



LIFE International

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Becoming a LIFE International Volunteer

The Preparation

Travel with LIFE International would best be thought of as a short-term mission experience. When a candidate receives an assignment to a particular international trip, he or she will begin to work with a staff person one on one in preparation and planning for the trip. LIFE staff will do their utmost to cross-culturally prepare each volunteer by assigning related reading materials and by providing information specific to the trip and culture. It will be the volunteer's responsibility to complete all preparation requirements.

It will also be the volunteer's responsibility, in most cases, to raise the funds necessary to cover his or her portion of the trip. (There may be a few exceptions where LIFE will have funds to cover the cost for an experienced trainer.) LIFE staff will be happy to answer questions about fundraising or to provide suggestions.

The Process

Because of the intricacies of international relationships, all volunteer candidates must satisfactorily complete the volunteer process in order to be considered a LIFE volunteer. All travel opportunities and participation in assignments will be at the discretion of LIFE staff.

First time participants will join a LIFE team to **observe** and support the team in prayer. The volunteer will see LIFE's ministry philosophy in action, gain cross-cultural experience, and develop relationships with LIFE staff in order to assess future volunteer opportunities. The volunteer will be a vital part of the team by acting as an intercessor for the team and for LIFE's international friends.

After the initial "observer" trip, based on assessment of the volunteer's ability to adapt and relate well cross-culturally, LIFE can consider ways for the volunteer to accept more responsibility on future trips. In conjunction with LIFE staff, the volunteer may **participate** in trainings by being given an appropriate assignment to assist with segments of the training.

As the volunteer becomes proficient in LIFE's philosophy and demonstrates adeptness and comfort in cross-cultural relationships, he or she may have opportunity to **train** in area(s) of expertise.

How to Begin

Pray—ask God how you can live out His heart for the nations.

Respond—go online and complete the volunteer application.

Hang On—expect to be changed forever!

Completion of the application form will begin the journey of exploring volunteer service with LIFE International. The purpose of the application is for LIFE staff to get to know the applicant, his/her passions and skill-sets, availability, and interests. The applicant's responses will provide LIFE International with essential information for assessment and assignment. After review of the completed application, LIFE staff will determine whether the applicant is a candidate for international travel. At this stage a LIFE staff person will work more closely with the candidate to decide on an assignment. The entire process from application to assignment varies greatly based on an appropriate opportunity to match the gifts, skills, interest and availability of the candidate with a scheduled international trip.

To access the application instructions and forms, visit the *Get Involved* page of the LIFE International website.