

SJ vietnam's workcamp - Information sheet

Project	Truc Cat Primary School
Code	SJV1027 , 1030 , 1034 , 1036
Duration	2 weeks
Participation fee	150 EURO
Project location	Ha Noi
Organization	SJ Vietnam Suite 306, Building C6, Block 1, My Dinh 1, Hanoi Tel.: +84.4.62872829 – Fax: +84.4.32154993 info@sjvietnam.org - www.sjvietnam.org
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1. Presentation of SJ Vietnam

Solidarités Jeunes Vietnam (SJ Vietnam) is an **international youth NGO** (Non-Governmental Organization) that promotes peace, solidarity and active citizenship through **international voluntary service**. It was **set up in 2004** by and for national and international volunteers. SJ Vietnam is an official member of [NDVA](#), a full and active member of the Coordination Committee for the International Voluntary Service ([CCVIS](#)) at UNESCO (Paris) and partner of **Alliance Network**.

SJ Vietnam organizes **short-term and long-term international workcamps** and local projects, actions of social integration, training activities, international solidarity actions, and runs the first **youth center for street young disabled in Hanoi** called “International Youth House” since 2006. All volunteers, both Vietnamese and international, are warmly welcomed to join and participate in the projects provided by SJ Vietnam.

The **goals of SJ Vietnam** are:

- Work towards a society of justice, peace and solidarity.
- Break cultural misunderstanding between peoples and nations.
- Improve local and global environment, provide non-formal education, reduce poverty and establish human rights.
- Encourage young people to participate actively in the society in which they live.

The SJ Vietnam slogan reads: **“Volunteer for sharing, learning and being responsible”**.

Furthermore, each year, our Vietnamese volunteers are sent abroad to participate in volunteering projects organized by partner organizations all over the world.

In 2009, we counted about 3500 local and 500 international volunteers. SJ Vietnam is supported by the French student organization “[Un Etai pour le Vietnam](#)” in Toulouse, “[Coup de pouce](#)” (France - Vietnam) and the [World Bank in Vietnam](#).

2. Presentation of the workcamp

2.1. Background

The workcamp will take place in **Truc Cat** a **little village in the countryside of Nam Dinh** province, 140 km apart from Hanoi, in the Red river delta. Each year, more than **500 children** study in this school.

As it is located in a rather **rural and poor area in the countryside**, although it's far to be an absolute remote place, the **Truc Cat primary school has far less assets** than the others in the big cities. Therefore the **children and teenagers studying there have to face to several social disadvantages**. For example the low educational background of their families, the limited english-speaking skills of their teachers, the state of the school buildings, the lack of opportunities to have some contacts with foreigners and through them with the whole world, the lack of leisures infrastructures available and so on.

2.2. Aims

Whether it's obviously impossible for SJ Vietnam itself to resolve these big cultural and social issues, **the workcamps are aimed to counterbalance it** by adding to the usual studies and live of the children the assets that they are missing. Especially, the **most important goals** that the workcamps are working toward to are :

- **increase the english-speaking skills of the children** as it's a requirement to live in the modern world and can help them to find a job
- **provide more joyful activities to the children** and by that improve their daily lives
- **improve the material quality of the school** and buildings in order to make it a more enjoyable studying place



A classroom during the lesson



The basketball playground and the school

2.3. Tasks

In 2010, **two separate categories of workcamps** will take place in Truc Cat primary school. The **first kind** will have a single workcamp during the summer which will be **dedicated to the material improvement of the school**, the **other kind** will have three workcamps focused on **teaching english** organized each month from september until december. Please read the following more detailed description of the workcamps.

During the single workcamp dedicated to the improvement of the material quality of the Truc Cat school the volunteers will have to **paint the classrooms' walls** as they are quite old and colorless, and to **repair the ground of the basketball playground**, as it's not a regular one at that time.

