



HIGH SCHOOL **VOLUNTEERS** THAILAND

Culture and Service Learning
Experiences for International Youth



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



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PROMOTING AWARENESS OF THE

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

IN THAILAND



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

1 NO POVERTY 	2 ZERO HUNGER 	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 	4 QUALITY EDUCATION
5 GENDER EQUALITY 	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 	
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
13 CLIMATE ACTION 	14 LIFE BELOW WATER 	15 LIFE ON LAND 	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 	

OUR APPROACH TO CURRICULUM LEARNING



Field trips abroad, specifically to more distant regions like Southeast Asia require more planning and consideration of costs involved. For teachers and schools to justify the educational benefits of travelling so far it's become increasingly important to source field trips that meet a balance of curriculum needs and learning objectives. High School Volunteers Thailand has been carefully structured to include activities that enhance learning through inter-personal skill development, world experience and academic content.

INTER-PERSONAL SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Developing people skills and an assertive drive to propel in life is an integral part of the experiences obtained by students on placement. Encouraging youth to push their boundaries and experience new situations

that tests comfort, familiarity and expectations helps to nurture character and confidence from within.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Students are faced with the daily challenge of learning about Thai way of life and an environment very different to their own. Thailand is a beautiful country but one that is still suffering from poverty and lack of modernization in many areas. Experiencing behavioral aspects of ethno-regional communities and influences that shape Thai society is a valuable experience throughout. Being involved in worthwhile community projects that tackle issues of poverty in Thailand firsthand supports youth in connecting cause with effect and their own reasoning for participating in service learning opportunities.

CULTURE AND ARTS

The Kingdom of Thailand is still very much a country cut off from the rest of the world, with its longest reigning monarchy and dedication to spiritual belief. Many people who live across the central portion of the country, detached from the tourism driven cities in the north and south are still accustomed to traditional life and culture. Locations visited by students provide an authentic taste of these traditions and enhance their cultural learning in different regions. Students experience a range of activities that allow immersion into real Thai way of life.

SERVICE LEARNING EXPERIENCES

To ensure the program helps educate about the problematic issues being faced in Thailand, students have the opportunity to experience different types of volunteer work during their placement. This not only allows them to experience more of Thailand and how culture differs in key regions, but also helps us better support the projects we work with.

ENGLISH TEACHING

Improving the quality of education in northeast Thailand through sharing experiences and local culture with international youth is very important to us. Students are involved in teaching English with children at community schools in rural areas.

CHILDCARE

Poverty is an ongoing problem in many rural areas across Thailand, particularly with communities in the west. Students help take care of orphans and children with family problems living locally at community facilities, supporting local staff with day-to-day duties.

ELEPHANT CONSERVATION

Elephants are sacred to Thailand and are symbolic of its heritage and Royal monarchy. Sadly they are also subject to poor treatment and unethical activities driven by tourism. Students have the opportunity to help take care of homed elephants and support rural communities in

finding alternative work, reducing elephant exploitation.

There is a wide range of volunteering opportunities in Thailand and most do provide invaluable support to worthwhile causes and minorities in desperate need of help. Although YESasia is an advocate for all kinds of volunteer work in Thailand, currently we are only involved in these projects as they meet safety requirements and our ethical standpoint for promoting responsible volunteering. We are continually looking at ways to further develop projects and new opportunities for youth to experience service learning opportunities in different ways.

HOW PLACEMENTS ARE ORGANIZED

High School Volunteers Thailand has been designed with flexibility in mind, so students and schools can experience and contribute where possible. The program is organized around four trip components that students can complete separately or in specific combinations, depending on the length of field trip or individual placement.

Although all parts of the trip are geared towards student involvement in worthwhile service learning projects and cultural exploration in Thailand, each part focuses on different experiences that enhance learning in specific curriculum areas and promote positive impact on select SDGs.

