



## **Expedition Agreement**

### **EXPEDITION OBJECTIVES**

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World of Difference focuses on reaching out to underprivileged children. Children who live in the slums lack the money needed to be given the opportunity to a good education. World of Difference gives these children a chance by helping communities build schools, train teachers, and by providing the supplies needed to receive a proper education. Our goal is to help these schools become self sufficient and we work side by side with local community members to accomplish this goal.

The purpose of this expedition agreement is to educate expedition volunteers of World of Difference's goal and objective, help them get prepared, and inform them of our expectations. As volunteers prepare for the amazing experience of serving in an African country, they will find something within themselves that they didn't know was there. While World of Difference's primary goal is to help change lives of those in need for the better, an amazing side benefit from the expedition will be the change it can make in the participants themselves.

### **POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS**

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As members of a World of Difference expedition, volunteers are ambassadors for World of Difference as well as for their countries of origin. Please become familiar with the policies and expectations outlined below.

#### **Standards of Personal Conduct**

All participants are considered ambassadors for the US and for World of Difference. There is a high expectation for participants to respect the reputation of trust and consideration that has been established through years of interaction with in-country directors. All volunteers are expected to:

- Be honest
- Follow all World of Difference policies
- Obey the laws of the US and the country in which we volunteer
- Use clean language
- Respect others
- Dress modestly
- Refrain from using illegal drugs

#### **Dress and Grooming Standards**

The dress standards of both men and women volunteers should always be modest and respectful. Even though African countries are poor, people make a sincere effort to look their best. Women often wear dresses and men typically dress in slacks. Adults don't wear shorts or tops that show too much skin. The following types of clothes are appropriate:

- Shorts that come to the knees can be worn while working on the project.
- T-shirts that are not sleeveless or cut too low are appropriate.
- A skirt or dress for women is required by some restaurants.
- Slacks and a nice shirt for men are required by some restaurants.

### **Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco**

Any illegal, non-prescription drugs are not allowed and will result in immediate dismissal of a volunteer. If a volunteer is asked to go home early due to illegal drugs, he/she will be responsible for any extra cost. Volunteers will not be allowed to drink alcohol or use tobacco during the time the team is at the project site. In the evenings and while on safari, volunteers can use their best judgment in regard to alcohol and tobacco, if they are over 21 years of age.

### **Youth Considerations**

Any volunteers under the age of 18 years must have a signed release from a parent or legal guardian that places responsibility on an adult expedition member (or team leader). A parent or legal guardian must accompany participants under the age of 12. In both situations, a waiver must be signed freeing World of Difference from any liability.

### **Proselyting**

World of Difference is not affiliated with any religious organization. Volunteers are encouraged not to hand out any literature promoting their religious or personal philosophies.

### **Project Goals**

As part of our overall vision for World of Difference, team members have the opportunity to participate working side by side with local Kenyan volunteers from the community. As part of our policy, the community must have as many volunteers as we bring so we can share in the beauty of working together efficiently. We also leave our projects somewhat “unfinished” so the community can work throughout the coming year to complete the projects on their own as they learn to be self-sufficient.

## **FINANCIAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

The cost for each volunteer is \$3,850. This will be in the form of donations to World of Difference. The first donation of \$300 will be due along with the application. This \$300 is non-refundable. The rest of the donations will be paid in two separate installments. Leaders from each team will inform their team members of the due dates for the last two donations. If due dates are not met, the cost of airfare and accommodations may go up, resulting in an increase of expedition cost.

The \$3,850 includes airfare, accommodations, food, water, safari, a trip to a resort on the Indian Ocean, project expenses, visas, transportation, and tips for a two-week expedition. Any expense of personal nature is not included in expedition costs. This includes, but is not limited to: phone calls, laundry service, soda, treats, and souvenirs. Other costs not included are passports, immunizations and medication, travel insurance, and any side trips planned before and/or after the expedition.

