

CALL FOR APPLICATION: VOLUNTEER IN RURAL CHINA

Learn, Inspire, Teach, and Serve in Rural China

2008 summer, May 26 – June 28

About Dream Corps

Founded and run by Chinese students and professionals in the U.S., Dream Corps International is an innovative non-profit organization aiming at serving the underprivileged in China by promoting education equity. We build libraries as public space for children in rural areas and urban migrant communities in China. We provide a sustained inflow of quality resources to disadvantaged schools and communities in China and help them to develop educational programs such as the effective use of libraries. Every year, we recruit, train, and send volunteers from China and around the world to help establish, develop, and evaluate educational programs with the local people at our volunteer sites. We also engage past volunteers to help raise the awareness of education equity, social justice, and academic activism among youth.

Summer Volunteer Program

This year, Dream Corps is recruiting 30 to 40 highly motivated volunteers to participate in the 2008 Summer Volunteer Program. Depending on the particular condition of each of our volunteer sites and the work that has been done in the past, volunteer will assist the local schools and/or communities to complete projects such as:

- build basic library infrastructures
- develop library management system
- develop reading programs to promote motivated learning (e.g., stage a play, “story-telling”)
- conduct extracurricular activities and English teaching
- help with community initiatives and projects (e.g. talent show, recycling)
- provide scholarships to talented and needed students

The program consists of 3 days of training in Beijing, 3 weeks of volunteer work on assigned volunteer sites, and 3 days of concluding forum in Beijing.

This program is an exciting opportunity for students, researchers, and young professionals interested in international development, rural education, and the non-profit sector in China. Although spoken Chinese is not strictly required, it is highly preferred.

Cost

There is no application fee. Volunteers are responsible for covering their cost occurred during the program. The total cost of accommodation and other basic living expenses during the program is around 250 USD. Volunteers from mainland China and team leaders are eligible for financial assistance.

Application Process

STEP 1) To be qualified as a candidate, you need to submit (in English or Chinese):

- A. Online application form (<http://www.dreamcorps.org/apply>)
- B. Cover letter (see cover letter guideline below for details)
- C. Resume or CV

STEP 2) Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. (Application deadline is **MARCH 02, 2008**. Because we have a rolling application process and the volunteer positions fill up quickly, we encourage you to apply as early as possible.)

STEP 3) After the application is reviewed (within a week or so), you will receive further notice about phone or in-person interviews.

STEP 4) Final decision will be sent to you no later than **March 31**.

Cover Letter Guidelines

Please keep your cover letter between 300-500 English words or equivalently, 500-700 Chinese characters. As a general guideline, your cover letter should address, but not limit to, the following issues:

- I. Why do you want to participate in Dream Corps?
- II. Do you have any prior social work or volunteer experience? If so, please describe briefly (dates, locations, activities, and major roles).
- III. Have you traveled or lived in rural China? For how long? If not, have you traveled or lived internationally? For how long? If so, please describe briefly (locations, dates and activities).
- IV. Have you worked in a library before? If so, please describe briefly.
- V. Have you had any teaching or tutoring experience? If so, please describe briefly (subjects, target audience and formats)
- VI. Do you hope to conduct a personal or academic research project during your possible stay in China with Dream Corps? If so, describe briefly.
- VII. What other plans, in addition to volunteering with Dream Corps, are you making for this summer?
- VIII. How did you find out about Dream Corps? If you know us from former Dream Corps members, would you please let us know the contact method of him/her?

Additional information about our programs can be found at www.DreamCorps.org. Please contact info08@dreamcorps.info if you have any questions regarding the application process.