WORLD EXPERIENCE

Exposure to different places and peoples is considered a powerful educational tool and one pursued by youth today. Providing an authentic take on Asian culture whilst reducing the influences tourism has on experiencing life in developing countries is an important consideration of the program. Activities are located in some of the most untouched and true to life areas of rural Thailand.

GEOGRAPHY

Conservation of national heritage is an important factor needing consideration for Thailand's future development. Students are educated about the impacts conventional tourism has on the economy and community reliance in rural areas. Exploring projects that promote responsible tourism allows students to further develop opinions and concepts on sustainability and understand its importance for long term preservation of Thai culture.

ACADEMICS

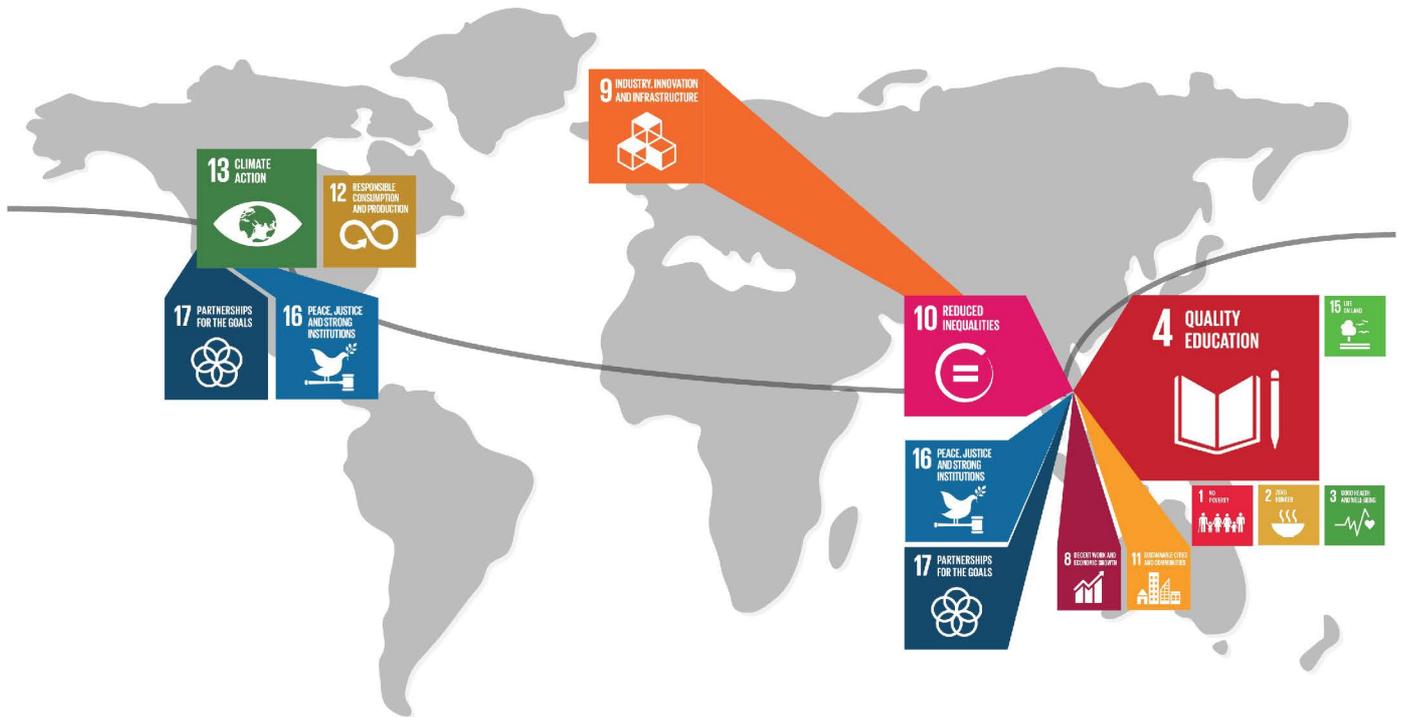
Putting practice into play is fundamental for developing abilities for applying academic rigor to real world settings. To ensure field trips offer a substantial amount of transition to learning outside the classroom, placements allow schools to forward plan and incorporate elements of student-work and physical skill set.

