

WELCOME TO SOUTH AFRICA – PROJECT COLORS Youth Volunteer Program 2011

As part of the COLORS team you will be engaged with many of our projects with children in the preschools, baby care, soup kitchens and foster care homes we help support in the very poor township areas.

Every day is completely different to the next, so there is never a dull moment. Volunteering is what you make of it! The information below is very important to ensure a happy and safe volunteer experience. COLORS has had over 40 volunteers, youth mentors & interns.



Who are you?

- You must have a driver's licence and be able to drive a standard gear shift
- You are between the ages of 19 and 25
- You must be flexible, trustworthy and reliable!
- You should be someone who is creative, easy going, open to learning new things, friendly, non judgmental, capable of writing, and good with kids. You should be culturally sensitive, be able to react appropriately to difficult situations that may arise and make ethical judgment calls when needed.
- You maybe be working initially with the director or other volunteers. However, you must learn to work independently at times and conduct small projects.
- It is helpful if you have your basic first aid and some basic medical experience for assisting us with our first aid kit projects; seeing to the basic health care and dental hygiene efforts of COLORS.
- It is highly recommended that you bring a laptop with you to help with donations letters and for personal communication as you will not otherwise have access to a computer.
- All COLORS volunteers will act as "agents of change," assisting small grassroots projects, strengthening the disadvantaged, providing basic education, and organizing nutrition/ health based activities for the children.
- You must be able to cover the costs of your stay, including food and living expenses. We have a volunteer apartment that is quite inexpensive and nice.
- We also hope you take some time off to travel. You should sit down with the director after your arrival to discuss travel breaks and the calendar schedule. There are many beautiful areas close by, so don't miss out.



Core Duties:

- You will probably be teaching two or three days a week in small, family-run preschools and working on our baby care projects.
- You maybe be working with pre-teens or youth in afternoons or weekends
- You may also be helping with new project assessments in the townships, such as aide distribution, community projects, renovations, picking up supplies and participating in emergency projects (ex. Street dog rescues, hospital runs).
- You may lead projects in the mosaic arts, knitting, jewelry making & painting. You could also be helping collect supplies or conduct creative training for children and adults in anything ranging from crafts to health and hygiene.
- As you will be living on the PROJECT COLORS base, you will be in charge of making sure the grounds are safe and tidy, especially before and after group activities.
- **Volunteers must keep an eye on all children that come on site to ensure safety.**
- During the warmer months you will be the PROJECT COLORS informal swimming instructor and water safety supervisor. You will coordinate swimming schedules and transportation with local preschools and groups for young children. Swimming lessons are held between two and four times a week.
- Pool upkeep is a part of your duty. The pool must be cleaned after each lesson day.



- You may be in charge of creating donation letters and distributing them to companies and stores here in SA that may give “in-kind” donations to COLORS to help with our projects. Following up and sharing the stories of the children we work with is the key to attaining donations. You can also help with funding applications, presentations & program design.

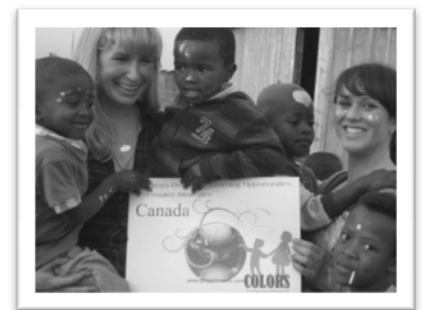


Personal Project Donation:

We hope that you will decide to raise funds to help our projects and possibly help run a small project of your own while with us. Your project can tag on to one of our established projects, or can stand alone. Other volunteers have raised funds to run their own street dog projects, kids’ camps, shoe collection, feeding plans, community gardens, arts & crafts sessions, and ESL teaching projects. We hope you will learn from us and take initiative in the areas that build on your personal talents and interests. Most of our volunteers leave having been assigned some form of project management in an area of their interest.

Community and project etiquette:

- Please never give people money. You are helping in a much larger way.
- Please do not gift; “personal gifting” can cultivate a “give me, give me” atmosphere that is destructive for a respectful relationship with community members. This is the last thing you want during your volunteer time. Helping a project and gifting an individual are very different things.



COLORS Vehicles:

FOR PROJECT USE ONLY, UN LESS RENTED- Please do not ask for vehicles’ otherwise

Statistically, every time a vehicle is used, the chance of an accident or damage increases. As our programs can not run without our vehicles, vehicle use will be kept to a minimum.

