

Building a Global Community Team South Africa '15

Volunteer Packet



“Building a Global Community is a humanitarian organization devoted to assisting children, families, and their surrounding communities worldwide by providing for their spiritual, educational, and healthcare needs through holistic approaches.”

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Volunteer Information

Location: South Africa and Lesotho, Africa

Dates: July TBD

Cost: \$3,800 (price may flex slightly depending on cost of flight)

***Deposit of \$500 due with application**

- **Included in this price is:**
 - **Travel Insurance**
 - **Food and Shelter**
 - **Flight and Transportation**
 - **Project funds**

Team Meetings and events

- **Upon selection of team, dates will be scheduled for team meetings and events.**

Passports

- **An international passport is *MANDATORY* for travel.**
- **This can be purchased and applied for at local post office and takes a minimum of 90 days to receive. If you do not already have a passport, we **HIGHLY** recommend that you expedite your application.**
- **If you already have a passport, please send a photocopy with you're application and initial \$300.00 deposit.**

Vaccines

- **<http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/destinationSouthAfrica.aspx#vaccines>
Some vaccinations will be recommended, but none are mandatory. This decision can be made on an individual basis upon consultation with your physician.**

Life in South Africa: Things You Need to Know

1. Where will I be staying and what are the living arrangements like?

We stay in a variety of locations ranging from township homes to rented chalets and hikers lodges. Accommodations are simplistic and shared but typically provide running water and working toilets.

2. What will the daily schedule look like?

Most mornings we will wake before the sun for a team breakfast, preparation time, and an opportunity for individual reflection. **BEING TIMELY IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE.** Following this, we load up into vans and head to our destination for a very full day! Individuals will have opportunities to assist with projects while working side by side with those we are serving. Projects vary but have included construction, gardening, teaching, therapy, cooking, shopping, and animal care. Also, individuals will have opportunities to interact and enjoy leisure time with children and adults on the village and in the facilities. No team member is ever permitted to be alone with a child. Also, we use the “buddy system” for safety. Never find yourself alone in the village or the township. A couple of “free days” are built into the schedule and you will enjoy seeing more of South Africa and participating in cultural activities! At the end of the day we return to the township for a group dinner and some free time.

3. Will there be free time?

There is opportunity for some free time most days. This typically falls at the end of the day. Free time is unstructured but it is required that individuals stay within the area. Traveling alone into other areas is unsafe and not permitted. All travel will be done as a group. Individuals choose to spend their free time in a variety of ways including: spending time with locals, playing soccer with children, enjoying free time with other team members, or simply spending quiet time reading or reflecting. Structured free time will also be built into the schedule and will include cultural activities, opportunities for souvenir shopping, and other exciting events! Please be aware that alcohol will not be permitted in our host families' homes. There will be **ONE** group free day in which individuals will be allowed to enjoy an alcoholic beverage if they so choose.

4. Can I communicate with family and friends while in South Africa?

Communication with friends and family at home is limited. Computers and internet is practically non-existent and internet cafes are few and unreliable. International plans on cell phones are available but can be expensive. It should be expected that communication will be extremely limited but updates will be posted regularly on our website so that family and friends can stay in the loop with what we are up to!

5. What will be expected of me on projects?

It is expected that we will work as a team throughout the duration of the trip. Projects vary and individuals may be asked to assist with different areas of each

project. Individual interests and skill sets are taken into consideration and efforts are made to allow each person to spend time in their personal areas of interest and skill. Ultimately, it is expected that individuals will bring a positive and helpful team-oriented attitude to the projects each day. In conjunction with that, individuals are expected to be mindful that our efforts are based on the needs and requests of those we are serving and we do our best to do whatever is asked of us.

6. What is life on the village like?

A typical day at Botshabelo always includes a number of unexpected ventures. Babies are being born and someone is always looking for help, the organic farm always needs work, the truck won't always start, and funerals are underway. Not to mention, there are MANY day-to-day tasks that must be done. But as each day presents new challenges, the people of Botshabelo rise to meet them with optimism and strong work ethic.

Children in the orphanage help with daily chores such as cleaning their dwelling and picking up litter around the village. They attend school on the village and toddlers go to a daycare group. At the end of the school day (2:00 pm) everyone can participate in extracurricular activities such as sports, karate, or a hike. Villagers join together in every activity from learning and discipline, to leisure and caring for the property. Keep in mind, that in the village and at any other site where children live, **IT IS NOT PERMITTED THAT INDIVIDUALS BE ALONE WITH CHILDREN.** Always have another adult with you when spending any amount of time with a child. This is for your safety as well as theirs.

7. How will we travel to and from locations?

Vehicles are rented for our team to travel in. Typically two vans (depending on size of the team) are used to carry everyone back and forth from daily projects and activities. You will become VERY familiar and fond of the van rides!

8. Do we ever travel outside of our normal routes?

Yes. Different free days will call for travels outside of typical routes. Some projects require travel and overnight stays at other locations.

9. What is the food like that I will be eating?

We will eat very basic meals throughout the trip. The food does seem to get repetitive, but there are always fruits and vegetables available. We are respectful of the culture and eat whatever is prepared for us. We typically pack a very simple lunch to carry with us to our projects, which usually includes sandwiches and fruit.

