

QUEST > Volunteer Abroad Program

1-52 weeks in over 40 countries

planet
united
A Community Beyond Borders

**“Individually, we are one drop.
Together, we are an ocean.”**

– Ryunosuke Satoro



Welcome to United Planet!

This amazing organization is the result of the tireless work of members and volunteers in over 150 countries. It is truly an honor for me to be a part of such a diverse and motivated team, brought together beyond borders by a common dream for a more united planet.

With United Planet, you can truly make a profound impact while learning about fascinating cultures and transcending boundaries to make new friends around the world.

Whether you volunteer abroad through our unique Quest program, support our vital humanitarian projects, or take part in a myriad of other exciting opportunities, there is a place for you at United Planet!

Add your drop to the United Planet wave. Together, we truly can bring the world closer, one person at a time.

Warmest regards,



David Santulli, Founder and Executive Director



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we are one drop.**”



What is United Planet?

As an international non-profit organization, **United Planet (UP)** strives to create a world in which all people understand, respect and support one another.

United Planet's global network of leaders and volunteers fosters cross-cultural understanding and addresses shared challenges to unite the world in a community beyond borders. The underlying principle of our programs is the concept of Relational Diplomacy—recognizing that the relationship between people of diverse backgrounds is the basic building block for uniting the world. United Planet's innovative programs are designed to expose our common human bonds, generate respect and appreciation for our cultural, racial, and religious diversity, and enrich the lives of our neighbors worldwide.

What makes a United Planet Quest so special?

United Planet's unique "holistic" approach combines cross-cultural learning with meaningful community service work for people of all ages, skill levels, and nationalities. UP Quest programs include:

- Devoted support from the UP team
- Pre-departure training, including preparation for cross-cultural adjustment
- Orientation, mid-Quest check-in, and final evaluation
- Meaningful community service work in a variety of fields
- Insightful Cultural Awareness Presentations for the local community
- Enriching cultural activities, such as local handicraft making, cooking lessons, traditional dance lessons, and much more
- Language lessons (most destinations)
- Historical, cultural, and recreational excursions
- A committed host family network and a range of lodging options
- Delicious local meals, welcome and farewell dinners
- Comprehensive travel insurance plan
- Continued alumni learning and volunteer opportunities
- A UP t-shirt or hoodie
- Certificate of Recognition upon successful Quest completion
- Lasting memories and new friends

Together, we are an ocean."

– Ryunosuke Satoro





QUEST > Locations

United Planet Quests

Join one of the world's premiere volunteer abroad organizations!

Quest quick facts:

- UP offers most extensive opportunities of any volunteer abroad organization
- Quests are available in over 40 countries from 1-52 weeks
- Volunteers can participate in a wide variety of projects: skilled or unskilled, everyone has something to offer

Short-term Quests

Cambodia	Ghana	Jordan	Romania
Chile	Guatemala	Mexico	Tanzania
Costa Rica	India	Nepal	Tibet
Ecuador	Italy	Peru	USA

Long-term Quests

Australia	Kenya
Bolivia	Mexico
Brazil	Moldova
Colombia	Mozambique
Costa Rica	Nepal
Denmark	New Zealand
Ecuador	Nigeria
Finland	Russia
France	South Africa
Germany	South Korea
Ghana	Sweden
Honduras	Switzerland
Iceland	Taiwan
India	The Philippines
Indonesia	Uganda
	United Kingdom

Quest program examples

Peru Quest: Work with street children, assist in area hospitals and more while immersing in the fascinating culture of Peru.
Special excursion: explore Machu Picchu.

Romania Quest: Live and work at an orphanage at the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains, while developing close ties to the orphans and villagers. *Special excursion: visit the castles of Transylvania.*

Jordan Quest: Work with community and youth programs while studying Arabic. *Special excursion: visit the ancient UNESCO World Heritage site of Petra.*

Nepal Quest: Live in Kathmandu with a host family while working at an orphanage or school. *Special excursion: hike in the Himalayan mountains and explore the beautiful rural countryside.*

Japan Quest: Support orphans and people with disabilities in Tokyo area while experiencing the incredible cuisine, culture and temples of Japan. *Special excursion: visit the giant Buddha in Kamakura.*

And many more...

