

Mid-Autumn

About Your Project

The Mid-Autumn Festival falls on the 15th day of the 8th lunar month of the Chinese calendar (usually around mid- or late-September in the Gregorian calendar), a date that parallels the Autumn Equinox of the solar calendar. This is the ideal time, when the moon is at its fullest and brightest, to celebrate the abundance of the summer's harvest. The traditional food of this festival is the moon cake, of which there are many different varieties. Accompanying the celebration, there are additional cultural or regional customs, such as:

- 1 Eating moon cakes outside under the moon
- 2 Putting pomelo rinds on one's head
- 3 Carrying brightly lit lanterns
- 4 Burning incense in reverence to deities including Chang'e
- 5 Planting Mid-Autumn trees
- 6 Collecting dandelion leaves and distributing them evenly among family members
- 7 Lighting lanterns on towers
- 8 Fire Dragon Dances

The festival is very much like a combination of our Halloween and Thanksgiving. Children parade on the streets, while singing and carrying colorful lanterns of different sizes. Some of the popular shapes include fishes, stars, butterflies and a lantern that spins when a candle is inserted, representing the earth circling the sun. The cakes are filled with lotus seeds, ground beans and orange peels and have a bright yoke in the center to represent the moon. Today, the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival, as well as encouraging affection for children, promotes education, poetry, dance and arts and crafts.

 <p style="text-align: center;">Moon Cake</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Children with Star lightens</p>  
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SJ Vietnam often prepares many things for Mid- Autumn. Our volunteers who come from many countries and local volunteer joined and made beautiful gifts are star lightens by themselves to give children in The National Pediatrics Hospital, street children or poor children who live in the Fisher Village. All of these children really need our help because everyday they live in low life condition and they have to help parents earn money from they were 5 or 6 year olds. They do not have chance to go to school. This year we will organize some festivals in Welfare Center if Hai Duong with about 1000 children who are orphans, disadvantaged children; in the National Pediatrics Hospital; Streets children; children are living with HIV/AIDS....so we would like to have volunteers come from many countries really exciting in our project.

Accommodation

You will stay at the Youth House 1 at No 02 lane 173/7/16 An Duong Vuong street, Tay Ho district Ha Noi with basic things. (Please read **General information** to get more details).

Your Role

When you join our workcamp you will be divided into three teams. The tasks of the teams will switch each day. There are three different tasks; cleaning, cooking and working.

- 1 The first team (working team) will design or give ideals to discuss with other volunteers and you will make presents for children from 9:00 am to 11:30 am, and from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

- 1 The second team (cooking team) will go to the local market in the late morning to buy ingredients for the meals. They will prepare lunch for all the volunteers.

- 1 The third team (cleaning) will clean the whole house every day and when you have time you can get some ideas for leisure activities in the evening.

Schedule:

At the first day you will have an Orientation and then all of you will design your schedule for all work camp.

For emergency : Mr Tung : +84946528292 (workcamp coordinator)