



Global Service Corps

Child and Orphan Care Program

Rural Children's Community or Urban Children's Orphan Care in the Phnom Penh area

Global Service Corps (GSC) Volunteer Participants (VPs) discover Cambodia by living, working, and learning among Khmer people in their own communities. VPs participating in the Children and Orphanage Care Program join the staff of a traditional orphanage or a community home to children affected by HIV/AIDS.

GSC is working to address the issues faced by Cambodia's children who have been adversely affected by years of conflict and corruption resulting in poor living conditions. Many of these children lack the means to fulfill their potential and need guidance and support. GSC's local partners provide not only a range of basic services, but also a nurturing environment that help to foster healthy and safe childhood development. GSC VPs share their time, talents, experience and knowledge with at-risk youth, students, care-givers, teachers, and community members.



Depending on the needs of our partner organizations and the VP's interests and program length, VPs in the Children and Orphan Care Program will be placed at a vetted center for orphans or/and underserved youth. These centers include an urban orphanage, or a rural children's community.

- Those placed at the **rural** children's community will live on site with a community of youth, buzzing with energy and curiosity. More than a child care center, this setting is home to youth who have been infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS. Young people of all backgrounds live together on the center's rural "campus." In addition to attending school half day, the kids participate in art projects, recreation, nightly meditation and communal meals.
- Those placed at the **urban** orphan care setting will live in the guest house of GSC's partner host organization and will head over to the orphanage, returning to the guest house at day's end.

VP's Role

Rural Setting: For VPs serving the rural community, your role will be highly intertwined with the everyday lives of the community's youth. Volunteering requires the ability to be flexible, be patient and take initiative. VPs will lead one or two of their own planned activities, sharing with the kids their talents, hobbies and interests. VPs may also engage in activities such as teaching Basic English lessons, providing guidance and mentorship, and participating in other daily activities and nightly meditations. VPs will become part of a collective effort to encourage the healthy growth and development of young people.

This placement has a **four-week minimum commitment**.

Urban Setting: In the urban placement setting VPs have the opportunity of assisting at a youth home or orphan center where you will also become part of a collective effort to encourage the healthy growth and development of Cambodia's young people. VPs will lead one or two of their own planned activities, sharing with the kids their talents, hobbies and interests. Daily activities will vary according to the needs and schedules of each placement.

This placement has a **two-week minimum commitment**.

Housing and Meals

A stay at the **rural children's community** will include a private or shared double room in the volunteer dorms with electricity and a mosquito net. Three meals per day will be provided by the kitchen staff. Soda, coffee and snacks can be purchased at a café on "campus" or at a nearby village. Wi-Fi is available in the volunteer dorms, but connectivity can waver. VPs serving in the **urban area** may be housed in GSC's partner host organization's guest house and will be served three meals per day. Wi-Fi is available. During your daily activities, our partners ask that you minimize use of your electronic devices so you remain focused on the community you are there to serve. Laundry can be done by hand or by a washing machine, when available.

Sample Schedules

VPs spend the initial time during their placement undergoing GSC and our partner organization's orientation on site. While **the rural children's community** schedule varies widely from day-to-day, a VP placed here might expect the following:

6:00 am	Young people are up and ready for the day!
6:00 am - 7:00 am	Children eat breakfast and head to school
7:00 am	VPs eat breakfast and interact with staff
8:00 am	Preschool-aged children are looked after (play room/craft room, etc.), while some primary-aged children attend school
8:00 am - 12:00 pm	VPs can lead their projects to kids who have school in the afternoon
11:00 am	Primary school children arrive back at the center; kids and VPs eat lunch
12:00 pm	Kids take an afternoon nap
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	All children engage in arts and crafts, play time and VP-led activities
4:00 pm	Children eat dinner
5:00 pm	VPs eat dinner with staff
6:30 pm	Mandatory 30-minute meditation and evening gathering to discuss the day's activities
7:15 pm	Children hang out in the family room to play, watch TV or do arts & crafts
9:30 pm	Kids get ready for bed and VPs must be in VP dorm

The **urban** schedule will vary according to the needs of the various child care sites. Generally the schedule will be as follows:

Breakfast at guest house

Morning and afternoon activities at orphan center

Packed Lunch and remain at the orphan center or return back at the guest house for lunch

Afternoon activities at orphan center

Dinner at guest house

Phnom Penh Arrival and Program Orientation Information

If you are flying to Cambodia, the GSC In-Country Coordinator or GSC driver will meet you at the Phnom Penh International Airport on Sunday to transfer you to the designated hotel for your orientation in and around Phnom Penh. If you arrive early, between Thursday and Saturday, you will be picked up at the airport but will be responsible to make your own hotel arrangements prior to meeting up with GSC staff and VPs on Sunday afternoon. Meeting instructions will be clearly communicated to you by GSC U.S. headquarters staff prior to your departure. The cultural orientation takes place from Monday through Wednesday and will include an introduction to Cambodian history and Buddhism, a sightseeing tour of Phnom Penh area including the Khmer Rouge Killing Fields. Mid-week you will be introduced to your placement site and begin your service work.

Sample Two Week Itinerary

Arrival Day (Sunday)	Arrival in Phnom Penh. VPs are met at Phnom Penh International Airport by the GSC In-Country Coordinator (ICC) or GSC driver and transported to the hotel. Unpack and relax. Your first day on Sunday in Phnom Penh will include an afternoon meeting with the ICC and culminate in a Khmer dinner with fellow VPs and the ICC.
Days 1-3 (Monday-Wednesday)	A GSC representative meets all VPs in the morning after breakfast in the hotel and escorts you as you explore important cultural and historical sites. The tours include visits to the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda, National Museum, Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, the Killing Fields at Cheoung Ek and other areas of interest in Phnom Penh. Time will also be devoted to include lectures on Cambodia history and current events, and an introduction to Buddhism by a Buddhist monk at a Phnom Penh monastery. Move to your accommodations Wednesday evening (or Thursday morning.)
Days 4-5 (Thursday-Friday)	Introduction to your project and begin to volunteer at your project site
Days 6-7 (Saturday-Sunday)	Free days to explore Phnom Penh or the rural site, participate in community activities.
Days 8-12 (Monday – Friday)	Participants join in the activities of the partner organization and quickly become friends with children, residents, and staff.
Days 13-14 (Saturday-Sunday)	On the second weekend, VPs will be escorted to Siem Reap for a weekend away, leaving on Friday evening. On future weekends VPs are free to explore the surrounding areas either individually or in groups. (The Siem Reap trip is available only for programs of four weeks or longer. Two and three week VPs have the weekend free.)
Final Day of Program (Sunday)	On your final Sunday of the program, you will say goodbye to your new friends and the GSC Cambodia Team. Depart Cambodia.

Please note that this is a sample itinerary. Schedules and activities are subject to change due to local conditions, participant preference, and programmatic changes.

Program fees include: Airport pick-up, drop off, and project transportation; accommodations including all meals; language and cultural orientation and project preparation guidance, project administration; donations to partner organizations, and the weekend excursion to Siem Reap and Angkor Wat for programs 4 weeks or longer.

Program fees* do not include: Airfare (\$1,000-\$2,500), travel insurance (\$150-\$350), background checks (\$15 - required for all VPs) and visas (\$30-\$100 depending on length of stay).

*These costs are estimates. Actual prices will depend on program length, your chosen vendors, visiting country's government regulations, and other factors beyond GSC's control.

Please visit the GSC website, www.globalservicecorps.org, or the [GSC Facebook page](#), which will further acquaint you with our programs and provide a glimpse into life as a GSC service-learning VP.