- You will share driving with the director and other COLORS members when needed.
- **Rentals: If volunteers wish to rent a COLORS vehicle it is 200R per use/ or per day (approximately \$ X USD) + gas.** The gas receipt and a record of the distance driven must be submitted to the director. Rentals are based on management approval and COLORS scheduling.
- COLORS vehicles can not drive past Heralds Bay or Knysna on project or rented use time.
- **You should never impose by asking for a vehicle off duty unless you wish to rent it.**
- Volunteers who can afford it are strongly encouraged to rent or buy a private car to see as much of as possible.
- **If you choose to travel with COLORS staff , other volunteers or community members for social reasons, events, or trips, please offer gas money to the driver.**
- There are several types of public transportation available including buses, taxis and public taxis. Major bus lines go to major areas such as Cape Town, PE, and Joburg. Public transportation is cheap but safety is not a guarantee. COLORS volunteers have travelled around for years before vehicles’ were donated so have fun on your journey.
- **IMPORTANT:** If any PROJECT COLORS volunteer uses anyone’s car while in South Africa, that volunteer **MUST** pay for any damages to the car if an accident occurs. Kind people here might let you have use of their vehicle, but they do not have elaborate insurance. COLORS will not be liable for any damages caused by a volunteer.

Computers and Telephone:

WE ONLY HAVE LIMITED INTERNET: This means if it is used too much it shuts off for the rest of the month!

- Volunteers will be using their personal computers, management computer is off limits.
- If COLORS obtains wireless, do not upload or download anything **onto the internet**: No photos, no videos as it eats up our internet gigs.
- Do not use Skype: Sorry this eats up internet too ☹
- Do not view YouTube or other videos.
- Internet cafes are located nearby if you wish to spend more time online
- The landline phone works on pay as you go rates, so please top up phone if you use it to make outgoing calls, however, incoming calls are free. You are welcome to receive calls from your family on this line COLORS has a volunteer's cell phone for volunteers to share. If the cell phone is lost, stolen or damaged, volunteers are responsible for replacing it. This is a pay as you go phone, please top up the minutes you need

Apartment

- Volunteers must pay for any lost keys or damage to the security remote.
- Volunteers must lock up and set up the alarm when absent.
- Volunteers must leave the apartment clean, tidy, and ready for the next volunteers.
- Volunteers must clean apartment one day a week, especially shower, kitchen and toilet.
- Never leave anything valuable in plain sight in your room. COLORS is not responsible for theft.
- Volunteers must replace anything they break or lose from apartment.

What is in the volunteer's apartment?

- TV and DVD player
- A triple bunk bed (you may or may not have a roommate)
- Sheets, a towel, pillow
- Small cooking plate with two grills
- Pot, pan, 2 plates, kettle, toaster, cutlery...
- A small fridge
- Bathroom, shower, two sinks



The Directors house is not part of COLORS and is treated as a totally separate family dwelling.

Please knock if you want to visit or make an appointment. Please respect off hours of Director.

Breakdown of the costs you may meet: (All costs in USD)

- We are now blessed with a volunteers apartment to offer accommodation for up to 3 volunteers; volunteers must **contribute a minimum of \$400 USD per month**, which goes directly to volunteers' safe living/ self catering room, private entrance with side porch, use of laundry, electricity, pool, and water. We will also provide cleaning supplies (other hygiene items are at your own expense), and we will make sure you get to the grocery store at least once a week on the way, to, or from project sites. Since COLORS has no stable income this \$400 USD per month is essential to helping us offset our costs.
- **How much money should you bring?**
It is recommended that volunteers bring at least \$500 USD per month to cover basic necessities and to use in case of an emergency. If you would like to visit the parks, go trekking, to the pubs, go surfing, boating, or sightseeing you should bring some extra cash.
- Volunteers must never be a cost to ANY charity. Volunteers must cover their own expenses.
- Airline tickets, visas, vaccinations, insurance, etc... - Volunteers responsibility
- Airport / Bus pick up – free if you arrive in George
- Personal weekly expenses – about \$ 50, although this varies

NOTE: If you are accepted and agree to this document please secure your spot and accommodation by sending your \$400US for your 1st month's rent. The \$400 is non refundable as we need to feel assured that you will be volunteering with us as we will be turning down other applicants that could have filled this position. Additional months are payable at the beginning of each month. Volunteers at no time can be a burden or a cost to PROJECT COLORS or any of our partner charities. Please make sure of your financial situation for the duration of your stay.

