

In China, given the language differences, the most valuable and efficient volunteer work for English speaking people is teaching English in the relatively economic and educational resource underdeveloped areas, to disadvantaged groups who would otherwise not have the opportunity to learn English from a native speaker.

The general picture of a volunteer's life in China would be:

1. Arrive in Beijing: Host will pick up volunteer at the airport, provide them room and board, and give them intense TEFL training for 3 days. The volunteer must then pass the TEFL test, and will receive the TEFL certificate. This is all covered by the extra \$180 fee which is paid in the US.
2. Relax a bit (2-3days): Visit relics in Beijing, such as the Great Wall, Forbidden City, Yuan Ming Yuan (Garden of Perfect Splendor), or the Summer Palace. Everything is free of charge including tickets and transportation, meals, room and board etc.
3. Host will then transport and chaperon volunteers to local schools to teach English. Their destinations are on the list below.
4. After volunteer work, if any volunteer wants to prolong their stay in China, or wants to seek a job there, the host will assist. If not, they will transport volunteers back to Beijing, help them to book a international air ticket, send them to airport, and see them off.

The schools provides volunteers with apartments (one person in a room) with bedrooms, kitchen, washroom, and easy access to supermarket and restaurant. They will also provided money adequate for 3 meals per day (including weekends). Volunteers can buy raw materials and cook meals for themselves, or they can eat in a restaurant. Chinese restaurants have a wide range and variety of food: spicy, plain, food for vegetarians or for ethnic cuisine. Their apartments have automatic washing machines, so volunteers can do laundry themselves, or send clothes to the cleaners. Rooms will have TV (but the only English channel is CCTV-9, they'll have to say goodbye to TNT and FOX for a while), free Internet access, and fixed-line telephone (extra fees for international calls) in their rooms.

The placement schools usually have 40 students in a classroom, 45 minutes per class period, the volunteers will have no more than 4 classes every work day, will work 5 days per week; the course topic will be spoken English.

Location

1. Fuxin city, located in the northeastern part of China (6 hours from Beijing by car), known as the rusty belt. Fifty years ago, Fuxin was the biggest open-cast coal and the largest heat power station in Asia. Now, the coal is depleted, and therefore, the heat power station has no fuel. Almost half of the 780 thousand residents were laid off, and a third of them are living off of basic, government living allowances. However, the peoples in Fuxin city are persevering, and optimistic. In 2003,China's central government issued the Rejuvenating Northeast Old Industrial Bases Policy to boost it's economy, now, the city is looking up. It needs volunteers to add fuel to it's educational development.
2. Duolun city, a small city in Inner Mongolia (north of Beijing ,3 hours by train), full of mineral resources but lack of water resources.
3. Xilihaote, a small city in Inner Mongolia (north of Beijing ,1 hours by plane), known for being the capital city of Ming dynasty(1364-1662)
4. Datong city (west of Beijing ,3 hours by train), in central Shanxi province, another Resources exhaustion city.

5. Lu'an city (south of Beijing, 2 hours by plane), Its economy is relied on its agricultural product.

6. Siping (north of Beijing, 3 hours by train), a small city in Jilin province, it was a main battle field in the civil war.

Hours/week

35 hours

Housing Info

Hostel / Appartment

Food

Three meals a day, Chinese food

Placement Tyle

English teacher