



APPLICATION FORMS & PROCEDURES

We are thrilled that you are taking this next step to go abroad. Although *Cultural Embrace's* application process is simple, it is very important that we receive all your up-to-date information to secure a proper placement.

Once we receive your completed application packet, we will contact you to discuss further how your time abroad will be an experience of a lifetime! This will give us a chance to know you better so we can meet your needs. We want to be open and honest of what you should expect from our program and living abroad.

Upon receipt of your program fee, we will begin to find your placement. Please be patient with this process as it takes time to match you appropriately with your requirements. However, we are ALWAYS available for questions and comments.

Please send your completed application packet to us at:

CULTURAL EMBRACE
7201 Bill Hughes Road
Austin, TX 78745 USA

We highly recommend that you certify your packet. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at any time by email at info@culturalembrace.com or at +1-512-469-9089 or +1-888-214-8570.

Volunteer Application Checklist

- ◇ Program Application
- ◇ Signed Volunteer Agreement
- ◇ Copy of your passport (information page only)
- ◇ Copies of diplomas, transcripts and/or certificates related to field of interest (if applicable)
- ◇ Resume/CV
- ◇ Cover letter explaining what you want to do and why you want to provide a foreign service
- ◇ Two letters of recommendation--professional and/or character reference
- ◇ Doctor's record verifying that you are in excellent mental and physical health
- ◇ Police background security check
- ◇ Two 1 ½" x 2" passport size photos
- ◇ Full-length photo (alone or with friends or family)
- ◇ US\$200 non-refundable deposit (credited to your program fee)

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Share the Differences...



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM APPLICATION

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name: _____
First Middle Last

Birth Date: _____ Gender: _____ Age: _____
mo/day/year

Mailing Address: _____
Street

City State Zip (until when)

Phone Number (s): _____ Best time to be reached: _____

Email Address: _____ Preferred way to contact? Phone Email

Passport Number: _____
Number Country Exp. Date

Emergency Contact Info: _____
Name

Phone Email Relation to you

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM INFORMATION:

What Volunteer program are you applying for?:

- Africa Australia China Cambodia India
 Latin America New Zealand Thailand Vietnam United States

Preferred Country/City (if applicable): _____

End/Start Date: _____

Area Work of Interest/Project Placement: _____

Cultural Embrace ♦ 7201 Bill Hughes Road ♦ Austin, Texas 78745 U.S.A. ♦

♦ Ph: 888-214-8570/512-469-9089 ♦ info@culturalembrace.com ♦ www.culturalembrace.com ♦

I would *prefer* to volunteer in:

- small town/rural area small city large city anywhere that needs me

Rank in order your preferred living arrangements: (please note, this depends on each project, location & availability)

Housing (1 = best 4 = like least)

- ___ Share housing with local
___ Share housing with another foreigner
___ Live with host family
___ Live in single accommodations
___ Other

Meals (1 = best 4 = like least)

- ___ Like to cook my own meals
___ Like to eat out most of the time
___ School/job provide meal(s)
___ Eat with host family
___ Other

Are you taking medication? Yes No

If yes, please list below. (Note: prescription medicine may not be available at foreign country)

List any allergies or medical conditions: _____

SKILLS & EXPERIENCES:

Do you have any background skills to the project you are participating in: Yes No

Please describe: _____

List any training/experience related to this program you are applying to: _____

Do you speak any foreign languages?: Yes No

If yes, which one(s)? _____

List any overseas work/study/travel experience: _____

List your hobbies/interests: _____

How did you hear about Cultural Embrace? (please be specific): _____

Refer Friends & Family (*earn up to \$50 cash or \$100 credit towards another C.E. program*)

Name: _____ Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email: _____ Email: _____

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Volunteer Program Agreement

I, the undersigned (and/or my parent if I am under 18), an applicant to CULTURAL EMBRACE's Volunteer Program, am aware that my participation is contingent upon my understanding and agreement to the conditions listed below.