HEALTH & SPORT

Activities that encourage physical health and wellbeing are equally as important for providing all-rounded educational experiences with personal growth in mind. Students get the ongoing opportunity to explore a variety of national parks and the untouched countryside of rural Thailand. The later options of the trip itinerary also allow for more physical volunteer work and involvement in adventure based activities in the mountainous regions of the west. These experiences not only encourage students to be more active throughout their Thailand placement, but also helps them to build team cohesion within volunteer groups.

HISTORY

Further enhancing the academic benefits of choosing Thailand as a field trip destination is the rich and varied history it has to offer. In addition to its own fascinating background entwined in ancient Siam and the development of Buddhism, the country also played a significant role in historical events like World War II. Visits to key landmarks provide students with the rare opportunity to connect knowledge with experience and appreciate moments in history that have shaped their lives today. Topics of focus can be incorporated into classroom work prior to arrival.



Students are organized into groups of 4-6 volunteers for the duration of each placement. Groups can be pre-selected by students coming as part of an independent educational experience with friends, or a larger field trip group organized by their school. Volunteer groups are an important consideration for success on the program as they share experiences from arrival and throughout the placement together. Volunteers are expected to support one another in dealing with challenges, developing confidence and reflecting on experiences as a whole.

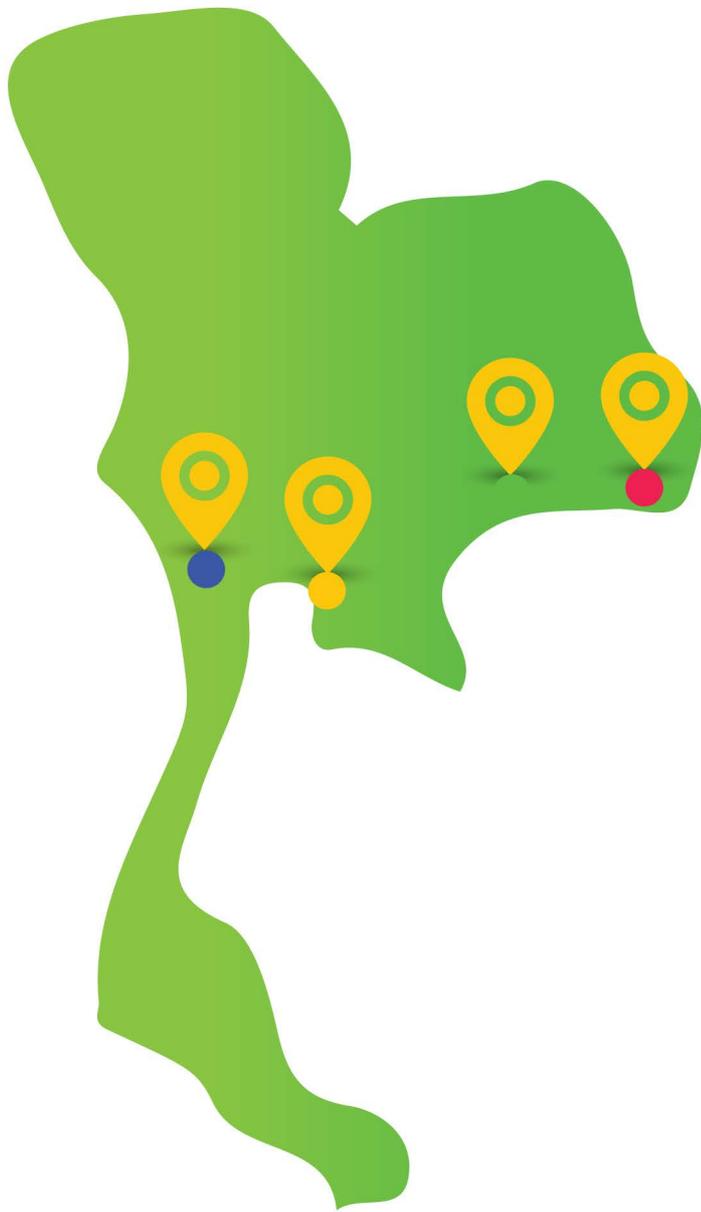
Students can build their own placement itinerary by selecting a combination of trip components and the length of time they wish to volunteer week-by-week

