

VOLUNTEER WITH A SCHOOL, COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY GROUP



Group Volunteering

Group volunteering is a great way to build confidence, share an amazing experience and increase your individual and team-building skills. Volunteering does not need to be expensive the Paraguay volunteering programme does

not charge volunteers for accommodation and coordinated support. Alternative options, a little closer to home include Ghana and Morocco.

Ghana - £75 pounds a week, which includes accommodation, coordinated support and all local transport

Morocco - £81 pounds a week, which includes accommodation and coordinated support.

Tailor-made packages to suit your group

- Sports and outdoor activities
- Playwork / nursery education with younger children
- Teaching – English, Maths
- Hands on work – painting, maintenance
- Healthcare – work shadowing at clinics (Ghana only)

Original Volunteers can provide tailor-made volunteering packages to suit. Your visit can focus on one area of work, perhaps linked to a specific course of study or a variety of different experiences.

Groups will often try out two or more different areas of work on one visit. Local co-ordinators can also organise a varied schedule for you, choosing the best elements for your group.

At the time of booking, if you already know what your group would like to focus on, just let us know and we will inform the coordinator for you. Perhaps you may prefer to leave it open until your group has decided or let the coordinator arrange a variety for you after arrival. Each project is very flexible and has a variety of options available to you.

Group Volunteering / General information

Length of visit

Most college groups visit between 1 week and 10 days because of commitments and budgets at home, although there is no limit to how long a group can stay for.

The local coordinators will try to provide as much of an overview and insight as they can into volunteering in their country regardless of the length of stay.

Flights cost the same for a longer stay as they would for one week, so longer stays can sometimes work out more economical on a weekly basis if the visit is longer.

What happens next?

1. Contact Us

Get in touch with us at Original Volunteers and let us help you to find the project that best suits the needs of your group. General project information can be found on the individual pages of the Ghana, Morocco and Paraguay website pages.

2. Register

A registration with us will secure the place of everyone in the group on their chosen project for their chosen month of arrival; we do not need exact dates at this stage. Registration costs £125 and lasts for one year from the day of arrival at the first project. By registering, each individual group member has the opportunity to travel and volunteer again without paying a further registration fee.

Payment for Projects

Ghana

The cost for group volunteering in Ghana is £75 per person per week; this covers accommodation, two meals a day, all transport and co-ordinated support. Payable either on arrival or can be paid directly to the programme manager before travel.

Morocco

The cost for group volunteering in Morocco is £81 per person per week; this covers accommodation and co-ordinated support. This is payable before departure. You can do this over the phone or via cheque.

Paraguay

There is no charge for accommodation for participating volunteers on the Paraguay project. Accommodation, airport pick-up, transfer and co-ordinates support are all provided free of charge.



How to Apply

There are three ways to book.

A group leader can call us on 0800 345 75 82 and reserve the places for every group member. Registration fees can be made by one payment by phone, via cheque or bank transfer (please contact us for bank details).

Each group member can apply individually by phone or online at originalvolunteers.co.uk at any time. It is not necessary for all group members to register online on the same day. In order for us to know you are part of a group, in the box titled Extra Information state the organisation you are with e.g. UEA Ghana August Group or the name of the group leader e.g. Chris Smith group.

Named Group Leader(s)

For groups, a group leader(s) must be identified. The group leader(s) is responsible for:

- Conversing with Original Volunteers and relaying the information back to the others in the group between booking and departure.
- Obtaining signed parental consent forms for under 18s. (These are provided to you by Original Volunteers after booking).
- Ensuring all documentation (flights, forms etc.) have been forwarded to Original Volunteers before travel.
- Ensuring all group members are aware of local costs and informed of how much spending money is required.
- The supervision and safety of all group members and relaying advice from local co-ordinators to their group.
- Keeping all group members informed

The first information mailing will be by email direct to each group member if we have everyone's email address.

Each group member will receive the same information directly from Original Volunteers as they would for independent/non-group volunteers. To maintain effective communication it is preferred that a named group leader makes general enquiries on the group's behalf although we will answer any individual enquiries from any group members who contact us directly by email or telephone at any time.



