



Summer Volunteer Program 2016

Let Reading Inspire

Dream Corps is recruiting 60 volunteers to participate in its 2016 Summer Volunteer Program (SVP).

Volunteers establish libraries and develop reading-related projects in 10 villages across rural China.

Dream Corps 2016 Summer Volunteer Program Call for Application

May 18 – June 19

The program strives to achieve the following with the dedication of volunteers:

- Provide a rich variety of high quality books to underprivileged children, address inequality in resource between rural and urban areas.
- Create sustained impact by directly working with local school teachers and residents on issues of reading, education, and beyond.
- Strive for unprejudiced, mutual understanding and intercultural exchange through full immersion.

Volunteers will take part in activities that include:

- Establishing and developing libraries: decorations, cataloging books, electronic cataloging system set-ups, and library policy making.
- Reading programs: “Library Month”, “Reading Aloud”, “Science and Reading”, English Reading, and crafts.
- Understanding and learning from locals: communicating with the local teachers, home visits, community research, and promoting reading in the community.



The program consists of 4 online training sessions in April (3 hours per session every week), 4 days of training in Beijing, 4 weeks of volunteer work on sites, and 2 days of concluding forum in Beijing. For more details, please check the important dates below.

Important Dates

Jan 1: Online application opens

Feb 29: Application Closes

Mar 20: Official acceptance letters are sent out

Apr 2: Online training begins (including 4 sessions, 3 hours each)

May 18: Beijing check-in

May 18-22: Beijing training

May 23: Volunteers leave for sites

May 24-June 16: Working at sites

June 17: Volunteers come back to Beijing

June 18-19: Concluding forum

Application Process

STEP 1: Complete online application at <http://www.dreamcorps.org>

There is no application fee.

- a. Personal Information
- b. CV/Resume
- c. Personal Statement (Please see the personal statement guideline for details)
- d. One recommendation letter from your friend, co-worker, or supervisor
(not required but encouraged)

STEP 2: Interview

Qualified applicants will be interviewed via Skype. The length of the interview is about one hour.

Interviewee will be interviewed by 2 interviewers per round.

You may be required to participate in a second round interview.

Note 1: Skype interview will be short-noticed.

Note 2: Interviews will be scheduled on a rolling basis.

STEP 3: Notification of Decision

a. Jan 5, 2016 – Mar 10, 2016: Those selected for an interview will be notified.

b. Jan 7, 2016 – Mar 7, 2016: Interviews will be scheduled by email by the interviewers.

c. March 20, 2016: Final acceptance letter will be sent out before this date.



Qualifications

- Interested in international development, rural education, and the non-profit sector in China.
- Respectful of local rural customs, habits, and culture and to humbly listen to the views of local teachers, leaders and parents.
- Participate positively in all activities, and immerse in the local environment.
- Is able to adapt to rural accommodations, environment, and eating conditions.
- Is able to communicate and work effectively and respectfully with people from different cultural backgrounds. Team-oriented and tolerant of diversity.
- Responsible, patient, well-organized, and creative.
- Willing to promote the importance of reading to the locals through various activities.
- Experience with volunteering and community service is strongly preferred but not required.
- Ability to speak mandarin Chinese is mandatory.

Please read the important dates and make sure you are able to participate in the entire program. **Attendance in the entire program is absolutely required.**

2016 Sites Information

The 10 sites for 2016 SVP are located in Guizhou, Gansu, Sichuan, Fujian, and Henan. Applicants can indicate preferences, but preferences cannot always be prioritized. More information about the sites will be provided during online training.

Expenses

Volunteers pay their own airfare to Beijing. Besides airfare, each volunteer should prepare minimum 3,500RMB for basic logistics. This cost will be collected by Dream Corps upfront on the first day of Beijing training to support each volunteer for the whole program. At the end of the program, expenditure details and leftover expenses (should there be any) will be returned to each volunteer. The basic personal cost covers the cost of accommodations during training and the concluding forum, transportation to and from the program sites, lodging at the sites, travel health insurance, and training package. Dream Corps will be responsible for the costs of the library and reading programs (i.e. costs for books, other equipment, and librarian training).

Note: Volunteers who confirm to participate in the program must pay 500RMB (or equivalent amount of other currency) deposit. If volunteers complete the program, deposit will be counted as part of 3,500RMB for basic logistics; if volunteers drop out of the program for personal reasons, 500RMB will not be returned but instead will be used to buy books for children at our volunteer sites.

Personal Statement Guidelines

Please carefully read and answer the following questions clearly and directly. **Limit to 750 words per question (either in Chinese or English).**

1. Why do you want to be a volunteer, and why do you choose Dream Corps?
2. What makes you who you are today?

Additional Information

If you have any more questions regarding our program, please visit Dream Corps official website www.dreamcorps.org

If you have any questions regarding the application and volunteer selection process, please contact volunteer@dreamcorps.org

