

EDEN SOCIAL WELFARE FOUNDATION

2017 SUMMER INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER PROJECT



*Interested in meeting and working with young people from different cultural backgrounds?
Interested in changing the world with love and care while making new friends?
Welcome to Eden summer camp! Here we work hard and play hard!
Now is your chance to do international volunteer work and explore Taiwan, one of the most
breathtaking islands in the world! Come join our team and experience Taiwanese culture along
the way. Together we can create the most amazing volunteer experience!*

Eligible Volunteers: 18 years old above
(Volunteers with physical disabilities are very welcome!)

Serving Targets: Children from new immigrant families & youths with visual impairments

Work content: Teaching English and sharing different cultural experiences through fun activities

Prospective volunteers must apply by 10th June, 2017.

For more details, please contact Eden's staff members via

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Schedule for 2017 Summer International Volunteer Project

Dates	Camp Title	Venue	Target population	Fees
08/01-08/05	1. Summer Camp for Youth with Visual Impairments	Banqiao Taiwan Friends Church	Youth with visual impairments aged	NT\$ 1,000
07/26~07/28	2. Summer Camp for Children of New Immigrants	Asia Pacific Paintball (Linkou)	Children of Recent Immigrant Families	NT\$ 1,500
08/07	3. Farewell Party	51 st Alleyard (Taipei)	Volunteers	free

Fees:

*Camps 1 and 2 will require a fee to cover for the volunteer's own food, insurance and other administrative costs (including orientation)

*Way to be exempted from the charge: Those travelling from outside of Taiwan to attend the camps if they provide us with their boarding passes and do not request Eden to facilitate their visa applications.

Accommodations:

*Volunteers must find their own accommodations for Camp 1 in Taipei

Volunteer work description:

1. Eden Social Welfare Foundation is one of the leading NGOs in Taiwan serving communities at home and abroad with more than two thousand employees over the last thirty-four years. As a Christian NGO, Eden remains steadfast over the years to our commitment to serve people with disabilities as well as other communities in need, including low-income families and survivors of disasters, to name a few.
2. Since 2009, Eden has held summer volunteer programs, inviting youths from all over the world to serve local communities in Taiwan.
3. Eden summer volunteer programs include English teaching and multicultural activities with local primary school children and teenagers from recent immigrant families, marginalized communities and students with visual impairments. (Volunteers are expected to work together to design creative activities such as singing, dancing, cooking or handcraft from their cultural backgrounds.)
4. As members of underprivileged families or marginalized communities, job opportunities are often limited for the parents, and children are often raised by their grandparents. Many young participants of the program struggle in school due to the lack of support and resources at home. Students with visual impairments also face the same, if not greater, challenges.
5. Eden International Volunteer Project is designed to empower these children by giving them

the opportunity to learn English and fun activities that would allow them to see different cultures around the world, thus motivating them to learn.

6. In addition to serving underprivileged communities in Taiwan, the program also aims to offer the volunteers a chance to experience Taiwanese culture. Throughout the years, Eden has established close relationships with local communities in Taiwan, and hope to make an impact on the lives of the volunteers.

Special requirements:

1. Successful candidates must participate in an orientation and training prior to their camps.
2. Prospective volunteers with disabilities are encouraged to sign with the precondition that they are capable of independent travelling. Volunteers must have their travel plans and accommodations fully arranged before arriving in Taiwan. Eden Social Welfare Foundation can provide assistance where possible.
3. Applicants who are 20 y/o and above are preferred.
4. Members of Christian communities are encouraged to apply while applications from all prospective volunteers are considered regardless of religious affiliation.
5. Applicants with special skills in singing, dancing, performance art, cooking, storytelling, or team-building are most welcome.
6. Potential candidates for our programs must demonstrate a respect for diversity, a genuine appreciation of different cultures and values, a strong sense of responsibility, and excellent skills in teamwork and interpersonal communication
7. Please note that we cannot review an application until we are given the names and contact information of at least one referee due to legal requirements. Your referee could be professors or teachers at higher education institutes, volunteer supervisors, or pastor or priest of your local congregation. A copy of "Police Record Certificate or Certificate of Good Conduct" should also be submitted if available.
8. Please submit proof of Chinese language proficiency (if available).
9. Each applicant must fill out the online registration form to be found at <https://goo.gl/0q4pY3>
10. Applicants will be notified for an interview once they have passed the first stages of our evaluation.

