

Frequently Asked Questions on Volunteering for The Ssejinja Children's Foundation

Q. Where can I volunteer for The Ssejinja Children's Foundation?

A. In Uganda.

Q. Who can volunteer?

A. Our volunteers range in age from 14-72! They have been students, doctors, teachers, moms, dads, boy scouts, social workers, nurses, mechanics, librarians, grandmothers and dentists. And many more too numerous to mention! If you are under the age of 18, you will need to have a parent accompany you; this is a great experience for families!

Q. What type of volunteer opportunities do you offer?

A. We offer Service Expeditions. They are 2 - 4 weeks in length and the dates are determined by SCF. Team members are selected by our Expedition Leaders. A team is typically made up of 15-20 men, women and teenagers. Expeditions travel together, work together, stay in a boarding house or in a dorm at one of our program sites and share meals together. The team is led by experienced Team Leaders. We arrange travel, housing, meals and work sites. For more details, download our Volunteer Application.

Q. How do I apply to be a team member?

A. You can apply by downloading an application. After you complete the application, mail it to our Pleasant Grove headquarters. All applications are reviewed monthly and you will be contacted by a team leader, usually within 30 days of our receipt of your application.

Q. Is there a deadline for submitting applications?

A. We like to have your application by August 31st. We begin to review applications on Sept 1 for teams leaving the following Spring or Summer. Team members are selected by October 1st so applicants have adequate time to prepare. You can still apply after Sept. 1, but spaces are very limited. Applications received AFTER Sept 1st, must be accompanied with a deposit check of \$500. Your deposit will NOT be cashed unless you are placed on a team. For trips leaving in the autumn, applications are due January 1st.

Q. How often do you schedule expeditions?

A. The schedule varies from year to year; please check the website for current postings. Typically we offer 1 trip per year.

Q. What types of things will I be doing on an expedition?

A. Some activities our volunteers have participated in include: Teaching music, art, recreation, hygiene, first aid, goal setting and HIV/AIDS awareness/prevention to children in community schools. Conducting medical screenings in villages. Building a one room school, library, housing for orphans and other simple construction projects. Building raised gardens and teaching square foot gardening, food preservation and nutrition to women in villages. Assisting villagers with agriculture, painting, plumbing, and simple household repairs. Holding, feeding and caring for preemie babies in the hospital. Providing infant massage to preemie babies. Training village members in water & sanitation, literacy, sewing, knitting, crocheting, small business and retail opportunities. Volunteer tasks are matched with the interests and expertise of team members so each expedition may have a slightly different focus.

Q. How much does it cost to volunteer?

A. Expeditions to Uganda cost \$2500 which includes airfare, visas, ground transportation, lodging, food, water and an adventure side trip which includes a game drive (photo safari) and a trip to Lake Victoria. Included in this amount is a \$250 program fee which is used to fund the projects on which you will be working.

Q. How do I raise money for my volunteer experience?

A. We will provide a sponsor letter which you can give to friends, family, businesses and co-workers. SCF is a 501 (c) 3, non-profit corporation. All donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. 100% of the money raised in your behalf goes towards your trip costs. Some volunteers have held garage sales, car washes, service auctions, and fun runs to cover trip costs.

For more information, please email ssejinjachildrensfund@yahoo.com