



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY WITH AWSOM PROJECT

Have you ever thought about volunteering overseas? Are you a qualified swimming teacher or lifeguard? We have the perfect adventure for you! This is an opportunity to be involved in rewarding humanitarian work at a reduced cost compared to similar tours organised by travel companies.

SOME BACKGROUND ABOUT THE AWSOM PROJECT

Most people in Australia are unaware that thirty children drown every day in Vietnam (Unicef/TASC). The Australian Water Safety on the Mekong (AWSOM) Project is a small charity based in Perth, Australia (Charitable Licence 21613). The My Tho City Government has requested our ongoing assistance with the enormous task of ensuring the children in the region are provided with essential water safety skills and education.

As part of our project, we run annual water safety and swimming clinics for disadvantaged, disabled and orphaned village children in the Mekong region. My Tho City is in the Tien Giang Province which is located along the Mekong River and is the source of life for over one and a half million people. Ironically the river is also an omnipresent hazard for children and adults who live and work along the banks of the Mekong. Children do not know how to swim and sadly education about water safety is non-existent. Children in this region regularly need to cross makeshift bridges (often consisting of a tree trunk across the water) to attend school. Drowning is a common occurrence in these situations.

We work in collaboration with the My Tho City People's Committee, The Education Department and the Sports, Cultural and Tourism Centre of My Tho City.

TOUR TO VIETNAM

The team meets in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) and travels by bus to My Tho City. The week in My Tho City is completely arranged for you (clinics, accommodation, most meals, sightseeing etc). The week is challenging and hard work, but previous participants describe it as one of the best experiences of their lives!

Cost: \$1200.00 per person

What is included?

- Business visa for entry into Vietnam
- One night of accommodation (twin share) in 3-star hotel in HCMC (includes breakfast)
- Coach trip from Ho Chi Minh City to My Tho City
- Six nights of accommodation in 4-star hotel in My Tho City (includes breakfast)
- Breakfast and lunch daily in My Tho City
- Some evening meals in My Tho City
- Teambuilding activity in HCMC
- Fully organised volunteer experience
- Transport in My Tho City
- On ground support of team leaders and local representative throughout volunteer mission
- Team shirt and loan of AWSOM rash vest and resources

What is not included?

- Airfares
- Airport transfers (approximately \$15.00 by taxi from airport to District 1 HCMC)
- Return transfer from My Tho City to HCMC
- Travel insurance
- Spending money
- Some evening meals
- Vaccinations

ITINERARY FOR NEXT TOUR

Saturday 11 January:

- Arrive in HCMC
- Check in at hotel
- Team Meeting
- Team building activity
- Team Dinner

Sunday 12 January:

- Hotel check out
- Travel to My Tho City by coach
- Check in at hotel
- Official Welcome Meeting in My Tho City
- Activity in My Tho City

Monday 13 January:

- Welcome Ceremony
- Community Education Sessions (Remote or Local Schools)
- Drowning prevention clinics in pool

Tuesday 14 January:

- Community Education Sessions (Remote or Local Schools)
- Drowning prevention clinics in pool

Wednesday 15 January:

- Community Education Sessions (Remote or Local Schools)
- Drowning prevention clinics in pool

Thursday 16 January:

- Community Education Sessions (Remote or Local Schools)
- Drowning prevention clinics in pool

Friday 17 January:

- Community Education Sessions (Remote or Local Schools)
- Drowning prevention clinics in pool
- Team Debrief
- Farewell party
- Official end of tour following farewell ceremony

Saturday 18 January:

- Check out of hotel

WHY PAY TO VOLUNTEER?

We are a not-for-profit organisation which does not receive any financial support from the government, so volunteers must finance themselves. The money you pay allows us to provide you with an amazing opportunity to contribute your skills to a lifesaving mission. Our charity has worked hard to establish partnerships in Vietnam and be recognised as an INGO in the Mekong Delta region. You will be working in a project where you are genuinely needed and, in addition, we ensure that our partner organisations and schools don't have to pay for the help of our volunteers.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

The AWSOM Project is an entirely independent organisation and of course, we don't request money from our partner organisations in Vietnam. Therefore, your contribution as a volunteer helps to fund our vital work. The fees paid cover costs such as visas, on ground transport, accommodation, meals, sightseeing, uniforms, resources, equipment, and administration costs such as insurance and business expenses.

HOW TO APPLY

Please complete the AWSOM Project Volunteer Application Form. Submit this with a copy of the following certified documents by COB 30 June 2024. All qualifications must be valid for the period of the tour.

TEACHERS:

- Australian Swim Teacher Qualification
- Working With Children Card
- CPR Certificate
- National Police Clearance
- Passport - **Please Note: We are unable to accept your application without a copy of a valid passport with an expiry date of at least the end of July 2025.**

LIFEGUARDS:

- Pool or Surf Lifeguard Qualification
- Working With Children Card (Volunteer application acceptable)
- First Aid Certificate
- Passport - **Please Note: We are unable to accept your application without a copy of a valid passport with an expiry date of at least the end of July 2025.**

SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES

Shortlisted candidates will need to make themselves available for an interview in July at a mutual time agreed upon by the Committee and the candidate. Interviews may be in person or virtual.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

Successful applicants will be advised by COB 31 July 2024. All team members must sign the AWSOM Project Code of Conduct prior to travelling to Vietnam. It is the responsibility of candidates to arrange their own airfares, travel insurance and vaccinations. Travel insurance is mandatory for all participants.

Business visas will be arranged by our leadership team and will be issued for a maximum one-month period under Vietnamese regulations. Candidates may travel to and from Vietnam at any time conditional upon meeting the listed itinerary, and within the visa dates.

Candidates are requested to arrange their own means of transportation from My Tho City at the conclusion of the tour. This can be at any time/day following the farewell ceremony. The leadership team can provide advice and/or assist you with these arrangements.

Thank you for your interest – we look forward to receiving your application! Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information (contact details below).

Bev Christmass and Nikki McNamara
Cofounders

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