1. I agree that all the information provided in my application is true, and acknowledge that any false or misleading information may lead to immediate dismissal from the program.
2. I agree to be responsible for all fees and costs associated to the program costs, international travel, visas, health inoculations and immunizations and/or additional insurance.
3. I agree to follow the cancellation/refund policy listed below if I withdraw from the program.
4. I agree that the fees and information are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations and other unforeseen circumstances.
5. I understand that if a class or program is cancelled due to insufficient participation or unforeseen circumstances, I can choose another program and pay or receive the difference of the new program fee. However, if I choose to cancel, *Cultural Embrace* is responsible for reimbursing the amount of the program fee only. Refunds for application fees, transportation, health and travel document expenses are not applicable.
6. I agree that it is my responsibility to obtain a valid passport and any necessary visas, immunizations and required documents in order to enter all countries visited for this program. I shall hold *Cultural Embrace* harmless in the case where I may not obtain the necessary documents and understand that the inability to obtain the necessary documents does not constitute grounds for withdrawal with refund.
7. I understand that *Cultural Embrace* recommends placements and matches, but has no ability to make final decisions. All final placement decisions are made by the hiring institution or organization and communicated to *Cultural Embrace*.
8. I agree to communicate with my local host and program representatives, as well as *Cultural Embrace's* staff to try and resolve any questions abroad. In the event that services and accommodations outlined are not met due to causes beyond the control of *Cultural Embrace*, I understand that I will give sufficient notice and time for all efforts to be made to provide comparable services and accommodations.
9. I understand that if I choose to operate motorized vehicles, I am responsible for obtaining the necessary license, permission and insurance.
10. I agree that in the event that I do not complete the term of my contract, for any reason, *Cultural Embrace* shall not be obligated to refund any part of the program fee.
11. I understand that *Cultural Embrace* reserves the right to dismiss a participant from a program who is deemed, by *Cultural Embrace*, the host institution, or local government, to be a danger to him/herself or others. In the event of such dismissal, *Cultural Embrace* shall not be held responsible for any airfare, charges or any other expenses incurred by the participant, and shall not be required to return any fees paid by the participant.
12. I agree to waive any and all claims against *Cultural Embrace* and its agents or contractors, domestic and overseas, and any staff members, their heirs or their estate, arising from any death, injury, loss, damage, accident, delay, irregularity, or expense to person or property incurred from the use of any vehicle or service, strikes, war, weather, sickness, quarantine, terrorist acts, government restrictions or regulations, or arising from any act of omission of any airline, railroad, bus company, steamship, sightseeing, hotel or any other service or transporting company, firm, individual, or agency.
13. I also release *Cultural Embrace* and its agents, domestic and overseas, servants, employees, or contractors from any financial obligations or liabilities that I may incur or any damage or injury to me or the person or property of others that I may cause while participating in this program.
14. I agree that I am in good physical and mental health and that I have no special medical or physical conditions, nor any special needs or requirements, which would impede participation in the program. If I suffer from any health or other conditions that would create a risk for me or others while abroad, I shall not apply or withdraw from the program.
15. I agree full responsibility for reading and understanding all materials made available that relate to safety, health, legal, political, environmental, cultural and religious customs and conditions in my host country and community.
16. I agree that if I have special dietary requirements and/or food and medical allergies, I will take complete responsibility for my food and medicine intake.
17. I understand that *Cultural Embrace* is not responsible for any costs arising from the loss or theft of any of my personal property during this program.

18. I understand that all travel before, during and after the program is at my own risk.

Program Fee Payment:

Cultural Embrace charges a program fee to cover the many expenses associated with providing you a safe and quality-controlled international program. We will invoice you the remainder of your program fee upon acceptance of your phone interview. 50% of your program fee must be received within 15 days to begin processing your placement. Acceptance and confirmation of a placement will not be made until FULL payment is received. Non-receipt of payment will result in automatic withdrawal from the program and subject to cancellation and refund policy.

* *Cultural Embrace* will require an expedited application fee if you apply in less time than the specific requirements per program. Please check with *Cultural Embrace's* website, program details or Program Coordinator for the specific application deadlines for your program.*

Application Process:

Once we receive your completed application packet, we will contact you to set up a 20-30 minutes phone interview. This will give us a better chance to know you better, and vice versa, so we can meet each other's needs and understand what to expect during your time abroad. Upon acceptance of your application and phone interview, we will send you an acceptance letter (typically email) with your program fee invoice (your \$200 application fee will be credited towards this invoice.)

Ideally, we would like full payment of your program fee at your earliest convenience. However, if you need to pay in increments, you may organize a reasonable schedule with your Program Coordinator. We require at least 50% of your program invoice within 15 days to begin processing your placement. Acceptance and confirmation of a placement will not be made until FULL payment is received.

Placement Process:

Cultural Embrace typically mails you a *Pre-departure Handbook* about 4-6 weeks prior to your departure date. This handbook includes useful tips, advice, and information to prepare you for the amazing adventure of being abroad. We will also share more information about international traveler's insurance and whether you want coverage with one of our preferred insurance companies. The 'final details' of your program is usually emailed to you at our earliest convenience with confirmation of placement details, airport pickup, housing, emergency details, and more (if applicable).

Program Transfers or Postponement:

Cultural Embrace understands certain situations arise and you may need to transfer or postpone your program. If so, you must send your specific request with an updated preferred start/end date in writing to the appropriate Program Coordinator. *Cultural Embrace* will try to offset any penalty costs however, we often incur administrative and in-country expenses and may not be able to fill your placement. To offset these expenses, a non-refundable switch fee will apply to your account based on the program and when the program changes have been requested. A minimum \$50 administrative fee will apply, but please contact your Program Coordinator for any additional terms and costs.

Program Extensions:

If you are interested in extending your placement once it has begun, you can add extra days or weeks through your *Cultural Embrace* Program Coordinator, or at the program location, so long as there is available space for you. You will typically need to pay for the additions at the program location, and your Program Coordinator will be able to confirm all details.

On-Program Early Departure

If you choose to leave your program early, you must notify your local coordinator and Austin's Program Coordinator. Neither coordinators will be responsible for you or any additional costs you may incur because you are leaving the program early. Program fees are not refundable in this case.

Cancellation/Refund Policy:

Cultural Embrace makes time and financial commitments to your placement prior to your program start date, requiring us to implement a refund policy. *Cultural Embrace* is not responsible for any transportation, travel, visa, and/or health related fees that may have incurred. If cancellation of program is required, we must receive a notice in writing. Expediting fees, if applied, are not subject to any refunds. If the participant withdraws, fees will be charged accordingly:

- 60+ days prior to preferred departure date 15% of Program - \$200 Application fee
 - 31-59 days prior to preferred departure date 25% of Program - \$200 Application fee
 - 15-30 days prior to preferred departure date 50% of Program - \$200 Application fee
 - 1-14 days prior to preferred departure date 75% of Program - \$200 Application fee
- *NO refunds will be provided if a participant withdraws after the program start date.

I certify that I have read and understood this agreement and that I accept all conditions stated for participation.

Signature of Participant

Date

Printed Name of Participant

If participant is under the age of 18 years old, signature of parent/legal guardian required:

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

Date

Printed Name of Parent/Legal Guardian

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Share the Differences...