Concerning the other workcamps the volunteers will have to **teach english to the kids and teenagers** to provide them the basic level, and besides that to **organize some leisures activities**, for example drawing, games, music or sport, that the volunteers will plan and decide themselves.

2.4. Requirements

The volunteers have to :

- Be **over 18 years** old
- Accept to **work with people having heavy social difficulties**
- Be **aware of intercultural differences**.
- Be **flexible**, full of **enthusiasm**, **creative**, **patient**
- Accept to **live** with volunteers full time **in basic conditions**
- Have the abilities to **work in english**
- Have the physical abilities to deal with some basics technical and physical tasks for the workcamp focused on the material improvement of the school

2.5. Leisure and exchange activities

As you know, a workcamp is not only a mean to help poor people but also an opportunity to **discover others cultures and countries**, to **understand the local people**, to share your experiences , to meet new people and so on, **during the free time**, at the lunch break time, the evening or else. You and the other volunteers can arrange many different activities to show about your life, country, experiences etc with pics, games.

Already, SJ vietnam usually organize such activities :

- **Vietnamese night**: Local volunteers will arrange one night to introduce about Vietnamese food or people, music etc to you.
- **International evening** : so all volunteers in your workcamp will prepare some special things so that they bring from their countries to talk about their city, culture, ...;

2.6. Schedule

On your first day an introduction will be given to you by a member of the staff and the workcamp leader. Generally, you will **work from Monday to Friday, 6 hours a day**. On Friday at 6:00 pm you will participate in an evaluation with your workcamp leader. A detailed schedul will be set up with the volunteers when the workcamp will start.

2.7. Workcamp location

The workcamp will take place in **Truc Cat primary school, Truc Ninh city, Nam Dinh province**.

2.8. Application procedure

- The **foreigners candidates** have to **contact first a volunteering sending organization in their country** and to follow their own procedures (CV, application forms, ...). Afertwards, the sending organization will contact directly SJ Vietnam.
- The **vietnamese candidates** have to **contact SJ Vietnam** :
04.62.87.28.29 / info@sjvietnam.org / www.sjvietnam.org

3. Practical informations

3.1. Meeting point

- **Meeting time:**

At **9:00 am** on the **first day** of the workcamp. However, it's **better to arrive 1 or 2 days before the start**, to avoid the tiredness due to the plane trip and to the time difference.

- **Meeting point:**

At the **Workcamp accommodation**. Address: **No. 02 lane 173/7/16 An Duong Vuong Street , Tay Ho district , Ha Noi.**

- How to get there:

➔ If you come **from Noi Bai Airport**.

- **[TAXI]** SJ Vietnam can arrange taxi to pick you up, but please send us your confirmation slip with your flight schedule. The taxi driver will wait for you at the arrival gate of the airport with your name. It costs 15 \$.

Otherwise, you can also catch any **NOI BAI taxi** by yourself and show to the driver the address of the workcamp accommodation. It costs 15 /16 \$ /. Do not pay more.

- **[BUS]** You can use public bus number 17 from Noi Bai Airport and stop at Long Bien Market, afterwards you have to walk with the map below. It cost 5.000 VND (0.3 USD)

➔ However, we strongly **recommend to the international volunteers** to use **TAXI rather than BUS** because it's more convenient and not very expensive.

1. From the bus stop, cross the big boulevard and go down this off-ramp.



2. Turn right, and go straight. You are on An Duong Vuong Street.



3. You go straight until you see the house in the picture below. Turn left.

4. Follow this street for 100m





5. Turn left at this sign and go straight



7. Go straight until you see this gate. Go through the gate.



6. Until you see this temple. Walk 10m more then turn right



8. This is the workcamp accommodation.



3.2. Participation fee

Concerning the international volunteers, the **participation fee** is **150 euros**, in order to pay the food, accommodation, administration of your workcamp, etc. SJ Vietnam is a young NGO with no external support or public grants. That's why we need your fees to organize and prepare the work camps, our local activities and to manage the organization.

