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2010

# Program Overview & Volunteer Application

Summer Volunteer Program  
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# I. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

## Program Description

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The Summer Volunteer Program sends college-age students from the US and Canada to India to learn about the challenges of non-profit work in a developing country. The program exposes and educates volunteers on a broad range of issues affecting India. Some of the topics covered are Children's Poverty and Education, Women's Economic Empowerment, Communal Riots, Disaster Relief, Urban Slums and Health Care. The program incorporates presentations by organization directors, visits to organization projects on and some hands-on activities. In addition to the non-profit aspect of the program, Summer Volunteer Program coordinates site-seeing trips and lectures on Indian History and Religions.

## Program Objectives

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Summer Volunteer Program believes it is imperative for students to gain an understanding of the needs of the impoverished in India and the world. It is with this objective in mind that the Summer Volunteer Program was established in 1999 to send students to learn valuable skills by working with non-profits throughout India. The goals of the program are:

1. Learn about the rich culture, history and diversity of India
2. Understand the different health, education and social justice needs of the poor
3. Experience the everyday challenges of running a non-profit in a developing country
4. Equip volunteers with the skills, knowledge and enthusiasm to work for change for the impoverished when they return
5. Provide a dynamic life experience for students to develop as individuals

## Rules & Regulations

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All participants in the program must observe these rules at all times.

1. Volunteers cannot go out alone at any time. Always use the buddy system, take another volunteer with you.
2. Always notify the Program Coordinator where you are going, what you are doing and when you plan on returning.
3. Volunteer activities are mandatory and the only excuse for missing them is due to health related reasons and must be approved by the Program Coordinator. Site-seeing trips are optional but highly encouraged to build group cohesion.
4. Volunteers must always act in a manner that does not jeopardize their own or other volunteers' safety.
5. All individuals you interact with must be treated with respect and dignity.
6. If the Program Coordinator specifically prohibits you from something, you must comply with their request.
7. All cross gender interaction should be in common areas.
8. The Program Coordinator, with approval from the Program Director, can send any volunteer home for violating these rules at anytime during the Program.

## Tentative Schedule - Summer 2010

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Travel India Program (TIP)		
Date	Location	Activity
June 25	Travel Day	Flight to San Francisco
June 26	Palo Alto, CA	Orientation
June 27	Travel Day	Flight to Hyderabad
June 29	Hyderabad	Sightseeing
July 1	Hyderabad	Urban Poverty
July 9	Travel Day	Train to Ahmedabad
July 10	Ahmedabad	Sightseeing
July 11-19	Ahmedabad	Communal Violence
July 20	Travel Day	Train to Delhi
July 21	Delhi	Sightseeing
July 22	Agrah	Sightseeing
July 23-30	Delhi	Street Children
July 31	Travel Day	Return Flight

Hyderabad Medical Program (HMP)		
Date	Location	Activity
June 25	Travel Day	Flight to San Francisco
June 26	Palo Alto, CA	Orientation
July 27	Travel Day	Flight to Hyderabad
June 29	Hyderabad	Sightseeing
July 1-19	Hyderabad	Medical Program
July 20	Travel Day	Flight to Delhi
July 21	Delhi	Sightseeing
July 22	Agrah	Sightseeing
July 23	Travel Day	Return Flight

## Application Checklist

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- ☐ Completed Application
- ☐ Short Answer – attachment
- ☐ Essay – attachment
- ☐ Letter of Recommendation – completed form and letter attached
- ☐ Completed Parental Consent Form (If under 18 years old)
- ☐ Notarized Release Form

## II. VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Please complete all sections of the application and mail to Summer Volunteer Program's office. **All applications must be notarized to be complete.** The applications process is rolling admissions so applicants can be accepted and notified within a few days of Summer Volunteer Program receiving your application. The application process can be closed before the final deadline of 3/15/10 if we receive significant applications early in the process. If you have any questions about the applications process or about the program please contact us.

### Contact Information

Name (as it appears on your passport) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_

DOB \_\_\_\_\_ Passport \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Number \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

School/University Name \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Emergency Contact

Emergency Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to you \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Medical History

Do you have any health problems that might interfere with your participation in the program, including but not limited to allergies, disabilities and psychiatric disorders?

If yes, please explain:

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## Foreign Language Proficiency

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Please indicate your proficiency level for the languages listed below:

	Excellent	Good	Fair	None
<b>Urdu</b>				
<b>Hindi</b>				
<b>Arabic</b>				

## Program Selection

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Please indicate which Program you'd like to participate in. Applicants may apply for both Programs:

_____	<b>Travel India Program</b>	Spend four weeks traveling through multiple cities in India and working with various non-profit organizations. Some of the topics covered in the past were Children's Poverty and Education, Women's Economic Empowerment, Communal Riots, Disaster Relief and Urban Slums. (10 volunteers accepted)
_____	<b>Hyderabad Medical Program</b>	Spend three weeks in the city of Hyderabad and focus exclusively on health related issues. (4 volunteers accepted)

## Survey

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How did you hear about the Summer Volunteer Program?