Donations can be mailed to:  
World of Difference  
c/o Kindee Dixon  
11531 Sunburn Ln  
Sandy, UT 84094

Donations may also be made via PayPal on our website  
[www.makeaworldofdifference.org](http://www.makeaworldofdifference.org)

If a volunteer leaves Kenya early for any reason, he/she will be responsible for any increase of airfare or other accommodations.

### **Cancellation**

Due to the humanitarian nature of the trip, it is not possible for us to refund the donations you make to World of Difference if you need to cancel your trip for any reason. We can always hold your donation if you need to switch to another team or if you need to delay your trip to the following year.

## **TRAVEL INFORMATION**

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### **Travel Advisory**

Volunteers should look online for information within their country. Travel advisory information can be found at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) for U.S. State Department Information. The following websites may also be helpful:

[www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel) – Center for Disease Control  
[www.embassyworld.com](http://www.embassyworld.com) – Locate embassies around the world  
[www.times.clari.net.au](http://www.times.clari.net.au) – Local time zones around the world  
[www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com) – Currency Conversions  
[www.tsa.gov/public](http://www.tsa.gov/public) – Transportation Security Administration  
[www.towd.com](http://www.towd.com) – Tourism Offices Worldwide

### **Safety**

Safety is always a concern when traveling to third world countries. It is important for volunteers to always listen to and follow directions given by team leaders. Unfortunately, theft is common and volunteers must keep a very close eye on all of their belongings. Never leave items unattended and do not bring expensive jewelry or watches. Laptops and other expensive gear are not recommended and should be brought at your own risk. Also, don't carry money or passports in an outside pocket. A money belt or neck pouch worn underneath clothing and next to the body is ideal to hold valuables.

The U.S. embassy always receives a copy of World of Difference expedition itineraries along with a copy of all volunteers' Passports. Team leaders also have an in-country cell phone for emergencies.

### **Passports and Visas**

Volunteers must have a passport to travel internationally. One may obtain a passport application at the post office, government building, or online. If a volunteer does not have

a passport, it is essential that he/she apply for one immediately. This process can take up to 6 weeks. See [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) for detailed information.

Volunteers must make at least two photocopies of the first page of their passport, which should be mailed (or emailed) to the team leader at least 60 days before departure. It is also recommended to leave a copy with an emergency contact in the US in case of lost or stolen passports.

A travel visa will be obtained at the airport when we reach Kenya.

## **Preparing for Departure**

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### **General Packing Tips**

Take as little as possible. Bring clothing that is comfortable, lightweight, and easy to care for. Here is a suggested list of items to pack:

#### **WHAT TO PACK:**

- 5-6 t-shirts
- 2 pair of long shorts/capri pants (girls, please make sure your shorts come to the knee)
- Light jacket
- Sweatshirt/long-sleeved tee...whatever you prefer
- Rain jacket, anorak or poncho
- 1 pair of pants for working
- Clothes to lounge in at night
- 1 pair of sandals that are comfortable, can get wet, etc. (Tevas, Chacos)
- 1 pair of tennis shoes or sturdy shoes for working
- Camera
- Your own adapters for battery chargers, etc.
- Video camera (optional).
- Small calculator (for money exchange rate)
- Journal
- Adequate underwear (you can always wash out in shower or have it laundered at the hotel for a small fee)
- Bug spray and Anti-itch cream for bites
- Baby wipes (our hands get really dirty, bring plenty!!)
- Hand sanitizer
- Pajamas
- Bathing Suit
- Shower flip flops (recommended)
- Small hand towel
- Small travel pillow
- Enough power bars/ granola bars/fruit snacks/trail mix/beef jerky, etc. for the 2+ weeks we will be gone.
- Sweets if you want any (there are no desserts/chocolate in Kenya, FYI)
- Toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, etc.)
- Flashlight/headlamp
- Durable water bottle you can refill every day (ex. Nalgene)
- Sunscreen

- Hat
- Scarf /Bandana to keep neck from getting burned on the project (optional)
- Sunglasses
- Work Gloves
- Trade items (you can bring pens, candy, cheap watches that look expensive, t-shirts (especially ones with sports team logos, USA flags, etc.), hats, sunglasses, old running shoes, etc. When we go shopping you can use these things to trade/barter with the vendors and lower the prices of the souvenirs you are buying)

All of your personal items will need to fit in a carry on bag and the two bags that you check onto the plane will be filled with service supplies.

