



## Guide: Complete Program Information

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### **Why choose to volunteer in Ghana?**

Ghana is known as the perfect introduction to the African Continent. Ghanaians are known for their friendliness, I guarantee if you go to Ghana you will go home with a friend or two!

When you choose Ghana as your destination you will have the opportunity to see three different climates of Africa. Ghana has it all the desert, rainforest, and Coastal Plains!

Ghanaians take great pride in their political stability, having been the 1<sup>st</sup> Sub-Saharan African country to gain independence in 1957. You will not have to worry about your program being cancelled or affected by spontaneous turmoil like in other African countries.

Ghanaians appreciate international volunteers. While the country's middle class is increasing, there are many people without jobs and unable to read and write. In Koforidua, where the GHVN is based, volunteers are greatly needed. Koforidua is the capital of the Central Region in Ghana. Typically government funding is scarce in this region. For that reason, the schools, public programs, and people in the region are in need. As a volunteer you can make a difference.

### **What makes Ghana Volunteer Network Different?**

Now that you have decided to volunteer in Ghana, why choose to volunteer with the Ghana Volunteer Network? We are different because, we are a small organization, we have a substantial local presence, our programs are affordable, we can customize programs for volunteers with special skills or groups, and we have designed the program with volunteers in mind.

Small company – Because we are small, GHVN can customize programs for you as an individual or a group. We are able to adjust quickly to any changes in the country or project to make your experience better, without going through any red tape.

Local Offices – We’ve located our office in the dorm in Koforidua, which means you will see your volunteer coordinator on a daily basis. You can ask any questions and deal with any concerns immediately. Not only that, but since our offices are right there, we have a personal relationship with the volunteer projects. You benefit from this because if the project changes we know long before a company based in your home country.

Affordable Programs – We understand that you want a program that will provide you with the services that you need for a successful trip abroad without breaking the bank. You will receive unrivaled in-country support and travel insurance that includes medical coverage.

Special Programs available – If you have a skill that is beneficial to our local partners, we can arrange a project for you based around your abilities. Similarly, we can arrange programs suitable for large groups from any kind of organization. Since we are located where the program is we are able to sit down with our partners and create a once in a lifetime experience for you!

Volunteer Centered Program – We know that part of your decision to volunteer in Ghana is to see the country and experience the culture. We have built in the opportunity for you to do just that on your three day weekends. Your work schedule will be Monday through Thursday, so that you can explore on your three day weekend.

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Teaching English – Assist teachers in the classroom in rural elementary schools

Teaching Sports – Assist teachers in the classroom and on the field in elementary schools

Childcare Project– Community Education, Day Care Centers & Children’s Homes

Health Care Project – Gain insight into the Ghanaian Health Care System. The project is based in a large hospital.

National Parks & Reserves – Work in National Parks and reserves, helping the park with its daily functions.

## Program Hosting Fees

\* There is an additional charge of \$200 for the Healthcare & National Parks projects

<b>International Program Fees</b> Currency US Dollar		<b>European Union Program Fees</b> Currency UK Pound	
2 weeks for 646 USD Plus \$165 for each extra week		2 weeks for 390 GBP Plus £100 for each extra week	
3 weeks	\$807	3 weeks	£490
4 weeks	\$968	4 weeks	£590
5 weeks	\$1129	5 weeks	£690
6 weeks	\$1290	6 weeks	£790
8 weeks	\$1612	8 weeks	£990
10 weeks	\$1934	10 weeks	£1190
12 weeks	\$2256	12 weeks	£1390
14 weeks	\$2578	14 weeks	£1590
16 weeks	\$2900	16 weeks	£1790
18 weeks	\$3222	18 weeks	£1990
20 weeks	\$3544	20 weeks	£2190

### Excludes

Flight, visa costs, local transportation and personal expenses.

### Program Fee includes

Pre-arrival Documents – you will receive further information about your project and Ghana prior to your arrival in the country.

Accommodations – Staying in our volunteer dorm, you will have the chance to live with up to 9 volunteer from all over the world. You can make friends with like-minded volunteer from other countries. The dorm has three single sex rooms, furnished with bunk beds. There is plenty of space to hang out.

