



omprakash

Connecting Volunteers, Classrooms & Communities

Advice for Volunteers

- Register and create a profile on omprakash.org.

After going through our free and easy registration process, you will be able to connect with our Partners and other Volunteers, share teaching and learning resources, and identify teachers and students that want to learn from and support your efforts.

- Use the resources available on our website.

As you plan your trip, visit omprakash.org/travelresources for informational support about logistics such as airfare, visas, and immunizations. To browse our user-generated archive of lesson plans and other international teaching resources, visit omprakash.org/teachingresources. To browse our user-generated archive of learning resources that you can offer to schools in your home community, visit omprakash.org/classroomresources. Eventually, we hope you will contribute to these archives!

- Know before you go.

Before leaving, do research and build your background knowledge of the country in which you intend to volunteer. You should be familiar with the country's history, culture, and political situation. You should also learn as much as possible about the history, mission, and goals of the organization with which you are volunteering. Don't hesitate to ask Omprakash administrators or other Omprakash Volunteers for this sort of information if you need it.

- Learn and respect cultural differences.

Be familiar with and respectful of the cultural "norms" of the country in which you are volunteering. This includes dressing appropriately, respecting traditions, eating local cuisine, etc.

- Work "with" our Partners, not "for" them.

Omprakash promotes a model of volunteering that stands in contrast to situations in which "the rich" help "the poor." Do your best to immerse yourself in the community in which you are working. Embrace an attitude of mutually beneficial collaboration. Remain humble and open-minded.

- Be flexible and patient.

Living and working in a new culture can be challenging in many aspects, and these qualities will help ensure a positive experience for you and the Partner you are serving. Please do not hesitate to contact an Omprakash administrator or former Volunteer if you encounter any challenges.

- Stay connected while abroad.

Write "stories" on our website so that other members of our network can learn about the Partner you are serving and the work you are doing. You can include attachments that will help others serve and learn from the efforts of our Partners. Feel free to include photos, videos, and more!

- Keep connecting after you return.

Finally, keep in mind that we encourage you to continue your relationship with our Partners after your return to your home country. Please browse our website to learn more about how you can help expand our network, fundraise for our Partners, raise awareness, enrich curricula in local schools, and provide information for other prospective volunteers.