Theses **fees** are not only **for your food, your accomodation and local transport (29%)**, but also for **all the projects of SJ Vietnam (41%** - School fees for the poor children, support to their families, training for work camp leaders, local projects, ...) and **to support SJ Vietnam organization (20%** - Renting office , staff salary, electricity, phone, computer, furniture, etc). and 10% for contingency

Please read this part and think carefully before to apply.

3.3. Accomodation

The volunteers will be **hosted by local people living in the surroundings**, and by that will have a unique opportunity to discover, share and understand **the way of life and the culture of the vietnamese people** living in the rural areas. Please notice that as the level of life is far to be high although is not to much poor either **the provided accomodation will be simple**. Especially concerning the bathroom, do not compare it to the welthier countries' standards.

3.4. Food

If you follow a **special diet, please inform us as soon as possible**.

3.5. VISA

You can download the application form to get the visa at

<http://vietnam.solidartitesjeunesses.org/visa>

A **valid passport** and a **visa are required** of all foreigners visiting Vietnam. With very few exceptions, there is **no "visa on arrival."** Visas are issued by Vietnamese embassies and consulates. Some overseas offices of Vietnam tourism are able to issue tourist visas. You should **apply for tourist visas** at least for the duration of your project in Vietnam. It will be **very difficult for you to extend your visas** and don't think it could be cheaper to extend your visas here, it also costs much money!

You don't need invitation letter from us, apply for tourist visa only.

Don't start to explain that you come here to be volunteers, to help the poor young disabled, etc.... Except if you want to spend 3 days of explanation at embassy and not receive your visa for "national security reasons"

3.6. Insurance / health

The **volunteers** need to **have their own travel assurance and medical assurance**. Before you go to your work camp, you need to make sure you got adequate insurance coverage.

Malaria in Hanoi: you don't need to take malaria pills; there is **no malaria in the big cities in Vietnam !**

Check if your **tetanus, diphteria, polio and hepatitis** vaccination are **up-dated**. Some doctors here, advice to do a preventive vaccine against fuzzi.

Diarrohea is a **frequent problem** during a travel. Even when in good conditions, it is not always possible to avoid it. Ask advices and the correct medications to your pharmacy.

3.7. Internet acces, phone, transport

You can find in the village some **internet coffe place** at a very cheap price (about 2000-9000 Vietnamese Dong/hour). Your family can send emergency e-mail to: workcamp@sjvietnam.org

Your friends and family can call you at the office in the morning or in the evening (GMT +7), our phone number is +84 4 2154993, +84 4 .62872829 (in emergency). Working hours are from 9 am to 6 pm.

You **can buy very cheap sim card** for your mobile phone with only 70,000VND (\$4) and inform your family of your mobile phone number.

Local emergency numbers: **Ambulance: 115, Fire: 114, Police: 113**

3.8. Things you need to take

You should bring umbrella and some **warm clothes for winter**.

Pillow, sleeping bag, hat, solar cream, **protective measures against mosquito, mosquitoes net** (There are few problems with mosquitoes in the towns and cities of Vietnam, so there is no need to bring large quantities of repellent, a small mosquito net can be more useful to sleep in peace),

Sleeper shoes for inside, a good back pack.

Something about your country (posters, music, postcards, map, video, etc), and your family (to introduce you to the young disabled and the others volunteers) to introduce about your country, your organization, etc, **music instrument if you have one**, electric lamp, carnival clothes, special food from your country to taste it the first evening, some stories/jokes/CD music from your country, pocket money, personal pharmacy. If you have a **car or motorbike driving-license, please take it**.

Limit clothing that will attract attention such as short skirts or shorts, sleeveless or plunging necklines. These clothes may attract unwanted attention or offend the sensibilities of your co-participants or Vietnamese outside our accommodation

➔ **For further informantions about SJ Vietnam please read the handbook**