EDUCATING ABOUT SDGs

It's important that participating students understand the value of responsible volunteering and the concepts involved in being young ambassadors for global sustainability.

Schools, institutes and organizations who promote awareness of the SDGs must ensure the overall impact of their operations address objectives as a whole and not individually.

High School Volunteers Thailand takes a systematic approach to educating students about these goals and how their participation on the program from pre-placement, during travel and once on the ground interacting with local communities, helps in positives ways.



SURIN ●

A westerly province of the Isaan region with both traditional Isaan and Khmer cultural heritage. Surin is known as elephant country, home to the Kingdom of Thailand's most sacred animal.

UBONRATCHATHANI ●

The furthest southeasterly province of Isaan bordering Laos and Cambodia. Once the administrative capital of Thailand, Ubon offers a unique blend of traditional life with heavy influences from Laos.

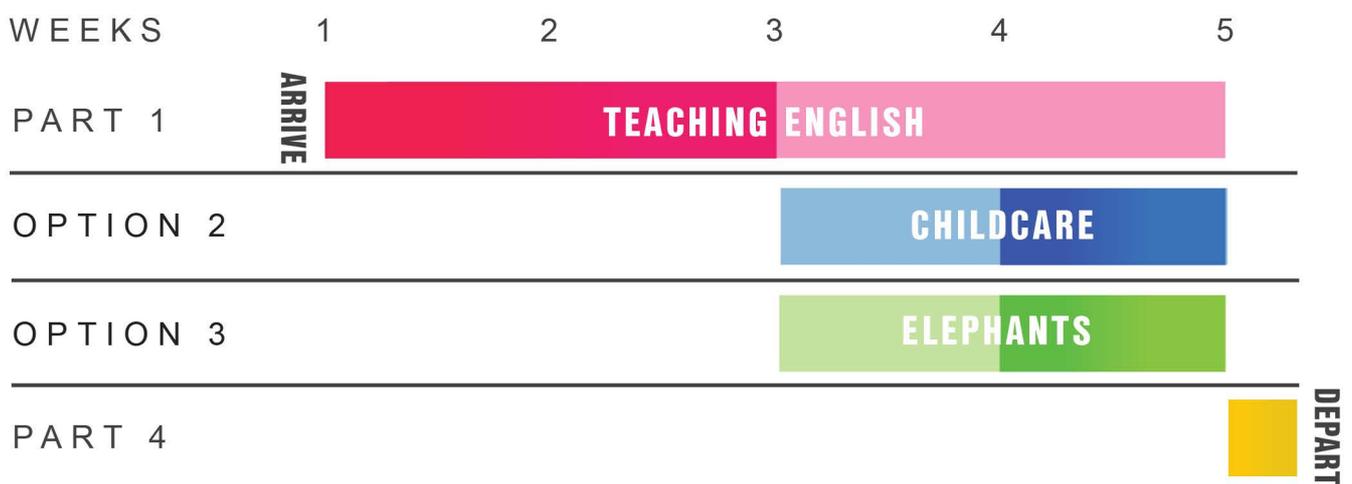
KANCHANABURI ●

A large westerly province of central Thailand bordering Myanmar. Historically this mountainous region was under Japanese control during WWII and is famous for the Bridge of the Rive Kwai.

