

# VEERAYATAN VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

## BEFORE YOU LEAVE... VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

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## VEERAYATAN VOLUNTEER PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

The Veerayatan Volunteer Program (VVP) was initiated in January 2002 to create a bridge for interested and dedicated volunteers to come, live and work on a Veerayatan campus in India.

Veerayatan established the VVP with the following objectives for its participants:

- 1) To create a meaningful, sustainable contribution to the people of India
- 2) To obtain clarity of life purpose, or a life “mission statement”
- 3) To become compassionate and responsible human beings

Veerayatan established the VVP with the following organizational objectives:

- 1) To concentrate the technical and professional skills of volunteers to advance Veerayatan’s three visions of seva (humanitarianism), shiksha (education), and sadhana (inner development) for all of humanity.
- 2) To spread the universally-accepted values of compassion, friendship and responsibility to fellow human beings

Veerayatan has accommodated volunteers from all ages (over 18), nationalities and professional backgrounds. For more information, visit our Volunteer Testimonies section.

By participating in the VVP, you will have an amazing opportunity to gain hands-on experience with one of India’s leading non-governmental humanitarian organizations.

Veerayatan has worked with the world’s principal development organizations—Red Cross, UNICEF and UNDP—and has established itself as one of the most honest, efficient and successful organizations in the field.

## TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

### General Advice

Please be sure to make a copy of your passport, visa, traveler's cheques, social security card, health insurance information and other important documents. Keep a copy with someone in your home country.

**Please bring the originals as well as a photocopy of this information with you to India.**

### Passport

All volunteers must have a passport that is valid for the length of the expected stay in India, and an additional six months (at least) after the expected arrival date back into the United States.

### Visa

All volunteers who are at least U.K or U.S. citizens must obtain a tourist visa to enter India. This can be obtained from your local Indian Consulate. Below, we have listed the website addresses for a few Indian consulates in America.

Please visit [Indianembassy.org](http://Indianembassy.org) to find out whether you require a visa and the nearest place to obtain your visa.

You will be asked to answer a series of questions in order to obtain a tourist visa. Below are some sample answers:

*Objective of Journey:* To volunteer and travel with NGOs in earthquake affected Kutch

*Period for Which Visa is Required:* 6 months

*Places in India to be Visited:* Mumbai, Pune, Bhuj

*Contact Information for someone in India:*

Anil Jain  
Chief Administrator  
Veerayatan Vidyapeeth  
Behind Khengarji Park  
Bhuj, Kutch  
370-001  
INDIA

Phone: 02832-50961/ 57654/ 58342

## MEDICAL ISSUES

### Health Insurance

You are **required** to provide your own health insurance to cover you during your service with the VVP in India. You must also provide proof of this insurance (before you depart) by sending a copy of your card or a statement from your provider with your application form.

**This is mandatory, and volunteers who fail to provide these documents will not be permitted on the program.**

### Physicals

It is highly recommended that you undergo a physical/general check-up before departing.

### Vaccinations

The following are recommended vaccinations. Visit your primary care physician at least three months before your departure.

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Typhoid
- Tetanus
- Polio booster
- MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) booster
- Meningitis
- Cholera
- Japanese encephalitis (consult with doctor)

You must also obtain an adequate supply of malaria pills.

# WHAT TO BRING

## Medicine and Personal Products

The following are suggestions from the VVP committee. You should consult your primary physician for personal requirements.

Bring supplies of the following medicines to cover your full stay with the VVP:

- Prescription medications, including a copy of the prescription
- Allergy, diarrhea and cramp medicine
- Antibiotics (e.g. Cipro)
- Feminine hygiene products
- Insect repellent
- Sunscreen (SPF 25+)
- Multi vitamins, calcium supplements, nutrition bars (as needed)

## Other Recommendations

- Small battery operated fan (summer participants only)
- Any personal cooling devices (e.g. Personal air conditioners, etc.)
- A queen size bedsheet folded vertically with the bottom and side sewn up (this will make a clean, and comfortable sleeping bag for train trips, etc.)
- Reusable water bottle
- Specialized computer programs (e.g. graphics programs) burned on a CD

If you are particularly talented with a certain program and would like to work in this capacity (e.g. using a special graphics program to design a Veerayatan brochure), please bring the necessary software with you. Veerayatan has a Sony VAIO laptop (Pentium IV) with a CD read/write, so we will be able to read programs off of burned CDs.

## Donation Items

These include items that are already in your possession that you would like to donate.

- **Clothing**  
Veerayatan can arrange clothing distribution drives in nearby villages so that you personally can distribute your clothing to needy men, women and children
- **English books**  
Veerayatan is starting a “mini library” on campus for interested foreign volunteers and English students. We will accept all types of books (educational, fiction, etc.) provided that they do not contain questionable material.
- **Games and sporting goods**  
More than 100 children live full-time in a hostel on Veerayatan’s Bhuj campus. Thus any types of games (board games, educational games, etc.) or sporting goods (balls, bats, gloves etc.) would be put to excellent use.

## Souvenir Supplies

Though we encourage you to record your stay through pictures, video, etc., valuable items are brought at your own risk.

- Still camera
- Digital camera (with necessary hardware to transfer pictures to computer)
- Video camera
- Tape recording device
- Laptop
- Journal