### **Service Bags**

Each volunteer will be responsible for filling two service bags (Army duffle bags) and will be checking them in under his/her name. Service bags should be filled with supplies that will benefit a classroom vs. just one child. As a note, all of the children speak English. Here are some ideas:

- School supplies – pens, pencils, colored pencils, markers, lined paper, computer paper, construction paper, stickers, crayons, etc.
- Educational posters
- Children’s books/Reading books (for all levels)
- Textbooks (for all levels)
- Sports equipment (including soccer balls AND pumps)
- Sports jerseys
- First aid supplies
- Blankets (twin)
- Tools
- Toys, bubbles, etc.

Airlines do impose weight limitations on baggage. Since this changes from year to year and from one airport to another, team leaders will advise the volunteers of those limitations. The general limit is 50 lbs. per check-on bag.

### **Medication and Shots**

It is best to consult your physician or a travel clinic to advise you of what medications are needed. Volunteers will be in potential malaria areas and will spend time in orphanages. Please be sure to bring enough prescription medication for the whole length of the expedition.

The following medications and shots are recommended 30 days before travel:

- Hepatitis A (3-part series, lasts a lifetime once complete)
- Hepatitis B (3-part series, lasts a lifetime once complete)
- Typhoid (oral lasts 5 years, the shot lasts 3 years)
- Yellow Fever (lasts 10 years) \*optional
- Tetanus (lasts 10 years, make sure yours is current)
- Prescription for Malaria (malarone, lariam, doxycycline, mefloquine, etc.)
- Prescription for Diamox (for those climbing Kilimanjaro)

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

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### **Is the expedition service only?**

No. The focus of the expedition is the project, however, we will take time to go on safari and to a resort on the Indian Ocean. Essentially, we will work hard and play hard.

### **Where does my money go?**

Your donation covers the cost of the plane ticket, in-country accommodations, food, bottled water, transportation, safari, trip to the Indian Ocean and, of course, the project. We don't only bring man power to build the schools, we also provide the supplies and materials to complete the job.

### **Is everything tax deductible?**

World of Difference is a non-profit organization as described by section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. World of Difference is set up so that volunteers can donate the amount of the expedition to the organization and in return, each person will receive a receipt for tax purposes for the full amount of the expedition. Any personal travel before and after the expedition is not tax deductible. Kilimanjaro is also not tax deductible.

### **How long is the flight?**

Since everyone is coming from different airports, we all have to meet up at a major US departure city, such as Denver, Dallas/Houston, Chicago, DC, etc. Once we meet up there, the first leg of the flight to our stop-over in Europe is usually 8 hours. There is typically a 4-12 hour layover in Europe before the final leg of the flight to Kenya that is 8-9 hours. We leave on a Thursday and arrive to Kenya either late Friday night or early Saturday morning.

### **How can I raise money for the expedition?**

This is left up to each volunteer individually, since everyone pays their own way. Many corporations may offer donations on behalf of a volunteer or match donations that the volunteer has raised. We can write a letter for you verifying your participation in the expedition that you can send to family and friends asking for donations. You can hold a garage sale, car wash, 5K run in your community, or a host of other fundraising activities. Be creative and don't be afraid to ask for money. Any donations that you receive from others can be made to World of Difference with your name as a reference. Each donor will also receive a receipt for their donation for tax purposes.

### **Do I need any spending money?**

You will need spending money for all of the souvenirs you plan to purchase. Most people bring between \$100-200+ depending on how much they want to buy.

Spending money can also be used to buy sodas, treats, or other things that are not included in our daily meals.

### **What kind of souvenirs will I find in Kenya?**

You can buy things such as wood carvings, baskets, paintings, jewelry, picture frames, fabric/cloth, drums, soapstone, and a number of other "African" items. We shop in local markets and villages so we don't have to pay tourist prices for souvenirs. Make sure to bring items for trading to help save you money.

