



Volunteers For Peace USA

Terms, Conditions and Cancellation Policy

It is important that you understand **VFP's Terms, Conditions and Cancellation Policy**. Before you sign up for a project, you are required to read and accept the conditions below:

1. Projects are not resorts or tourist/recreation activities. Volunteers are expected to cooperate fully with host organizations and other participants. You are entering a group situation that depends on your willingness to contribute, adapt, and take responsibility for your experience.

2. Projects outside the USA are organized and supervised by sponsoring voluntary service organizations in host countries and not by Volunteer's For Peace (VFP). VFP makes no guarantees as to the quality of work, living conditions in individual projects.

3. VFP and our international partners reserve the right to refuse placement to any volunteer with no obligation to provide a reason.

4. Volunteers with disabilities should disclose this information to VFP to make sure that the project that they are interested in will be able to accommodate them. For example, many project sites are not accessible by wheelchair.

5. We strongly discourage canceling or changing your project. Please be sure that you will be able to participate before you register. VFP has a very strict cancellation policy, no refunds are given if you cancel a project that you have been placed in, no matter what. To protect yourself, please consider purchasing traveler's insurance to reimburse you in the event of sickness or personal or family tragedy. **If VFP is unable to place you in a project of your choice, we will refund your registration fee in full.** Note that the VFP \$30 membership fee is non-refundable.

6. We also have a strict penalty for project changes. We charge \$150 per placement, in advance, for each change that you request after we have received and processed your registration form, which is normally within hours after we receive it!

7. Volunteers are responsible for arranging and paying for their own transportation, and for obtaining necessary passports, visas and vaccinations.



Accommodations vary widely: classroom turned dormitory in Greece.

Photo Credit: Margie Beyer ~ 2008

8. Volunteers must keep VFP informed of their current address for the forwarding of the project Information Sheet/s. **We communicate exclusively by email unless otherwise requested.**

9. On occasion, a project may be cancelled or the project content changed on relatively short notice. In such cases every effort will be made to accommodate previously accepted volunteers in an alternative project. **When you register, you are assuming such a risk and agree to be flexible if and when such a situation arises.**

10. If a volunteer feels that project conditions (work, living, transportation, etc.) are not in keeping with personal standards of safety or comfort, **s/he should pursue the issue initially with the project leader & other participants and the local host organization** and then with the national service organization (included on the volunteer's acceptance letter.) VFP's ability to intervene in such instances is limited but we appreciate feedback and use it in determining future project offerings.

11. **Volunteers should keep abreast of the political situation in the countries where they travel.** If you elect to leave a project or group, either temporarily or permanently, you do so at your own risk.

12. Insurance for accidental injury, loss, and damage to volunteers is provided by most VFP partner organizations, but not all. **VFP strongly recommends that volunteers make sure they have accident insurance** for death or injury and travelers' insurance to cover loss of airfare, registration fees and other consequential damages if these potential losses are a concern. For more information on travel insurance and health, please visit the Volunteer Resources page on our website.

13. Drugs & Alcohol - Substance abuse is a major social problem and is an obstacle to overcoming the social and economic problems that afflict the world community today. **The use of illegal drugs is unacceptable in our projects.** Local hosts reserve the right to restrict or prohibit the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs and to expel you from the project with no refund of registration fees if you do not comply.

14. VFP and our international **partners reserve the right to terminate a volunteer placement if deemed necessary**, with refund of registration fee at the discretion of Volunteers For Peace. Reasons for refusal or termination include, but are not limited to: illegal activities, dangerous behavior, offensive behavior, not participating in the work. In the event that the placement is terminated, you are required to leave the project location immediately without refund.

15. VFP'S Liability is strictly limited to the refund of the volunteer registration fee/s in the event a project is canceled, changed or if a volunteer cannot be accommodated at a project which s/he had been previously accepted. VFP shall not be liable to any volunteer for (1) failure of any aircraft, ship, train, vessel or other means of transportation to depart or arrive according to any schedule, agreement or otherwise; and (2) any injury or loss to the person or property of the volunteer arising from, or in any way connected with, the volunteer's participation in a project arranged through VFP, including but not limited to any injury or loss caused by clerical errors, mechanical difficulties, riots, wars, civil disobedience, strikes, labor disputes, weather conditions, acts of God, public enemies, quarantine, the absence of any necessary governmental approvals, or any other beyond control of VFP.