

## **Involvement of Medical Volunteer Staff in YouthLINC programs**

Health education forms one component of the YouthLINC program. All components of the YouthLINC program strive to educate American young people about service issues here and abroad, and to provide meaningful changes in quality of life through partnerships locally and internationally.

The following information includes our expectations for our Medical Volunteer Staff.

### Team support:

1. Attend team meetings and consult on medical issues relevant to international travel. Kenya and Peru teams attend a briefing at the University of Utah Travel Clinic.
2. Collect YouthLINC Medical Information Forms and consult as needed about any health issues individuals might have relevant to international travel, e.g. allergies, medications.
3. Restock and carry **YouthLINC First Aid satchel to international site** and be the first line resource for common problems such as diarrhea, bug bites, dehydration prevention, etc. These bags and their contents are generally donated and are used until the supplies expire. *It is CRITICAL that the bags be returned with their remaining supplies to the YouthLINC office as soon as possible after the group returns.*

### Education/ Mentoring

1. Orient students to the health needs at the site, based on information from past trips to and community meetings at the international site, as well as any other relevant information.
2. Mentor students during the school year as they develop lessons to meet these needs, which they will teach in-country.
3. Lead students in discussions about respecting differences in culture, attempting to discern and understand the positive and potentially negative impact our activities can have on a much different social structure.
4. Provide a role model to ALL team members of a medical professional.
5. Supervise students involved in the team's medical committee, as they teach lessons, provide direct health care as appropriate, and learn about the extant medical systems at the international site.

### Health Care Delivery/ Public Health

1. Gather information about health care needs and health care systems at the international site. Network with medical professionals at the international site.
2. Share this information with students, team leaders, and YouthLINC administrators.
3. Consult with past and future medical volunteer staff and YouthLINC administrators (including team leaders) on realistic plans to meet health care needs at the site which will mesh with the culture, have a long-term effect, and involve community partnerships.

### Research and Grants

YouthLINC encourages its volunteer medical staff members and students interested in the health professions to initiate or participate in research or grant writing that will have specific benefits for the individuals and communities at our international sites, and will make contributions of global interest to medical communities in general.