10. What kind of safety procedures are in place?

As directors of BGC, we make it our first and foremost responsibility to be certain that individuals are adequately protected and that housing and travel is safe. We stay mindful of situations that may arise as we are traveling to and in South Africa. It is absolutely necessary that team members follow guidelines that are put in place for our safety and also trust informed decisions made by leadership.

Staying safe can be relatively easy if everyone is willing to follow the rules and guidelines that have been thoughtfully developed by directors, board members, and volunteer staff whom have traveled extensively within the region. No one is permitted to travel alone and we travel with a native speaker as often as possible. Travel Medical Insurance is provided for each individual. A more elaborate set of guidelines for safety will be given to you in your travel packet.

11. Respecting host home rules:

As guests, it is important to keep in mind rules and schedules already in place and the various places we will be working and staying. Even though we are away from home on holiday, they need to fulfill the requirements of day-to-day life. Be open and understanding to curfews and other time and space limitations that may be utilized to cut down on noise and traffic in and out of homes at night.

Trip Participant Information (please print clearly as it appears on your passport)

Last Name		First Name		M.I.
Address				
City		State		Zip Code
Home Phone		Cell Phone		Work Phone
Email			D.O.B. / Age	
Citizenship and Passport # (required)		Male <input type="radio"/>	Female <input type="radio"/>	T-Shirt Size (circle one): S M L XL XXL XXXL
Employer				
What's your position there?			Specialty	

Applicant's Signature

I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the above information is true and complete and that the accompanying documents are valid.

Signature Date

List Foreign Languages that you speak:

- | | | | |
|----|--------|-----|----|
| 1. | Fluent | Yes | No |
| 2. | Fluent | Yes | No |

1. Do you have any health problems, take medication regularly, or require a special diet:

2. Do you have any physical challenges that might require special assistance? (Wheelchairs, braces, etc.)

3. Are you capable of working a 12 hour day?

Emergency Contact Information

Last Name	First Name	Relationship
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Address

City	State	Zip Code
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Home Phone	Alternate Phone
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Education

Undergraduate: (Institution, Degree, Date)

Graduate: (Institution, Degree, Date)

Graduate: (Institution, Degree, Date)

Additional Education: (Institution, Degree, Date)

Certifications:

Internships/Residency:

Professional Affiliations

References (Include professional and personal references.)

1. Name	Title
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Institution

Address

Phone Number

2. Name	Title
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Institution

Address	
Phone Number	
3. Name	Title
Institution	
Address	
Phone Number	

Volunteer Experience

1. Why you are interested in serving with Building a Global Community?
2. Have you participated in service trips or other applicable experiences? Domestic or international? (if yes, explain)
3. What was expected of you on the service trip? What did your day-to-day schedule consist of?
4. What are your expectations for this trip and your personal experience?

Personal Information

1. Tell us some of your personal goals. i.e. work, family, education, etc.
2. What are the specific skills or abilities that you bring to the team?
3. Would you consider yourself *culturally sensitive and aware*? Explain.

4. How open-minded do you believe you are? Explain.

5. Do you consider yourself to be a flexible person? Explain.

6. Are you willing to follow a structured team schedule that may change frequently based on cultural norms?

7. Do you feel you can easily adapt to an unfamiliar way of living? (Immersing into a new culture including: travel, schedules, eating, living arrangements, little free time, necessary safety procedures) Explain.

8. Do you feel that you are capable of being a part of a large group with little personal time and space for 18 days?

9. What personal attributes do you bring to the team?
 - a. What do you consider to be your greatest strengths?

 - b. What do you consider to be your greatest weaknesses?

Project Interests

Place numbers next to the following items to show us what projects you would be interested as a project. Start with 1 as least interested.

- a. Carpentry/Physical Labor____
- b. Administration/Leadership____
- c. Education____
- d. Children____
- e. Counseling____

The purpose of Building a Global Community is essentially to provide for the spiritual, educational, and healthcare needs of children, families, and their communities. In doing so, volunteers will be asked to participate in a variety of projects, day to day preparations, and individual growth activities. Individuals must demonstrate flexibility and adherence to leadership. Please understand that free time is planned but limited and will almost always be with the entire group. It is expected that you will review ALL material thoroughly prior to the trip and feel free to ask questions as needed. We acknowledge and respect the various values and beliefs held by each individual team member and we ask that you too respect ours and follow the leadership of Building a Global Community when joining us on service trips.

*Note: Payments must be turned in on or before the dates specified. If at anytime you are unable to meet a deadline, your trip is subject to cancellation and is non-refundable. The deadlines are based upon due dates for deposits, flights and other fee's. Please also take note that fundraising will be your **INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY**. BGC will supply you with fundraising letters to send to friends and family, as well as ideas for individual fundraisers.*

I have read, understood, and agree to the above paragraphs.

Yes___ No___

Signature_____

Date_____

Please include one letter of recommendation from an individual of your choice as well as a \$300 deposit, and a photocopy of your passport to **BGC P.O. Box 936 Minooka, IL 60447** by February 1st.