



Kalkeri Sangeet Vidyalaya

A School with a difference ...

Initial Information for your Volunteering Application

Many thanks for your interest in the Kalkeri Sangeet Vidyalaya (KSV).
Here is some information which will help you to proceed with your application.

Mission

Kalkeri Sangeet Vidyalaya (Kalkeri Music School) was founded in November 2002 by Indian, French and Canadian citizens. Its mission is to empower, support, and encourage children from socially marginalised and economically disadvantaged backgrounds and to help them to realise their full potential and attain a better life. This is done through an intensive and comprehensive program of academics and music.

The school provides a musical and academic education to nearly 200 children aged between 5 and 23 years-old. In addition, food, accomodation, health care and clothing are also provided, and everything is free. There are no fees at all.

KSV is a non-profit, non-Governmental organization with no political or religious affiliations.



Why be volunteer ?

By being a volunteer, you will live a wonderful experience and share unique moments with young Indians in a natural environment. A stay at KSV is also a nice way to learn more about this marvellous country, which has a very rich and diverse culture, much different from ours.

Our Expectations

Volunteers should be fully involved and are expected to work for approximately 8 hours a day, 6 days a week. Working for the well-being and education of youngsters can be quite demanding, but also a very enriching experience. Time and energy given by the volunteers are precious and in order to use efficiently our human resources, the organization sets a timetable for each volunteer.

All the adults at KSV have a direct impact upon the children's behaviour. It is expected that the children learn values such as respect for authority, justice, honesty and equality. So that the children effectively take these values on board, we ourselves as adults need to behave correctly and lead by example.

As the children are exposed to volunteers from other countries and cultures, this broadens their outlook on the world and boosts their self-esteem and confidence.

Application

The selection of volunteers is based upon their interests, experiences and their capacity to adapt. In order to maintain stability and for the well-being of the children, the minimum period of stay for volunteers is four months. The planned periods for volunteers are as follows;

- 15th January – 14th May
- 15th May – 14th September
- 15th September – 14th January

However, volunteers may be accepted for shorter periods in specific cases.

Required documents:

- The enclosed Application Form filled in: please, fill it with due care and attention; it allows us to know you more personally.
- Your Curriculum Vitae.
- Two letters of reference from close relatives (parents, friend, employer).

Travel Costs and Accommodation Fees

Travel, visa and medical insurance (including repatriation and liability) costs have to be paid by the volunteers. KSV also charges volunteers a nominal amount for living expenses - \$50CAD (approximately 35€) per week.

Your weekly contribution includes the services you will receive while at the school – accommodation, food, laundry, etc. – this fee also helps to support KSV.

If your application is approved, it is important to know that your visa is valid from the day of issue and not from your arrival date in India.

Overview of KSV

KSV is established a short distance from Kalkeri Village, 15km from Dharwad in Karnataka State (South India).

The school is in a forest area and the buildings are made from traditional materials (wood, bamboo, mud, tiles). In this peaceful setting, the children enjoy the tranquillity necessary for their academic studies and music practice.

The students are trained and taught by a team of experienced and motivated teachers - many of the music teachers are professional renowned musicians in their own right.

Outside the class time, a team of wardens looks after the children.

Around 10 employees also work in the school who maintain the campus and take of the catering.

During April and October, the children go back home for their annual holidays. As the houses and classrooms are not occupied, it is an ideal time to maintain and improve the infrastructures, prepare the lessons, tidy the library...



Students' Timetable

5.30am - 6.00am	→ Wake up
6.00am - 7.00am	→ Individual music practice, Physical activity
7.00am - 7.45am	→ Shower and Bobo time*
7.45am - 8.30am	→ Nashta (Breakfast)
8.30am - 11.30am	→ Music classes
11.50am - 1.00pm	→ Academic classes
1.00pm - 1.45pm	→ Lunch
1.45pm - 4.40pm	→ Academic classes
4.45pm	→ Nashta (Snack)
5.00pm - 6.00pm	→ Free time, Reading classes, Bobo time*
6.00pm - 7.30pm	→ Homework
7.30pm	→ Dinner
10.00pm	→ Lights out

*Healthcare



Volunteers' Profile

In order to live in harmony, anybody willing to stay at KSV must possess the following values and personal qualities: interest in the development and well-being of children, good physical and mental health, ability to live in a community in a simple and natural environment, respect and understanding for different cultures, open-mindedness, adaptability, ability to communicate and work in a team, flexibility, tolerance, patience and humility.

Volunteers are accommodated in the school itself, in simple traditional houses made of bamboo and mud.

KSV gives free language classes (Hindi or Kannada) once a week. It is possible to take music classes in vocal, harmonium, tabla, sitar and bansuri with our more advanced students. KSV charges the volunteers for these classes (1 hour: around \$2CAD / 1,50€).

Available Posts

English Teacher - Five volunteers - Minimum stay requirement: Four months.

