteer are:

- **Orientation.** Including important pre-departure reading material as well as on-site orientation on local culture, history and customs.
- **Arranged accommodations.** Providing an important connection to the culture and a first-hand view of social and political events in the country.
- **A safety net.** Staff to provide logistical and emotional support.
- **Clear expectations.** Your responsibilities (in the host community) are clear and well-defined.
- **Affordability.** When you calculate the difference between traveling to a country on your own and the cost of participating in a program, you might be surprised by how little the difference is.

POLICIES

Safety

Safety has always been a top priority in our choice of program countries and volunteer locations. Our numbers are accessible 24hours a day for friends and family to contact us for any urgent matters. Our local in-country staff and home office monitor news reports on a daily basis to stay informed of any safety concerns.

Age

Participants must be at least 18 years of age on their program start date.

Deposit

You will be required to pay 50% of your program application fee 30 days prior to your departure. *(This is to cater for service costs and secure your place in the program), the final 50% balance of your program application fee is due 10 days prior to your departure.

Program Fees

The full balance of the program fees must be paid prior to departure or on special arising reasons and on notification, upon arrival before the program start date.

Ground Transportation

Ground transportation to and from the airport to the program site is included in the program fee. Travel is normally on public transport (buses, minivans). However, if volunteers want to use private transport (e.g. taxi) for long-distance, city-to-city travel,

volunteers are responsible for those costs. Volunteers are also responsible for costs of daily transport from the accommodation to the program site, as well as extra sightseeing travel costs.

Group Discounts

There are discounts available for groups. For groups of 3 or more there is a discount of 5% off the program fees. The group must have the same start date and volunteer in the same location.

Cancellations

In the event that you decide to cancel your program, we must receive a letter or email from you informing us of the cancellation. When you cancel your program and had paid the 50% deposit, OFFLACK Volunteers will refund the amount in full though the amount of the program fees refunded depends on the date you cancel in relation to your program start date:

Number of Days Before Start Date	Program Fees Refunded
30 +	100%
20	100%
10 or fewer	80%

Insurance

OFFLACK Volunteers neither provides nor requires participants to have insurance for their trip, such as medical or trip insurance. However, we strongly urge participants to purchase an insurance policy for their trip.

Gift for Host Families

You are not expected to bring a gift from home for your new host family. Just sharing your culture, experiences and yourself is the best gift you can give your host family. However, if you really want to bring a gift from home, you might want to consider a photography book about your hometown or country, or perhaps chocolates or sweets (especially for the children). One option we highly recommend is to get to know the family first, their interests, needs, and then buy something for them locally. This way, you will get them something they truly want and need; you will be supporting a local business; and you'll have less luggage to pack.

Drugs and Alcohol Abroad

Alcohol may be consumed, within reasonable limits, by participants of legal age in the host country. Participants who choose to consume alcohol do so with the knowledge that they remain responsible for their actions at all times and are expected to drink responsibly. Alcohol is prohibited at your host family, volunteer location, and local OFFLACK Volunteers' office. OFFLACK Volunteers prohibits the illegal distribution of alcohol to participants who are not of legal drinking age. Further, excessive and irresponsible drinking leading to intoxication and behavior that interferes with the program or the rights of others is subject to immediate disciplinary action, and may result

in dismissal from the program. Participants are prohibited from selling, using, or possessing any drugs that are considered by host country law to be illicit or illegal. Participants are cautioned that the possession of drugs is often dealt with harshly by host country law enforcement. Any drug infraction will be considered a grave violation of policy and will result in immediate dismissal from the program.

Use of Photos & Comments

Participants agree that we may use any photos that we or someone on our behalf take of them or any comments (written or verbal) they make during or in connection with their program for our promotional purposes, without obtaining the participant's specific permission or making any remuneration to them. We may include their name, age, city, and the dates and nature of their program with us.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Is there an orientation?

Yes, we provide an introduction that may take a day or two at most depending on the project host initiated. This is done on arrival in the host country. We provide you with information on the culture, language, religion, volunteerism, and more. You will also do some limited sightseeing, and generally prepare for your volunteer experience. Before you arrive in-country, you will receive our printed Pretrip Guide which is specific to each country, in order to give you some cultural background, etc. before you step off the plane.