Testimonies from Volunteers in 2016 Summer Camps

Testimony from C

Volunteering is a path for discovery rather than fulfillment. People often overlook the fact that volunteering is as much intended for self-discovery as it is for helping others. Before joining the volunteering program of the Eden Social Welfare Foundation, I have never had the chance to interact with people with visual impairments. This past week proved to be one where I was not only able to gain and further develop new and old skills alike, I was also given a whole new perspective.

There is often a misconception that people with disabilities are different from the ordinary crowd and frankly unable to do things that everyone else can. For me, this misconception was completely shattered on my first day as a volunteer. From playing Mozart on the piano to taking the MRT by themselves, I found myself embarrassed to having thought otherwise of their vast abilities. They did not need as much assistance than I had thought they would, as each of the students was fully capable of caring for themselves. Instead, during the week, I found myself needing their assistance more than they needed ours (the volunteers). For example, when I was asked for the first time to guide one of the students, I was very nervous. However, I was truly surprised at how easily the students were able to trust us to guide them. Their ease really helped us become more relaxed and less anxious. Throughout the week, I found that many of the students were determined to do certain tasks by themselves and even offered the volunteers their assistance.

The past five days have really been memorable. The time I spent with these children were filled with fun. All of them were very sweet and considerate, not only to one another but also to the volunteers. I am lucky to have been a part of this volunteering program, as I not only learned about these children as individuals, I learned so much from them. While there certainly were difficulties, through it all we were able to make this a fun and unforgettable experience for all of us. Thank you to everyone for making this experience so wonderful and thank you to the people that made it possible!

Wishing everyone at the Eden Social Welfare Foundation all the best in the future and hope to see you again soon!

Testimony from S

Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude on the opportunity to be part of the wonderful summer camp in Yilan on 08/15-08/17, I am happy I was given the chance to do something for others and have fun while teaching and learning different cultures. It was my first time volunteering in another country and a great experience.

The camp was amazing, from the orientation week getting to know the other volunteers and

plan the games with them sharing ideas and getting close. It was great to be part of the young minds thinking and coming up with activities for the three days. This camp challenged me as an individual as I can't speak mandarin but I had to find a way to understand the planning and the communication between local volunteers and I.

On the three day camp, at first I was not sure how the kids would be towards me because of my language issue, as other volunteers can communicate in mandarin, so I was eager to see how they would be towards me. Fortunately some volunteers helped me communicate with the kids and some of the kids had basic English and I talked to them. The kids were welcoming compared to what I had thought on my mind that it would take time for them to open up to me. Most of the kids tried so hard to talk to me asking me questions which I couldn't understand just smiled and replied "hao" because a smile is a universal language, so now I am pushed to learn mandarin because of these kids and I am still studying here in Taiwan.

I was happy to see how interested the kids were when I was teaching them about my country, teaching them Swazi words and hear them try to say them, some were very good in terms of pronunciation. I made a lot of friends at the camp for the three days and really enjoyed it.

On the camp in general I feel it is a good thing being done by the organization to have this camp because it is a camp about multicultural for second generation kids of immigrants, whose parents are from different countries. I feel this kind of camp is good because it opens the kids' minds making them about to learn about other cultures making them international citizens not just Taiwan, bringing the world close together. This camp is good because they get to interact with foreigners with does not happen very often, some get to try their English skills.

Again thank you for the opportunity may these camps go on forever in guiding and putting a smile on the young souls, giving them tools and knowledge they need to survive tomorrow or later on in life. This camp is all about teaching love, team work and how to think hard sometimes things I feel our generation keeps losing every day. Eden should never give up this good work and teach these kids to give back to others not just material things just love and time that's all sometimes. I will continue to do my part in trying to make this world a better place, because we have to be the change we want to see. Do thank you.

Activity Photos in 2016 Summer Camps



Canadian volunteer taught the visually impaired attendee the correct move for the singing and dancing song



English Play Script practice



The song, Proud of You, sung by all volunteers to all the Visually Impaired attendees!



American volunteer introduced the history for Independency of United States



Swazi volunteer introduced the wild animals in Swaziland



Malaysian volunteer introduced the cuisine in Malaysia



Sao Tome and Principe volunteer accompanied with the team member with home sickness.



Farewell Party



See you next year!