

Expectations for YouthLINC Volunteer Mentors

1. Mentoring is a key element of the YouthLINC program.
 - Volunteer mentors must be individuals with a commitment to service.
 - They should understand the philosophy of life-time service which is central to the YouthLINC program.
 - The Volunteer Mentor is a role model to our student participants who helps the YouthLINC program instill a life-time service ethic in young people.
2. We need people from a variety of professions and backgrounds to assist our student participants as they assume leadership roles on each team, learning that they can make a difference, and embarking on a life-time of humanitarian service.
3. YouthLINC teams work in committees to plan tasks to meet goals at the international site. Volunteer Mentors are the leaders of these committees and in that role, they:
 - Must attend volunteer mentor meetings as scheduled by the Team Leader.
 - Formulate goals with the team leader and their committee, decide on tasks in a cooperative atmosphere, ensure tasks are delegated to student participants, and follow up with the students on the accomplishment of those tasks.
 - Model and mentor the development of leadership skills.
 - Work for a positive, encouraging atmosphere within their committee and team
 - Act as resource.
 - Meet with or communicate with student committee members outside of team meetings if necessary to accomplish planning.
 - Assist in the organization of information to present to the team.
 - Communicate problems and progress to the team leader.
4. In-country, volunteer mentors:
 - Are flexible, realizing that in-country our well-planned activities and itineraries may change due to everything from weather to the plans of our in-country hosts.
 - Continue to oversee, help where needed in the activities of their committee and team.
 - Debrief their committee members on problems and successes after planned activities.
 - Assist the team leader in safety and Code of Conduct issues.
5. Volunteer Mentors must be present for our General Orientation meeting, and all other monthly planning meetings.
6. Volunteer Mentors are not expected to do local service as part of their YouthLINC commitment, but are welcome to come to all or any of our local service projects.

YouthLINC has adopted the following policies primarily for the protection of our youth members; however, they also serve to protect our adult leaders from false accusations of abuse.

- Two mentors or participants over 21 are required during all activities where minors are present.
- One-on-one contact between adults and youth members is not permitted. In situations that require personal conferences, the meeting is to be conducted in view of others.
- YouthLINC mentors must respect the privacy of other team members (including minors), dress appropriately, and confer with the Team Leader in matters of constructive criticism or discipline in cases of violation of YouthLINC Code of Conduct.