

Service Visit Sneak Peek



1. What is the service project?

An opportunity for the youth of Bala Vihar in United States to volunteer at one of our CORD centers in India

2. How will my child benefit from this project?

Volunteering directly with the less privileged will provide them with a wonderful opportunity for inner growth and development of the student.

3. What is the duration of this project?

Approximately two weeks, it is not possible to attend part-time. Students & chaperones will not be allowed to leave the program in the middle unless in case of emergency.

Where: CORD Siruvani, Tamil Nadu

Dates: 14th July to 27th July 2024

Details: We will open for chaperones soon. We open the applications for students only after interviewing and finalizing the chaperones.

4. What is the eligible age to participate?

Student volunteer must be 15 years of age by this July **and** be a rising 10th grader or above for the academic year 2024-2025. We will do background checking for chaperones. Students must be currently enrolled in Bala Vihar program in order to apply. Continuous enrollment for the past few years with good attendance is preferred.

5. What is the timeline of application process?

Applications are initially open only for chaperones. Chaperone application will be open for six weeks or as soon as we **select** the chaperones needed for the trip. Only after that will student applications be open. Student applications will be open for two months or till we **select** the number of students needed for the trip. When you register, an acknowledgement message will be sent to you. This is not a confirmation of your participation. After the selection, emails will be sent with a list of all the students who are confirmed to attend the service visit. Students and chaperones who were not selected will also be notified, so there is no need to check with us about the update. **Please do not buy tickets until you receive the confirmation email.**

Selection is done by a team of national and regional coordinators after a thorough review process and their decisions are final.

6. What will the student be doing as part of this volunteer program?

The activities involve working with the various programs that CORD offers including field visits. These activities include but are not limited to interacting with Bala Vihar children, adolescent girls, differently abled and Mahila Mandal groups. Several days of physical labor such as village clean up, building toilets, digging azolla pits and compost pits is built into the activities. Students must be prepared to perform physical activities in warm sunny weather. Clothes and shoes will get dirty during the field activities. Hiking and walking are necessary parts of the field activity. Students as well as chaperones must have the physical ability to engage in these activities without assistance.

7. What is expected of the student?

After the list of the students is finalized, there will be several teleconferences leading up to the visit. Students are expected to participate in all the teleconferences. This trip is driven by the motivation and participation of the students. If a student misses two or more teleconferences, he or she will be unable to participate in the service visit.

Students must strictly adhere to the volunteer guidelines of the host facility and the instructions of the chaperones. Wearing modest outfits during the service visit is mandatory and critical to the success of the program. Please note that going to the visit will not automatically qualify the students for the hours, their conduct and service will be considered for eligibility of service hours.

After returning from the service visit, students must volunteer for a CORDUSA project within this academic year. We can guide on different local projects they can get involved with. Please apply only if you are willing to do so.

8. What are the Registration fees and the overall cost of the program?

Charge for the trip is \$1500 per person (students and chaperones). At the time of registration, an online payment link will be provided for a \$250 **non-refundable** registration fee. Once the student is accepted to the service visit, an online payment of \$1250 needs to be made within three days of notification. All payments are non-refundable. The charge of \$1500 will cover boarding, food and project transportation **after** the student/chaperone reaches the CORD center at the commencement of the trip. Airfare to India, transportation fares to the CORD facility at the beginning of the trip, and to get back from the CORD center at the end of the trip, other incidental expenses during the trip etc. are individual's responsibility. There is no other charge or fee for the service visit itself. Additional individual contributions to support local projects are welcome.

Students are required to pay INR 10,000.00 to the chaperones at the beginning of the trip towards incidental expenses. This money will cover any expenses for a day off, or other incidental expenses that may arise. Remainder of the money will be handed to the student by the chaperone at the end of the trip in Indian currency.

Chaperones arrange the travel between the muster point and the CORD center and back to the muster point. Parents will be notified of the exact amount due once the arrangements/bookings are made and are required to make the payment to the chaperone ASAP (within a specified time).

9. How can I apply?

Please wait for the applications to be open, first for chaperones and later for the students. Applications must be filled out by the person who is going for the visit and NOT by parents or someone else.