_____ Local MSA	_____ Facebook
_____ IMRC Newsletter	_____ Past Volunteer
_____ Other: _____	

## Short Answer

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Write three to five sentences answering the questions below. Please include your answers on a separate piece of paper entitled “**Short Answer Attachment**”.

1. Do you have any previous experience working with non-profit, student or humanitarian organizations? Please describe your leadership and activism within and outside the Muslim community.
2. Have you ever been to India or another developing country before? If so, where, when for how long, and for what purpose?
3. What do you think will be the most difficult part of the trip? What strengths will you rely on to help you to deal with potential challenges while on the trip?
4. Hyderabad Healthcare Program applicants only. How will this program benefit your professional healthcare career?

## Essay

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Write a short essay of at least 250 words answering the question below. Please include your answers on a separate piece of paper entitled “**Essay Attachment**”.

1. Why do you wish to participate in the Summer Volunteer Program? How do you envision this program impacting your life?
2. What do you hope to gain from this experience? And what do you hope to contribute to the group during the Program?

## Certification

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**I hereby certify that I have carefully read and completed this entire Summer Volunteer Program Overview and Application and am able to be, if selected, a participant in the program. I also agree and have read all the rules and regulations of the Summer Program Volunteer and will abide by all leadership decisions made by the Program Coordinator. I further certify that my answers to all of the questions on this application are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### III. Recommendation Letter

A letter of recommendation from one person is required. The letter must be from a professional, religious or academic advisor (relatives are not allowed). Speak with your recommender about the Summer Volunteer Program so they understand the program's objectives and why you would like to attend. Please give your recommender this page to complete and return to you.

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Thank you for taking the time to provide valuable feedback about the applicant. The questions below will help us to evaluate the applicant, please provide answers on a separate piece of paper.

1. How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?
2. Please comment on the applicant's leadership skills. What do you see as the applicant's strengths and weaknesses in this regard?
3. How will an intensive volunteer and travel program help the applicant to grow as an individual?
4. We strongly encourage you to supplement your previous comments with any additional information you feel will be beneficial to us.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Employer and Title \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## IV. Parental Consent Form

To be filled out and signed by **both** parents only if volunteer is under the age of 18 when this application is completed.

Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**We have read over Summer Volunteer Program's Overview and agree to allow our son/daughter, \_\_\_\_\_, to participate in the program.**

Father's Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

## V. Release Form

Please read and sign this Release Form in front of a notary and have this page notarized.

1. Although not mandatory. It is the responsibility of Summer Volunteer Program participant to carry full and complete insurance coverage on his/her personal property and him or herself.
2. Summer Volunteer Program participant **agrees to assume any and all risks involved in or arising from the participant's participation in the Summer Volunteer Program and use of or presence upon facilities in India** including, without limitation but not limited to, the risks of death, bodily injury, property damage, fire or explosion, the unavailability of emergency medical care, or the negligence or deliberate act of another person.
3. Summer Volunteer Program participant agrees to hold Summer Volunteer Program or any Partner Organizations and all of its successors, assigns, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors, employees and agents completely harmless and not liable and release them from all liability whatsoever and **agrees not to sue** them on account of or in connection with any claims, causes of action, injuries, damages, cost or expenses arising out of Summer Volunteer Program participant's participation in the program and use of or presence of facilities in India, including without limitation, those based on death, bodily injury, property damage, including consequential damages, except if the damages are caused by the direct, willful and wanton negligence of the Summer Volunteer Program coordinator.
4. Summer Volunteer Program participant agrees to waive the protection afforded by any statute or law in any jurisdiction whose purpose, substance and/or effect is to provide that a general release shall not extend to claims, material or otherwise, which the person giving the release does not know or suspect to exist at the time of executing the release.
5. Summer Volunteer Program participant agrees to indemnify and defend Summer Volunteer Program or it's Partner Organizations against, and holds it harmless from, any and all claims, causes of action, damages, judgments, costs or expenses, including attorney's fees, which in any way arise from the Summer Volunteer Program participant's participation in this program in India.
6. Summer Volunteer Program participant agrees to abide by all Rules and Regulations stated at the time of Orientation and in this Program Overview Document.
7. This contract is non-assignable and non-transferable and is made and entered into the State of \_\_\_\_\_, and shall be enforced and interpreted under the laws of this state. Should any clause be in conflict with State Law, then that clause is null and void. When Summer Volunteer's Chairman and participant and participant's parent or guardian, if Summer Volunteer Program participant is a minor, sign this contract, it will then be binding on both parties, subject to the above terms and conditions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of the Volunteer (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Volunteer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Guardian (if under 18)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Guardian

Subscribed and sworn before me \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Notary Public)

My commission expires \_\_\_\_\_