

About FSL-India

FSL-India is a dynamic youth organization which undertakes social action through the international exchange of young people. FSL-India was established in India in 2001 with the support of several well-known international organizations involved in the field of international volunteer services.

We are a non-profit organization and are independent of public funding. We organize ourselves to promote Global Understanding, Inter-cultural learning and to work for togetherness encouraged by World Peace through Youth Mobility.

Being an active NGO in the field of development in general, we do not support any political or religious groups. We co-operate with a large number of NGOs and local communities in organizing our projects. Through volunteering, FSL-India aims to offer Indian youth, women, children, farmers, fishermen and other vulnerable sections of society direct contact with youth from abroad. International volunteers can make a positive impact towards the local communities, by encouraging them to continue the work initiated by FSL and the volunteers. It also works in a reciprocal way for international participants to experience an exciting time in India.

FSL India undertakes a variety of volunteer projects across India and its head office is located in Bangalore, Karnataka. The organization runs regional centers from where our activities are coordinated at the local level. FSL-India does projects that are always in co-operation with the local community, and in a section where the international volunteers can make a real impact towards the local communities, by encouraging the work initiated by FSL India and the volunteers.

Our Ideology

We believe that the experience of living and working with people from varied cultural backgrounds tends to create understanding and respect, something we should all work on and feel responsible for, in this world!

We are part of a worldwide network of like-minded organizations that strive to make a difference by encouraging youth on the values of service through work camps for the local communities. We send and receive young people to/from all across the globe, by giving an opportunity to everyone to make a difference in his/her own life by sharing responsibilities and to shape his/her destiny into his/her hands.

Volunteering is the heart of our work and activities. We initiate work camps together with local communities in building a more peaceful and self-content society.

By placing volunteers throughout India and the world in various communities, we show interest in the work and lives of people, which in turn encourages them to take up their own initiatives and find local solutions. We also hope to make people more aware of the world in which they live and its unlimited possibilities.

In this endeavor, it helps open the minds of local communities towards internationalism in an age of globalization. It further encourages exchange of individual experiences and points of view among all the participants involved. It also creates awareness and reflection on one's own culture.

Expectations from the Volunteers

FSL-India expects all volunteers to:

- Read and understand the information sheet and to attend the preparation meeting organized by their sending organization.
- Co-operate with FSL by adapting to their new culture.
- Co-operate with the work camp's team leader, who is in charge at all times of the volunteer's

security.

- Show responsibility towards their work.
- Adjust to the way of life in the project and camp surroundings.
- Realize that the living conditions are many times different than at home (no warm water/air-conditioning, no easy access to international phone or internet, no easy transportation at all times, mosquitoes...etc)
- Be open-minded, flexible, leave prejudices behind and show initiative.
- Understand that a lot of time will be spent with local people who do not speak English fluently. Volunteers should make an effort in trying to communicate in the local language; this shows their interest.
- Be creative. Ideas for the work, discussions, the campsite, excursions, and free time are expected to come from the group during the camp. Share your thoughts and ideas!
- Only English is accepted when others are around, even if they do not join in the conversation.
- Behavior and dress code should be culture sensitive, especially while in the village or schools.

Moreover, being with FSL India means that you are part of an international community of volunteers from all over the world, which presents a unique experience for the youth. Besides gaining new skills of communication, practical knowledge and work experience, volunteers become aware of the importance of being socially active.

Costs

FSL India is a non-profit organization and does not depend on public or external funding. All costs of the camp are sustained through participation fees from volunteers. Therefore volunteers are expected to pay the participation fee mentioned below besides all their personal costs needed to come to India (travel/vaccinations/etc):

All work camps conducted by FSL India last for two or three weeks.

FSL Work Camps

Two Weeks: Rs. 7,500/-

FSL Special Work Camps (SPL)

Two Weeks: Rs. 10,000/-

Three Weeks: Rs. 15,000/-

FSL India Special Work Camps (SPL):

FSL India conducts Special camps in order to facilitate further improvement to go an extra mile to maintain a stronger relationship with its local partners. Special camps deliver extra support to the communities. For example: Happy Hearts, building play parks, construction, painting, distribution of materials for education, medical aid...etc, depending on the specific needs of the present situation.

Some special camps have a duration of three weeks.

What does the volunteer participation fee cover:

We are a non-profit organization, so we have kept our prices as affordable as possible. We receive absolutely no financial support from the government of India or from any other foreign agency. The main source of income available for FSL is the participation fee that is collected from the volunteers.

The participation fee is spent as follows (from the most to the least expensive item):

1. **Project development:** this is the money that is spent to identify and set up projects. Some projects require more expenditures than others.
2. **Volunteers hosting payments:** FSL India pays for the food, accommodation, transportation to project site for participants - which differs from project to project.
3. **Running the camp:** This includes all the materials needed for the project, tools, professional charges for masons, plumbers, carpenters and so on. Happy hearts for the teaching projects is also included in the Project running cost.
4. **Support expenses of local Indian youth trained and supported by us.**
5. **Donations to local social projects:** apart from supporting local NGOs by the placement of volunteers and by organizing short-term work camps, FSL India also makes occasional donations (in kind or in cash) to its International network and partner NGOs.
6. **Office expenses including salaries, rents, telephone, internet, postage, photocopy, printing, stationery, electricity and other equipments.**
7. **International travel costs to attend Conferences and international meetings:** FSL sends representatives to statutory meetings and conferences to interact with its worldwide partners and develop its activities.
8. **Participation fees to international conferences and meetings:** on such occasions, FSL also has to pay a participation fee.
9. **International membership fees:** Every year FSL India renews membership of international networks and platforms of like-minded organizations.
9. **Promotional Material & Web Site costs.**

Other Details

- All Camps start on a Monday.
- The info sheet will contain the general work details as per each project as well as information on the meeting points, contact information and other guidelines. The info sheets shall be sent atleast one month before the camp starts. We expect you to read it at least once before joining the workcamp.
- The volunteers should subscribe to their own health insurance and take care of medical vaccinations needed for the specific area.
- The social contact in the camp is as important as the work itself and respect for the local environment and community is expected at all times.
- Initiative, Creativity and involvement are expected and could give the camp the personal direction of that group. So work together with the camp leaders in creating a successful

project.

- **The participation fee must be paid on the first day of the camp to the Team Leader and in the local currency (Indian Rupees).**