BANGKOK ●

The capital of Thailand and a vast metropolis of modern Southeast Asia.

SCHEDULE OPTIONS



TRIP ITINERARY

Sustainable Development Goals



Part 1

Experience: English Teaching

Location: Ubonratchathani

Study Area: Service learning and Cultural Arts

Culture: Isaan

Day 1 Arrival on Monday

Day 2-3 Orientation and English teaching training

Students are introduced to language teaching concepts and techniques used in ESL teaching around the world. They have the opportunity to shadow full time teachers and plan lesson activities for using at their placement school. All guidelines and support materials are provided by Frisby International College, United Kingdom.

1-4 Weeks Volunteer Teaching Placement

Monday – Friday 2 sessions daily (7:30-12:00 – 13:00-16:00)

Volunteer duties with children at rural schools start at 09:30 am where they join Thai teachers in morning lessons. The level of English teaching is basic and very relaxed. Duties include assisting in vocabulary word games, team activities and helping students in practicing writing skills.

At 12:00pm volunteers join children at lunch and can continue playing games outside. The food provided by placement schools is very traditional in style for this region of Thailand. Afternoon lessons resume at 1:00pm and can involve more traditional elements of Thai schooling and local activities. Volunteers can teach in their placement groups and in pairs with different classes and will have the opportunity to also meet parents and members of the community locally as part of their cultural experience.

Activities

Muay Thai Boxing training and Exhibition Fight

Traditional Thai Cooking Lessons including all ingredients

Pa Taem National Park (including waterfalls, ancient cave painting site)

Sirindhorn Dam - Float barge trip

Ubon Temple Tour or Isaan Farm Homestay

International Buddhist Monastery - Theravada Forest Temple

TRIP ITINERARY

Sustainable Development Goals



Option 2 (Part 1)

Experience: Childcare at Community Shelter

Location: Kanchanaburi

Study Area: Service learning and History

Culture: West Thailand

Day 1 Arrival and Introduction at Community Shelter on Monday

1-2 Weeks Volunteer Caring Placement

Monday – Friday 2 sessions daily (5:30-13:00 – 16:00-20:30)

Volunteer duties with children living at the community shelter start early at 05:30 am. Morning volunteer work involves helping children prepare for school and includes duties like organizing clothing, books and breakfast. After they leave for school volunteers then assist staff in domestic chores and any maintenance duties needed around the community campus such as cleaning and repainting of playground equipment. They also assist in planning evening activities and the ongoing operations for running the community's vocational workshops, including the campuses farm, salon and bakery.

Volunteers have an afternoon break to use at their leisure before the children return at 16.00 pm. Volunteers then assist with preparing evening meals, evening activities involving games and homework sessions. They help staff with getting the children ready for bed at 20.30 pm

(Part 2)

Experience: Adventure activity and exploring

Study Area: Health and Adventure

Day 1 Free day to explore the areas and attractions

Day 2-5 Volunteers will enjoy; kayaking, mountain biking, jungle trekking and camping.

Activities River exploration River Kwae Noi (Famous for Bridge over the River Kwae)
Mountain bike trail and jungle trekking in Sai Yok Mountain Range
Exploring the abandoned World War II Thai Burma Death Railway
Visits to the Prisoner of War Camps and Memorial Museum (Kanyu/Kinsaiyok area)

TRIP ITINERARY

Sustainable Development Goals



Option 3

Experience: Elephant Conservation
Study Area: Service learning and Geography

Location: Surin
Culture: Isaan and Khmer

Day 1 Sanctuary Arrival and Welcome on Monday

1-2 Weeks Monday – Friday 2 sessions daily (07:00-12:00 – 14:00-18:00)
*Note - Daily session times subject to change depending on season

Volunteer duties with elephants at the sanctuary vary depending on the time of year but generally start at 07:00 am. Morning volunteer work involves helping staff to prepare and organize food for the elephants. They also assist in cleaning equipment used daily to prepare food after the elephants have been fed. Volunteers then work together with Mahouts and other community members who are involved in farming and reforestation projects at the sanctuary before finishing for lunch.

