



Serve to Learn Application Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in Coptic Orphans' *Serve to Learn Program* which is a unique program that connects youth to Egypt. Volunteers from around the globe conduct activities in English during the summer and share a journey of self-discovery and transformation with the children and communities they serve.

Please read the application guidelines before filling out the application. Guidelines include:

- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ Frequently Asked Questions
- ❖ Application Form
- ❖ Recruitment Survey

For your convenience, you can now submit your completed application electronically. We also recommend that you ask those sending recommendations on your behalf to email their recommendations letters to STL@copticorphans.org.

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis. Applications will be accepted until the program is full but no applications will be processed after **April 1**. Candidates selected for STL 2010 will be notified by **April 15**. If you have any questions, please contact us at STL@copticorphans.org, check our website at www.copticorphans.org, or call 800-499-2989.

❖ Introduction

Coptic Orphans

Coptic Orphans is an award-winning international Christian development organization founded in 1988 to unlock the God-given potential of disadvantaged children in Egypt and to equip them to break the cycle of poverty and become change-makers in their communities. Coptic Orphans works through grassroots partner and volunteer networks to strengthen local communities for sustainable impact. Since 1988, Coptic Orphans has equipped more than 14,000 children throughout Egypt.

Serve to Learn

Serve to Learn is a dynamic program that brings volunteers from all over the world to participate with children in Egypt in various activities over a span of three weeks. This intense immersion allows volunteers to witness firsthand the challenges those children face and prepare them, upon their return, as to be ambassadors for the cause of disadvantaged children in Egypt.

❖ Frequently Asked Questions

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1- Why should I volunteer in Egypt?

Volunteering in Egypt is a unique experience, offering opportunities to gain new perspectives on child poverty and ongoing issues facing Egyptian communities. You will develop new skills, make friendships that cross borders, and be inspired on a daily basis. In addition, you will also experience the blessing of serving God's children, an exciting summer abroad, interaction with authentic Egyptian culture and a rewarding experience. And that's just the beginning. Your contributions while in Egypt will help the community in which you are placed.

2- Why do I have to pay to volunteer?

Volunteer fees are used to offset some of the program costs provided such as pre-departure and in-country orientations, in-country transportation, administrative and logistical support.

3- Am I eligible to be a Serve to Learn volunteer?

To be eligible for the Serve to Learn Program you must:

- Be at least 17 years of age and not older than 35
- Commit to a 3-week volunteer term
- Be fluent in English; working knowledge of spoken Arabic is preferred but not required
- Be willing to work with a Christian, faith-based organization and be hosted by the Coptic Orthodox Church while in Egypt

4- What are the selection criteria?

- Strength of references provided
- Demonstrating a heart for children
- New applicants are highly encouraged to apply

5- Will I be able to earn school credit while in Egypt?

This must be determined by a volunteer's university or college.

6- Can I apply if I am not from the United States?

Yes. Serve to Learn welcomes applicants worldwide, with the exception of Egypt. We do require that all volunteers speak excellent English. Please be sure to consult with the Egyptian embassy in your home country for visa requirements.

7- Do I need to be able to speak Arabic?

Volunteers are not required to be fluent in Arabic. However, those with a working knowledge of Arabic are more likely to have a more enriched experience within the Egyptian community.

8- Do I need to have teaching experience?

Volunteers are not required to have teaching experiences. However, previous teaching experience is preferred. Training will be given to all volunteers prior to their departure on classroom management and other helpful areas.

9- What are the program dates?

The three-week program runs from **Saturday, June 26, 2010 – Saturday, July 17, 2010**. Program activities take place Monday through Friday with three 90-minute classroom sessions per day. Other activities with children maybe organized for Saturdays and Sundays.

10- Where will I be in Egypt?

As a Serve to Learn volunteer, you will travel to any one of several sites throughout Egypt: from bustling metropolises along the Mediterranean Coast and Nile Delta to the rugged villages deep in the heart of Egypt.

11- How much does the program cost and when is the fee due?

The application fee is \$35 and is due at the time of submitting a completed application. Upon approval of application, selected volunteers will be required to pay a program fee of \$375 by **May 14, 2010**.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

1- When can I apply?

A completed application form, along with other requested documents, is due **April 1**. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

2- What do I need to submit in order to apply?

- Completed application form
- One copy of the picture page in your passport
- A one-page essay explaining why you want to be part of the Serve to Learn program; returning volunteers, please write a one-page essay on why are you interested in participating again.
- A signed letter of recommendation and contact information (including e-mail) for at least one character reference
- A \$35 nonrefundable application fee. Please pay online or make checks payable to Coptic Orphans.

3- Where do I send my application?

All application materials must be sent to: STL@copticorphans.org or mailed to

Serve to Learn Program Officer

Coptic Orphans

P.O. Box 2881

Merrifield, VA 22116

USA

4- Will there be an interview?

Serve to Learn Program staff may conduct an interview with applicants either over the phone, through the internet or in person.