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Need some advice? Call us today: 0800 345 75 82 | www.originalvolunteers.co.uk |

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Group Volunteering / General information



Projects Explained Schedule

Formal groups often visit for short periods of 1 or 2 weeks or somewhere in between. If no preferences have been received before arrival a varied schedule will be arranged for your group. Most schedules involve part-time volunteering and this usually takes place in the afternoons, allowing each individual volunteer to take the mornings off, enabling them to create their own experience, whether relaxing or exploring the immediate area. A day or two each week is set aside for longer excursions and relaxation as the group prefers.

Experience and preparation

Informal orientation and training is custom designed and arranged for each group. On arrival, the group is shown around the local area by the project co-ordinator and an orientation is provided. No experience is necessary for volunteering; as long as you are enthusiastic you will do fine.

Support

Ghana, Morocco and Paraguay projects all offer a dedicated English speaking co-ordinator and support team.

What to Wear

There is no formal dress code. A 'what to wear' guidance sheet is provided to all Morocco volunteers. Groups are welcome to wear their own organisations T-shirts or hats. Alternatively if preferred, groups can purchase an Original Volunteers T-shirt.

Accommodation and Meals

Ghana

Accommodation for large groups is usually provided by wealthier English speaking families with large properties; who are used to catering for groups travelling together. Smaller groups may be placed in one of the main volunteer houses with independent volunteers. Bedrooms will be shared dormitory style, with shared modern bathrooms. Breakfast and dinner are provided to group members whilst volunteering in Ghana. Local cafes may be used

Morocco

Accommodation in Morocco is usually a traditional courtyard Riad in the Medina or a modern Moroccan style apartment. Smaller groups may be placed in one of the main volunteer houses with independent volunteers. Morocco is a self-catering project. The main square, which is within walking distance, has cafés and supermarkets where volunteers can buy food. All properties offer a communal kitchen, which can be used by volunteers. When eating out, a local meal costs on average approximately £5. For volunteers staying on the outskirts with a host family, all meals are provided as volunteers sit and eat with the family.

Paraguay

Accommodation in Paraguay is a shared volunteer apartment or house. For smaller groups, volunteers will be placed with the independent volunteers. Paraguay is a self-catering project. Up the road, within 15 minutes walking distance from the accommodation is a large modern supermarket where volunteers go to purchase food. There is also a buffet with western style food available. A typical meal costs about £2.

Group leaders

A Week before Departure

The group leader must make final confirmation with Original Volunteers that everything that needs to be done has been completed, this involves making sure each group member has sent their flights, forms and any other documentation asked for.

In addition the group leader must make sure

for Morocco visits, the accommodation payment has been provided he/she is satisfied that each member has enough money to cover themselves during their visit (please ask us for advice based on groups preferences) every member has obtained or is covered by travel insurance to cover medical bills and repatriation should they require it each member is aware of the baggage allowance of the airline they are travelling with (please note budget carriers to Morocco Easyjet and Ryanair offer very limited allowance)



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Supporting the group

Group leaders may want to have a group meeting within the first couple of days to see how things are progressing and if everyone is settled in. This provides an opportunity to iron out anything before the visit has finished. Group meetings can be quick and informal, although some natural leaders may emerge, others take a back seat and it may take a confident person to keep the meeting focused and close it productively.

Group meetings do not suit all groups or all group leaders and it may be preferable to speak to every group member individually. By speaking individually a more accurate picture can be gained and the group leader may be able to reassure the individual on the spot.



Leaders may want to consider the following questions:

- Are they enjoying things?
- Is it what they expected?
- How are they getting on with the rest of the group?
- Do they feel confident or is there anything they are unsure of?
- How are they getting on with the weather, day to day life, health?
- Is there anything they would like you as leader to help with so they can get more out of their experience?
- Would they like you to talk through anything with the coordinator on their behalf?

Speaking with individual group members in turn can be time consuming and may take up a whole evening if conversation flows easily.

Once the meeting/s have been done, if they weren't present, it is a good idea to report back to the coordinator.