What you can do

There are so many opportunities. Here are just a few:

- Work with street children and orphans
- Promote environmental conservation
- Build and repair homes
- Offer your specialized skills to communities in need
- Teach English and other subjects
- Provide vital healthcare services
- Assist with HIV/AIDS education
- Support sustainable development projects

The Buddha said, ‘If you are pointed in the right direction, all you have to do is start walking.’ United Planet is pointed in the right direction. Now, all we have to do is take the first step.”

- Dr. Jon Ryder, volunteer in Cambodia



Program options

Choose between the following type of Quest programs:

- Short term programs (1-12 weeks) **Begin twice per month*
- Long-term programs (6 months to 1 year) **Begin twice per year*
- Form your own customized Group Quest



Gorgeous Tibetan landscape at midday, near the Jyekundo village

What you gain

When you give of yourself through volunteering abroad, you end up receiving so much more. Here are just a few of the countless benefits of participating in a United Planet Quest:

- Improve your team-building skills
- Broaden your global perspective
- Enhance your understanding and appreciation of another culture
- Develop crucial leadership skills
- Gain valuable language skills
- Become a more effective communicator
- Test your ability to face new challenges
- Make a difference to a community abroad, while having lots of fun along the way
- Build lifelong friendships

Who should apply and how

Everyone can make a difference

- All ages
- All nationalities
- Both skilled and unskilled
- Individuals and groups

The steps are simple and easy

- Explore programs in more detail at www.unitedplanet.org/volunteer-abroad
- Submit an online application
- Arrange an informational interview with our staff
- Work together with the UP team to prepare for your experience

Fees and fundraising

As a non-profit organization, United Planet strives to keep our program prices as low as possible while maintaining the superior quality of the experiences we offer.

Program fees vary per country and length of program. Volunteers are encouraged to raise funds to cover or offset the costs of the program and airfare. United Planet provides a fundraising guide, as well as individualized online fundraising pages, to all volunteers. **For more information, please visit our website, www.unitedplanet.org/volunteer-abroad.**

Create your own special Group Quest

United Planet works with self-formed groups to take part in rewarding community service projects around the world. This is truly a great opportunity for your group to make a difference in a community overseas, immerse in another culture, explore a new part of the world, and learn new things about each other! All United Planet Group Quests combine meaningful service work with exciting excursions and cultural activities.

United Planet works closely with all groups to design an itinerary that suits their needs and requirements. Start dates and the length of the Quest are flexible depending on the destination. Current Group Quest destinations include:

- Romania
- Costa Rica
- Guatemala
- *Other locations available upon request*
- Peru
- Tanzania
- India

Please visit our website www.unitedplanet.org/group-volunteer-abroad for more information on how to create your own special Group Quest.



United Planet volunteers and children from orphanage in Ecuador

“**United Planet has shown me the way of life of people who are only different because they live somewhere else.**”

- Ryan Grossner,
volunteer in Tibet



Diverse programs for a diverse world

United Planet's carefully designed initiatives each feed into one another. This cyclical process energizes volunteers and builds momentum.

- > **United Planet Quests:** Volunteer in over 40 countries for 1-52 weeks. Make a difference in a community in need while immersing in culture and language
- > **Cultural Awareness Project:** Experience cross-cultural presentations and storytelling for schools and communities worldwide to expand horizons and ignite the curiosity
- > **United Planet Ambassador Clubs:** Join school and community clubs which promote and foster global understanding and leadership skills among the world's future caretakers
- > **Online Humanitarian and Cultural Exchange:** Harness the power of the Internet to connect with people from over 150 countries for cultural exchange, friendship, and discussions of important regional and global issues
- > **United Planet Day:** Celebrate global friendships and cultures during the Fall Equinox - a day on which the sun shines equally on all people on Earth



For additional information,

visit our website or contact us at:

11 Arlington Street, Boston, MA, 02116 USA

Tel: (800) 292-2316 or (617) 267-7763

Fax: (617) 267-7764

E-mail: quest@unitedplanet.org

Web: www.unitedplanet.org



United Planet's Quest program

changed my life! It was more than just volunteering—I was able to immerse myself in the culture and language, while making an important

difference.” - Holly Graham,
volunteer in Thailand



CNN selected United Planet as one of only 10 organizations worldwide to be featured as part of its “Be the Change” initiative.



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