In the afternoon volunteers again join Mahouts as they walk the elephants to the river and different grazing areas throughout the sanctuary. They can also help in washing the elephants and again preparing food for later feeding.

Part 4

Experience: Cultural Day Tour
Study Area: World Experience and Culture

Location: Bangkok
Culture: Modern Thailand

Day 1 A full day trip around attractions in Bangkok City (08:00-19:00)
*Note - Order of trip locations depends on which itinerary component students are travelling from

Locations The King's Grand Palace
Baiyko Tower II
Jatujak Market
Asiatique, the River Front
Yaowarat Walking Street (China Town)



OFFSETTING EMISSIONS

Responsible volunteering involves looking at the experience as a whole and understanding the impact participation has on all aspects of sustainability. Offset your Thailand travel carbon footprint by donating your CO₂ equivalent at CarbonFund.org

PRE PLACEMENT

As part of our aim to offer a program which addresses global sustainability through responsible volunteering, we encourage students to look at their Thailand experience from a holistic view point. Their decision to participate in a culture and service learning placement with communities in need, of course warrants merit. The experience not only facilitates personal growth and reflection but also direct means in which students can see how their physical efforts actively work towards meeting the aspirations of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

With this in mind it's also important students identify the cause and effect factors of participating in service learning experiences abroad. Although a cultural hotspot and great canvas for educational learning, Thailand is still located far from the home countries of many participating students and the negative impacts of travel must be calculated into the experience as a whole.

Carbon emissions from air travel have a detrimental effect on the ozone and our ability to reduce climate change. Acknowledging this from a holistic point of view means students should consider ways

they can offset this effect responsibly. To support students from the United States in achieving this, we cooperate with the Carbonfund.org Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit charity, so that students can offset the carbon footprint caused by their travel to Thailand as a pre-placement task. Students may either raise funds through school projects or local sponsors that promote community awareness for climate change or the Sustainable Development Goals more generally. Funds raised are then donated to one of three carbon offsetting project types supported by Carbonfund.org.

With an approximate offsetting cost of \$90, students receive confirmation of their donation in the form of a donation e-receipt and a carbon credit e-certificate. The e-receipt and e-certificate certificate are then submitted as evidence of completing the pre-placement task as part of their program placement application.



Carbonfund.org
REDUCE WHAT YOU CAN OFFSET WHAT YOU CAN'T™



INNOVATIVE LEARNING

We not only aim to provide volunteers with an unforgettable cultural experience but also an introduction to real vocational training that can later lead to industry qualifications. We hope this encourages others to think about innovative volunteering

INTRODUCTION TO REAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING

All too often volunteer teaching in developing countries offers little preparation and guidance to participants. This not only limits the effectiveness of the volunteer's intervention with children but also the ability for them to learn useful skills that can later be applied in other environments. High School Volunteers Thailand is a program aimed at introducing youth to worthwhile service learning experiences, in the hope that they develop a passion for helping others and continue being involved in volunteer work during the years to come.

The teaching element of the program provides students with an opportunity to learn real teaching techniques and build confidence as young educators themselves; placements involve a 2 day induction and practice session at YESasia's base school in Ubonratchathani. During the induction students get to shadow full time teachers and experience the style and types of activities commonly used for teaching English as a second language to children in Thailand.

To ensure this experience provides better guidance YESasia has established a working agreement with Frisby College in United Kingdom to donate support materials to volunteers involved in the Rural Schools Project. This is part of our aim to develop innovative partnerships with other institutes who actively support our work in responsible volunteering and promotion of the UN Sustainability Development Goals in Thailand. Students are provided with learning handbooks and example lesson activities used with industry recognized EFL training and receive a certificate of completion for this part of their placement.





