

Guidelines for Grants and Volunteers

Grant Application Guidelines

- All applications will be reviewed by the Foundation Board.
- Grants will depend on available funding; the grant will not exceed \$3,000.
- Volunteer service must be for non-profit organizations or causes that restore or conserve natural habitats or for humanitarian efforts in disadvantaged communities or populations.
- The volunteer activity must take place in Colorado, developing countries in Central or South America, Africa, or Asia, or in areas affected by natural disasters or other crises.
- Applications are typically reviewed within two months of submittal. Applicants will have 6 months upon approval of proposals to use the allocated funds unless otherwise approved by the Board.
- Grant applicants must be 18 years of age or accompanied by an adult over 18.

When requesting a grant for a project that involves volunteering, applicants should determine the benefit to the host community by asking the following questions and considering the “food for thought” below.

Questions to ask when researching volunteer-based projects:

- Are locals involved in the project and/or are they supportive or want the project?
- Does the project require a skill or expertise, and can the volunteer provide that?
- Is the host community really benefiting from the volunteer?
- Could lack of experience harm the host community or delay the project?
- How much time is needed to have a positive impact on community, if applicable? Consider longer term volunteer opportunities if possible.
- Are resources being diverted to the volunteer from the host community to the detriment of the host community?
- Is the volunteer creating bonds (for example with children) that will be emotionally detrimental when the volunteer leaves?
- Could there be a conflict of interest between the host community and the organization providing volunteers?
- Does the organization have a history of success working with the people in the region; do they respect the existing culture, beliefs and religions of the region instead of imposing their own views?

Food for Thought for Volunteer Projects

- Volunteers are encouraged to volunteer for projects for which they have the needed skills instead of expecting to learn a new skill. The intent should be to give and not to gain from the project.
- Volunteers should not go through an intermediary organization that keeps a significant portion of the fees. Volunteers should look for organization that accept direct inquiry and placements. If the volunteer is certain an intermediary organization is legitimate, make sure a significant portion of the fees go to the project or host organization.
- Certain percentage of money should go to the project for buying local materials or hiring local contractors, if applicable.
- Volunteers should thoroughly research orphanages – some orphanages are set up for profit only and not to actually help kids; there can be negative impacts on kids by creating short-term bonds.
- Volunteers should choose charity organization that partners with local workers, instead of taking jobs away from them.
- Consider sustainable development in volunteering efforts. Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- There should be a benefit to the host community either through the transfer of needed skills or by providing necessary funds for a local project or community.