**What kind of food will we eat?**

The food in Kenya is very mild. For breakfast there is bread, hot chocolate, eggs, sausage and we bring instant oatmeal as a supplement. For lunch we eat sandwiches and fruit (bananas, pineapple, apples). For dinner we eat a basic starch (rice, pasta, potatoes) with a vegetable (green beans, carrots, okra), soup, bread, and an optional meat such as beef, chicken or pork. There are also occasional treats such as mandazi (fried bread) and chapatti (hand made tortillas) that are typical for the area.

**Should I bring any food?**

You should bring snacks like trail mix, beef jerky, power bars, fruit snacks, granola bars, etc. that you may want during the day. We have some long days and days where we are traveling a lot, so it's helpful to have your own extra food on hand. If you have any food allergies, please let team leaders know well ahead of time so we can accommodate your situation.

**What type of transportation will we have?**

We do not take public transportation for safety reasons. Instead, we have our own drivers and ride around in either a large bus that fits the whole team or in safari vans. Each van seats 8-9 people.

**What will our accommodations be like?**

Our accommodations are simple, but safe. We stay in a locally owned and operated hotel that consists of 2 beds and a bathroom in each room. We usually eat breakfast and dinner at the hotel.

**Is it safe in Kenya?**

Yes, Kenya is generally safe. We take special precautions to ensure the safety of our teams. We don't take public transportation and have established relationships within the community to create a safe working environment. Drivers and team leaders will caution team members if there are any safety concerns. We also notify the US Embassy of our itinerary in case we need to be contacted or evacuated for any reason.

**How often can I call or email home?**

There are no computers where we are staying, so emailing home regularly is difficult. The team leaders will each have cell phones that participants can use to call home. Buying cell phone minutes is inexpensive and it's easy to call home as often as needed.

**Is the water safe to drink?**

No. Because the water is not safe to drink, we provide bottled water for everyone to drink and to use when brushing their teeth. Everyone is encouraged to drink at least 1-2 L of water per day.

**Should I bring traveler's checks?**

Traveler's checks are difficult to use these days. It's best to bring an ATM card and pull out local currency at the ATM. There are ATM's at the airport and across the street from where we stay.

**Will I get sick?**

Some people experience “Traveler’s diarrhea” for the first few days until their bodies adjust. Also, flu-like symptoms may occur if hands are not washed properly after interacting with all the children. Bring enough Immodium/Pepto Bismol and cold medicine just in case.

**Will I have free time?**

Yes, there will be free time during the expedition. After we return from the project at the end of the day, participants will have time to eat dinner, shower, and have their own personal time. We will also provide free time during the safari and the trip to the Indian Ocean.

**What is the structure of a typical day during the project?**

Breakfast starts at 7am each morning and we meet together as a team at 7:15 for a team meeting. During the meeting, a team member will share a highlight of his or her day so far on the trip. We will also go over any announcements or cultural things to be aware of. Our drivers meet us to leave at 7:45am. We arrive to the project around 8:30am and begin working. Sometimes we will visit other schools on the way to our project, so keep that in mind.

We work until 5pm, with a break for lunch sometime mid-afternoon. Dinner begins at 7pm and the rest of the evening is set aside for free time.

**Are there any concerns for HIV/AIDS?**

Some of the children with whom we are working are HIV positive. Because we don’t know the details of every child, we ask volunteers to stay away from any blood contact whatsoever. If a child has a bloody nose or a skinned knee, we immediately refer the child to the teachers so they can take care of the situation.

**Can I photograph anything I want?**

We ask that you please be respectful of the local culture. Some tribes, mainly the Maasai, believe that taking a picture of them actually takes away a piece of their soul. Sometimes you can pay a small fee to compensate their invasion of privacy, but always ask for permission before taking pictures. You can also ask team leaders if you have any questions. Many times they have already made arrangements for photos to be taken.