Meals – Breakfast and dinner are provided daily, by the local cook in the dormitory.

In Country Orientation and a City Tour - As a volunteer on our program you will participate in orientation and take a tour of Koforidua. You will learn about the culture, history, and local customs in Ghana. During your tour you will see the sights of Koforidua, the market, have a local lunch, and learn to use the local transportation (tro-tros and taxis). By the end of the day you will know the best place for lunch, where the banks are, and how to buy anything that you may need during your stay.

Volunteer Placement - GHVN will arrange a rewarding project for you. We work closely with our projects, so that we can make sure that you are having a great time, while making a difference.

24 Hour in Country Support – Your volunteer coordinator is available to you 24 hours a day in the case of an emergency. In addition to this you will see your coordinator daily as the local office is located within the dormitory where you will be living.

Social Activities – You will have a great time socializing with other volunteers and Ghanaians. Your arrival weekend will be full of social activities. Besides orientation and a city tour, friends and staff will accompany you out to a local restaurant for dinner. Also there is a special activity planned for you on Sunday.

Letter of Completion – Everyone’s resume needs that extra something. Volunteering is a great way to make your resume stand out. We provide you with a letter of completion that you can provide your school or future employer.

## **Arrival Dates**

Our Program Arrival dates are scheduled every other Friday. This is the date you arrive in country. Please plan for your flight to arrive before 8PM.

### Dates for 2014

September 12 & 26	October 10 & 24	November 7 & 21	December 5 & 19
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### Dates for 2015

January 2, 16 & 30	February 13 & 27	March 10 & 24	April 10 & 24
May 8 & 22	June 5 & 19	July 3 & 17 & 31	August 14 & 28
September 11 & 25	October 9 & 23	November 6 & 20	December 4 & 18

## **Project Details**

### Teaching English

Volunteering at a rural elementary school or orphanage in Koforidua is a rewarding experience. Teachers need help with teaching English, despite it being the official. Ghanaians speak tribal languages at home and many students leave school without mastering English. Speaking English is a requirement for finding a good job; so many Ghanaians find themselves struggling.

Your role as an assistant English teacher is to help with pronunciation and intonation. Local teachers are well versed in the grammatical aspect of the language, but appreciate help with conversational skills. You do not need to be a professional teacher; just your participation in the program will encourage students. Support the teacher, by creating opportunities for the children to practice their speaking and listening skills.

In addition to helping with the English class, you may be asked to help in other subjects. Since all classes are taught in English, your participation in a Math or Science class is to help the children improve their pronunciation of words related to the subjects that they are learning in class, as well as the basic concepts. If you have a particular subject that you are interested in helping with, let the enrollment officer known while you are booking your program.

### Quick Facts

- Age – 17 and older
- Minimum duration – 2 weeks
- Advanced English Speaking Skills Required
- Dress Code – Teachers are valued members of the community, it is important to dress smartly and conservatively.
- Materials to bring – Feel free to bring your educational materials; expect to use local supplies that you may not be familiar with while in Ghana.
- Schedule – Monday to Thursday from 8:00 to 2:00
- Project Closed
  - Christmas: Three weeks beginning the second week of December
  - Easter: 3 weeks in April
  - Summer holidays: Six weeks starting the first week of August ending in the middle of September
  - National holidays: Please check our website for the various dates
- Not Suitable for Families and Groups

## Teaching Sports

If you are a sports enthusiastic, teaching sports is the project for you. On this project we do not need a professional teacher or coach, but a volunteer who loves to play sports. In Ghana many athletes from other region of Ghana, are sponsored by their schools, families, and sporting establishments. These athletes are more likely to be given the opportunity to play sports professionally. This option is not probable for great athletes in Koforidua.

Volunteers can help change this in Koforidua, by participating in our sports program. You can teach the students the rules of the game as well as play with them. Demonstrate how to play the game and let them show you what they can do! Teach your favorites sport. Some of the sports previous volunteers have taught include: football/soccer, hockey, basketball, baseball, tennis, badminton, track and field, and volleyball.