Do I need a passport and visa?

Yes, you need a passport. Visa requirements differ by country. Please see the individual program pages for visa requirements.

Do I need special skills?

For most of our programs we require only fluency in English. One exception is our medical program which can only accept doctors, nurses, medical students, and other medical professionals. Another exception is our media programs which require participants to be either media students and/or professionals.

How safe is it to volunteer in Kenya?

Kenya is one of the safest countries in East Africa. It has a democratic electoral process and a stable economy. We work hard to ensure you are placed in a safe environment while volunteering. The people are generally warm and friendly to all so you will be well looked after.

Can I arrange my own accommodations and meals?

Yes--You are free to do so. After you have completed your initial program and choose to embark on another project.

Do you make provisions for special diets?

It is possible for special arrangements to be made if you have a vegetarian diet or other special dietary requirements. Please indicate your preference in the application page.

Is ground transportation included in my program fee?

Ground transportation to and from the airport to the program site is included in the program fee. If you want to use private transport (such as a taxi) for long-distance, city-to-city travel, you are responsible for those costs. The participant is also responsible for the costs of daily transport from the accommodation to the program site.

Are there more expenses once i arrive?

The program fee covers your accommodation and meals, your transfer to your program and transport to your work site if traveling to a rural area. You will need to have additional money for bottled water, extra food, for days off (entertainment/leisure), departure from the program, airport departure tax and any personal shopping you may do.

Can I bring a friend, spouse, or my children?

Yes--however the minimum requirement age will be 18 years and above (*If you are part of a group Please check the application form and indicate your group name and group leader). There is also a discount on the program contribution for groups.

I have relatives/friends in Kenya. Can I live with them while volunteering?

No. All volunteers must stay in accommodation arranged by our Kenya partner. This encourages focus on the project and provides the opportunity to stay with other volunteers.

Is there an application deadline?

Yes -- You must apply at least 30 days before your intended start date. Some programs require even more advanced time -- please check the individual program pages for the latest information. We accept applications year round.

Do I need to speak the local language?

Only fluency in English is necessary in all programs.

Can Vegetarians be accommodated?

Yes. Our host families will be informed of any dietary requirements you have.

What if I have an emergency?

You have three parties available to you 24/7 in case of emergency, health-related or otherwise: OFFLACK Volunteers staff, your host family, and your program supervisor. You will have contact information for all three before you arrive.

Will I have Internet and phone access?

Yes. These services are widely available (with a very few exceptions) from private providers in our program locations. Note that participants are responsible for Internet costs).

Can I do sightseeing outside of the program?

Yes. Participants can do sightseeing before, during, or after their program. All of these options have worked out well for our participants, so it's really up to you when you go.

Do I need any immunizations?

We urge participants to consult with a travel doctor at least one month before arriving in the host country, to discuss any necessary immunizations and for advice on staying healthy while traveling. We also suggest that you visit the Centers For Disease Control website for traveler's health information. Otherwise this is a suggestion of what may be needed, we remind you again to consult with your medical professional or travel specialist for more details:

- Typhoid
- Yellow Fever
- Diphtheria and Tetanus
- Cholera
- Meningococcal (Meningitis)
- Malaria (Needs to be closely discussed with a doctor)
- Tuberculosis

Some of these can be taken in oral form so please discuss with your doctor to see what is best for you. Some people can be affected quite differently to others by medication.

Is the program fee tax-deductible?

Any monies given by donors for your specific volunteer program are NOT tax-deductible for the donors. For more information Please consult a tax professional regarding your individual tax situation. OFFLACK Volunteers is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization.

How do i pay my program fee?

Your program fee is payable to OFFLACK Volunteer Network 30 to 31 days prior to your departure. Please note that all charges incurred by the payment of the program fee are at the volunteers expense e.g. there is a 5% surcharge on credit card payments. Bank transfers also incur a bank fee at the point of origin that is at the expense of the volunteer.