Answers to some of your other questions:

Do I do my own laundry, cleaning, and make my own food? YES

Where will I stay if I volunteer? You will be living in the volunteers self-catering apartment of PROJECT COLORS. You will have your own entry and self catering room next to the pool. The security door between the apartment and the director's house WILL BE LOCKED AT ALL TIMES for privacy on both ends. We are a short walk to a beautiful ocean beach. COLORS is based from a private home so please be respectful of privacy.

Where will I buy food and groceries? Once a week you can stock up on most supplies in George (30 min away) or a small grocery store in Wilderness (10 min away). Always bring money with you when ever you go out and please think ahead on needed items as we may stop for food only during project days. There are also small shops a 5-10 minute walk from the house for small items, as well as a small café.

Communal meals: If there is a communal meal in the Director's family home, **everyone should contribute something and help with clean up that same day.**

Computers: You will need a laptop to write donation letters and for communication at internet cafes when accessible. You may also need a laptop to use for entertainment. **Laptops, cameras and all expensive items should never be left in plain site.** COLORS is not responsible for any loss of items as we are not insured for theft.

Do I need immunizations? We recommend that you get your Twin Rex, hepatitis and tetanus vaccinations, plus have all your childhood shots. If you choose to travel outside South Africa after your volunteer stay you should maybe think about getting your Yellow fever shot as well. For more information contact your doctor or nearest travel clinic.

Should I purchase travel insurance? We highly recommend that you have travel insurance. Accidents are unpredictable and it is best to be prepared. We also suggest that if you require prescription medication to bring an adequate supply from home. You may not be able to fill your prescriptions here. Over the counter medications, such as aspirin and cold tablets are available. If you are carrying expensive equipment, please insure it as theft is common in South Africa.

Doctors? COLORS uses a nice lady doctor, Dr. Vos, who was trained in Canada and lives a 10 minute drive away. She is available to us on off hours too, but this does incur a cost of about \$25.

What kind of clothes should I bring? Natural, breathable materials are best. Pants should be loose and comfortable, skirts and shorts tank tops and t-shirts are all fine. Sandals, sneakers, bathing suit, towel. Nights are cold so bring a sweater or a jacket. Also remember to bring a hat, sunglasses, mosquito repellent, hand sanitizer and suntan lotion! Our winter is from June to August, and it can be quite chilly those months.

Will I need a Visa? Most people can come into South Africa on a tourist visa which gives you 3 months here for free. Please check with your travel agent.

What if I want to stay longer then 3 months? Many of our volunteers have extended their stay working with us. If you want to stay longer once your here, we can try and find a way to work it out if the space is available. Some volunteers have found personal sponsorships for longer stays while finishing pending projects.

What else? Please check our website for an idea of all our projects past and present in Dominican and South Africa, in particular our Volunteers page. We are very diverse in our projects. If you are selected as a COLORS volunteer we hope you to learn and grow as an agent of change! www.projectcolors.com

For more information please contact our director personally:
sunyatachoyce@gmail.com (checked weekly when possible)
Or choyce@projectcolors.com (checked monthly when possible)

If you are accepted:

***If you are accepted and agree to this document please secure your spot and accommodation by sending your \$400USD. The \$400 is non refundable as we need to feel assured that you will be volunteering with us as we will be turning down other applicants that could have taken your spot.**

Once you are accepted you can send your rent / secure placement donation to:

Cheques: Project COLORS International
83 Leslie Rd, East Lawrencetown,
Nova Scotia, B2Z 1P8, Canada

Or send a bank transfer to our Canadian CIBC bank:

Transit 00513 Institution 010 Account 9909214 - Project Colors
The swift code which is CIBCCATT
Branch address 89, Country View Drive,
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B3B 0G4.
Canada

Sign:	Sign:
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Director _____

THANK YOU FOR THINKING OF US!

We look forward to meeting you. All of our volunteers are part of the Project COLORS family and we are excited for you to join us. The kids here love our volunteers and always look forward to their time with you. Be assured that this will be an incredible and rewarding experience. Not only will you be spending your time on practical and necessary projects, but you will also be learning so much from the Xhosa, Zulu, Afrikaans, and international communities here in South Africa.

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