TEACHING ENGLISH IN RURAL SCHOOLS

The ability to communicate in English is a skill that is becoming increasingly important for the younger generation in Thailand. As countries in Southeast Asia develop, skills in English mean greater opportunities for employment, business and a better future.

For those who can afford it, children attend schools with native English teachers and well-structured language education. For the majority of others however, English is nothing more than a skill talked about by the government and something children from under privileged families will never have equal access to.

The Rural Schools Project is an independent initiative funded directly through YESasia to promote better English language access in areas of Ubonratchathani. The project connects youth with rural schools in the region who cannot afford English speaking teachers but understand the importance of offering the same opportunities to help children learn English for the future. Many of the children students work with do not even have the most basic of English ability but are curious to learn about different people and language outside of their local communities. The experience offers a great opportunity to connect youth, sharing a mutual understanding for learning about different culture in a fun and enjoyable environment.



CARING FOR CHILDREN IN POVERTY STRICKEN AREAS

The pressures on families living in poverty stricken areas inevitably make their mark on children all over Thailand. Many homes are broken and often children live with distant family members who cannot support them adequately. Lack of family structure and even basic schooling takes its toll and for a growing amount of these children, they get lost in a world of crime and exploitation.

The New Life Project is part of a localized Foundation in Kanchanaburi aimed at providing a valuable lifeline to children from problematic families. Through sheltered accommodation and cooperation between local farmers, teachers and volunteer staff the project has established an innovative community shelter that helps provides children with a safe living environment, schooling and even basic healthcare. For older children they now have access to learn ancillary skills and vocational training which enables new opportunities.

The project relies heavily on volunteers all year round and students on the program provide valuable support to local staff taking care of the shelter's youngest children. The experience offers youth worthwhile exposure to the real challenges of poverty common in developing countries like Thailand and how communities can develop sustainable means to localized problems.



CONSERVATION WORK WITH ELEPHANTS

Traditionally people from rural areas of Surin would take care of elephants as the symbolic animal of the King. They are renowned as the sacred animal of Thailand, often being used in battle throughout history to protect the Kingdom.

Today many elephant owners or 'mahouts' as they are known struggle to make even the most basic living and sadly resort to taking their elephants to the streets of large cities to beg. For tourists, this is an opportunity to experience something unfamiliar and little consideration is given for elephants living outside their natural habitat.

The Surin Project is joint initiative between the internationally operated Elephant Foundation and Surin Provincial Authorities aiming to promote responsible tourism in the region. With over 300 elephants registered in the area the projects provides an alternative form of employment to mahouts, whereby volunteers are educated about taking care of the elephants within modernizing rural communities. Students on the program live among these communities and help with the day to day duties of caring for these magnificent animals protected by the project. They also have the unique opportunity to learn about elephant conservation and how promoting awareness of responsible tourism helps educate local communities about sustainability.

PROGRAM SAFETY

Although we want students to experience the most authentic take on Thai culture and community life during their placement, safety is our primary concern. We have cooperated with volunteer industry leaders to establish health and safety measures that help ensure this.

VOLUNTEERING GUIDELINES

All our volunteering locations are regularly assessed using guidelines from the Health and Safety Executive in the United Kingdom. We also follow recommendations outlined in BS 8848:2014, the British Standard Specification for provision of visits, fieldwork, expeditions and adventurous activities outside the United Kingdom.

RISK ASSESSMENT AND EMERGENCY PROCEDURES PLANNING

Our risk assessment reports and emergency planning procedures are readily available to schools upon request in advance so that they can use the information within their own field trip planning requirements.

Schools and teachers requiring further information about health and safety planning can contact YESAsia Health and Safety Officer direct; overseas@yesasia.info

ENQUIRIES & PROGRAM BOOKINGS

All enquiries and program bookings should be made through our United States Program Representative;

CULTURE EXCHANGE ACADEMY

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