Previous experience in teaching is desired, and it is important to speak English fluently (oral and written) as well as have plenty of patience, be open-minded, be creative in order to prepare and give the lessons that have originality in order to gain and maintain the interest of the students—this ensures they want to learn and that they stay attentive during the classes.

The volunteers teach English alongside our Indian teachers for the levels from 1st year of primary school till the last year of secondary school. You will have to give at least three English classes a day. You will have to organise and prepare the lessons while following the school syllabus. The Indian teachers will provide you the help you will need.

Healthcare Professional and Assistant - Two female volunteers - A minimum stay of four months is recommended.

We'd like to welcome people for this task who have knowledge in natural medicine or a special interest for it. Our aim is to concentrate on the improvement of the immune system of our children and to cure them with natural remedies. Prevention is better than cure.

The Healthcare Professional monitors the children daily, in the morning and evening. She also ensures that the children who need medical follow-up or some treatment (cleaning of wounds, giving medicines, etc.) is done, with the help of the wardens. It also involves maintaining the medical files of the children on the computer in order to have a better knowledge of the health condition

of each child and to make web based research to collect information about any possible problems you could face. If there is a doubt about a diagnosis, the person has to go to the hospital in Dharwad with the child. Some visits to the dentist also have to be done. It would be much appreciated that the person facilitates some workshops for the children about health, hygiene and the human body.

It is important to be caring, attentive and well organized.

Children's Warden – Four volunteers - (A man for the older boys and a woman for the younger boys; two women for the girls) - Minimum stay requirement: Four months.

We give preference to people who are at least 25 years-old and who have previous experience working with children.

The volunteer wardens work alongside the Indian wardens and look after the children's well-being in general. It involves helping the children to get ready in the morning, organising activities during their free time, helping them with their studies, being there when they go to sleep etc. It is also important to be attentive to any changes in the children's behaviour, identify the reasons and try to improve their condition by giving them care, love and attention; to be involved in the follow-up of the children who are facing some specific challenges, whether at academic or psychological levels (social approach). The wardens have to ensure that the children who have health problems are referred to the person in charge of the healthcare.

It is a demanding task with a different timetable from other volunteers, but it is also an exciting and rewarding task because it allows a privileged relationship with the children.

Volunteers working directly with children must be attentive, well organized, responsible, creative and show initiative.

Community Arts Worker – One volunteer - Minimum stay requirement: Four months.

We truly believe it is important that the children have the opportunity to express their creativity and make different artistic projects.

This task consists in organizing artistic, creative and educational workshops. The volunteer is in charge of the art classes (drawing, sculpting, painting, craft, stitching, etc.) for all the academic levels and takes care every morning of the youngest children who have less music classes by offering them different activities. Some time slots are kept for preparing the classes.

The volunteer for this task must be creative, well organized and patient. Previous experience with youngsters is desired.

We welcome any project which can help the children in their growth and development.

Administration Assistant – One volunteer – The minimum length of the stay depends upon the task.

In order to complete the administrative tasks, the KSV administrative team is composed by 10 full time members, 6 Indian people and 4 foreigners.

This task depends upon the needs of the school at the time of your stay. It includes different web based research, updating KSV's website and other related web pages on the social network (Facebook, MySpace, YouTube), translating documents, updating the school's presentation documents, planning and organizing events, accounts work, etc.

For this mission, it is required to have good computer skills, to speak English fluently, to be patient, rigorous and be able to work on your own initiative.

Fundraising Assistant – One volunteer - The minimum length of the stay depends upon the task.

In any cultural organization or charity, fundraising is essential. The KSV team now has many years of experience in this area. By working with them, you will get a valuable insight into what it takes to fund an organization like KSV.

The volunteer helps the administration team in its approaches of external fundraising. Responsibilities include finding grant-making organizations (web researches), writing grant applications, working on budgets, making a follow-up with the current applications and donors.

For this task, the volunteer should have good computer skills and speak English fluently (oral and written).

A previous experience in this area would be an advantage but is not essential.

Others

We are also interested to welcome people to KSV who have a specific qualification or passion and are willing to impart this knowledge to our students or the school in general through classes and workshops. Examples could be; painter, carpenter, architect, gardener, baker, circus professional...

The minimum length of the stay depends upon the task and will have to be discussed with the volunteers' coordinator.

Other Daily Activities

In addition to their specific tasks, all volunteers participate in various daily tasks such as; English reading classes, academic tuition classes, help at meal times, entertaining the children during their free time, etc.

Finally...

As soon as we will have received the following documents:

- The Application Form
- Your Curriculum Vitae
- Two letters of reference

we will contact you as soon as possible. If your application is approved, the next stage will be an interview by phone or in person.

If successful you will live an enriching experience and build relationships with children which will remain in your hearts forever !

For more information, please visit our website: www.ksv.org.in and contact us: geraldine@ksv.org.in.

More detailed descriptions of the posts are available upon request.