The main tasks you will complete in the project are: planning theoretical lessons, assisting the teachers to set up for sports classes, teaching the students new techniques, setting up and participating in local tournaments, and encouraging the children to get active.

### Quick Facts

- Age Requirements – 17+
- Minimum Duration – 2 weeks
- Dress Code:
  - Classroom – teachers are highly respected members of the community in Ghana. Dress smart and modestly.
  - On the Field – wear lightweight modest sportswear. Short shorts and tank tops are not appropriate for an educational setting.
- Materials – Plan on improvising in regards to equipment and facilities. Feel free to bring equipment to use while you are teaching sports. If you would like to fundraise or bring donations, please contact the enrollment officer before doing so.
- Work Schedule
  - Morning Session - 7:00 am to 10:00 am, classes theoretical
  - Afternoon – 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm, practical classes and clinics
- Project Closed Dates
  - Easter Holidays – 3 weeks in March/April
  - Summer Holidays – 6 weeks starting the 1st week of August
  - Christmas - 3 weeks starting the 2nd week of December

- Not Suitable for Groups or Families

### Child Care Projects

As a volunteer you will be working in one of the many non-government based orphanages in Koforidua. The main task you will complete is being a supportive, affectionate, and comforting role model for the children. In addition to spending time with the children, the orphanage also has a school where you will be asked to help with the classes. Volunteers help with basic classes in English, Math, Reading, and life skills.

The children living in these orphanages are fortunate to be provided for and even have access to education. But the staff is unable to provide as much one-on-one attention as they would like. Volunteers, who take the time to share and give their love to the children, are greatly appreciated.

While volunteering you will be doing the following tasks: playing with the children; feeding and cleaning the toddlers; checking to see that all the children complete their chores; helping the teachers during school hours; teaching English as well as other subjects; playing sports and recreational activities with the children; assisting with homework; helping in the kitchen and serving meals; and organize activities for the children. When school is not in session it is essential to come prepared to organize activities to entertain the kids.

### Quick Facts

- Age Requirements – 17 +, younger volunteers are welcome in a group
- Minimum Duration – 2 weeks
- Dress Code – casual and conservative clothing, you are a role model for the children. It is important to dress with this in mind.
- Work Schedule – Monday to Thursday 4-6 hours per day
  - During the School Year
    - You have two options during the school day
      - Help with the classes, assist the teachers in subjects like English, Math and Geography
      - Help with daily tasks of the orphanage, including cooking, cleaning, serving meals, and caring for the children on breaks
  - School Holidays
    - Children will be at the orphanage all day. This time of the year volunteer's assistance is really needed.

- Come prepared with activities to keep the children entertained.
- Project Closed Dates - None
- Suitable for Groups and Families

### Health Care

Volunteers in this program will be volunteering in one of two hospitals in Koforidua. You will be placed in the department, which you specialize in. Departments that you can work in include general ward, maternity, accident and emergency, nursing and dentistry, orthopedics, pharmacy, surgery, and physical therapy.

While volunteering you will be working below the department head, with a member of hospital staff. All volunteers will have the opportunity to work with local doctors, medical students, and patients.

You also can choose to volunteer in multiple departments during your volunteer program. A medical student would highly benefit from several placements. A four week placement in each department is necessary for this opportunity.

Experience first-hand how doctors and nurse work in a developing country like Ghana. You will see patients with diseases uncommon in your own country. There may be different techniques and procedures that you are unfamiliar with, keep an open mind.

To take part in this project you will need to show that you are a medical student or work in the medical field.

### Quick Facts

- Age Requirements – 18+
- Minimum Duration – 4 weeks
- Language Requirements – Advanced English
- Dress Code – Professional dress is the norm in Ghanaian hospitals. You will be expected to follow the hospital dress code.
- Work Schedule
  - Monday through Thursday – 8:00 am to 3:00 pm
  - This is a tentative schedule, your hours may vary depending on location or department
- Project Closed Dates – None
- Not suitable for families or groups