



RSVP CARIBBEAN VOLUNTEERS OVERVIEW DOCUMENT

OVERVIEW OF RSVP

RSVP Caribbean Volunteers was conceptualized and developed based on the lack of suitable, affordable and safe needs-based programmes and projects for volunteers who wish to come to the Caribbean. RSVP Caribbean offers programmes and projects that are properly researched and make a meaningful difference. If you give of your time as a volunteer you need to know that it was worth it, you need to know that it was useful, you need to know that the company truly cares about the programmes, projects and communities that you work in and that is what RSVP Caribbean does – Respond...Discover...Change Lives.

RSVP Caribbean Volunteers is a registered company with its head office in Jamaica and sub-offices across the Caribbean. The focus is on the Caribbean because the socio-economic issues such as illiteracy; poor health services and facilities; inadequate access to, or, unaffordable health care; high unemployment; poverty; improper sanitation in schools and communities; lack of access to basic necessities (*food, clothing and shelter*); insufficient programmes for the elderly; the homeless and persons with disabilities and many other issues continue to be a challenge in Caribbean islands. As a volunteer you can accept the invitation from RSVP Caribbean to come and do your part to positively change the lives of persons through the various volunteer programmes – Respond...Discover...Change Lives.

RSVP Caribbean Volunteers coordinates safe, affordable, high quality needs-based programmes and projects for overseas volunteers from any country who want to give of their time, skills and resources to their chosen location. The company manages and coordinates all aspects of the volunteer's experience including, but not limited to, providing the necessary information about the programmes, projects and accommodation as well as advice on the culture, travel and volunteering requirements. Ongoing support before arrival and while volunteers are in-country is an important part of the service provided. RSVP Caribbean Volunteers provides efficient service for the entire volunteering

experience and takes the burden off the volunteers. Let us take the hassle out of your volunteering experience – why not RSVP today?

The RSVP Caribbean Volunteers Team has over 20 years combined experience in volunteer placement and working with volunteers from over 40 countries. The team members have vast cultural exposure based on their extensive international travel experience; which includes the countries of our volunteers and, of course, the Caribbean nations that will facilitate the RSVP Caribbean Volunteers experience. As a result, RSVP Caribbean has first-hand knowledge of what it means to live and work in the Caribbean; which is coupled with our sound knowledge of the Caribbean's hospitality, travel and tourism industry. RSVP Caribbean is very passionate about helping others which is an extension of the fact that we believe 100% in what we do and, as a result, have been active in volunteering on various programmes and projects for many years.

Our Approach

The approach used by RSVP Caribbean Volunteers is as follows:

1. **Issues and Needs-Based Programmes and Projects** – all programmes and projects are based on specific situations that have been highlighted through research, consultations and reports. RSVP Caribbean cannot fix everything but we believe in doing our part to change lives.
2. **Sustainable Development Goals** – all programmes and projects are linked to the global sustainable development goals that many Caribbean islands are signatories to. These are specific local, national, regional and international priorities that are critical in improving the lives of persons. Of the seventeen (17) sustainable development goals, RSVP Caribbean through the work of its volunteers will focus on seven (7) of these goals. These are *no poverty, good health and well-being, quality education, clean water and sanitation, decent work and economic growth, sustainable cities and communities and climate action*. Every action or task undertaken by a volunteer is connected to a framework for short, medium and long-term improvements.
3. **Strategic Focus** – RSVP will focus on one region – the Caribbean. This is important as it allows careful in-depth research, assessment, intervention and monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects within a specific context. The similarities and differences across the Caribbean allows for case studies, communities of practice and documenting best

practices. This targeted approach fosters better impact and use of resources.

4. **Community Impact** – the communities and partners are the greatest assets and beneficiaries. RSVP Caribbean believes in tangible outcomes and so the programmes and projects are developed with the sole purpose of ensuring that over time there are visible differences within the populations that we serve. Our local partners are vital to this process and we recognize, appreciate and honour that.

VISION

Our vision is to be the leading provider of meaningful and impacting volunteer opportunities that will address critical issues in the Caribbean.

MISSION

Our mission is to identify programmes and projects that are aligned to local needs and provide mutually beneficial opportunities for volunteers, communities and partners to make a real difference.

RSVP CORE VALUES

RSVP Caribbean is committed to:

- **Integrity** – ensuring that honesty and strong moral principles guide the work of the company.
- **Quality Service** – providing exceptional service and well organized programmes and projects that will benefit all partners.
- **Community Impact** – ensuring that the contribution of volunteers supports community and national needs.
- **Cultural Exchange** – fostering a mutually beneficial learning experience for volunteers and all partners and ensuring that each partner leaves the process gaining a greater appreciation of the value of others. A culture of balance, fairness and creativity is promoted.
- **Mutual Respect** – ensuring that all local norms and customs are preserved and protected, and at the same time understanding the vantage point of the volunteers.
- **Environmental Preservation** – deliberately taking steps to ensure that the company and all its partners are environmentally aware and act responsibly in caring for the environment.

- **Sustainability** – ensuring the longevity of programmes through continuous support where needed and strategically facilitating a generational impact.

RSVP SERVICES

Individual Volunteering Service – You have thought about giving back to those in need, exploring the Caribbean and making sure that you live – not just exist. You have wondered what it would be like to live for a while in a developing country and experience the real situations that exist, not just what is advertised as the tourist product. RSVP Caribbean offers the solution to these wondering thoughts and will coordinate a one of a kind, safe and affordable volunteering experience for you. The **Individual Volunteering Service** is a trip for a person who will be travelling alone, or with less than 5 friends, to volunteer in the Caribbean. You can choose from any of the advertised programmes. Volunteers can select a programme based on their interests, skills and background. Dependent on your date of arrival, other volunteers will already be in-country and there is always 24/7 staff support. Please see [Programme and Project Description](#) for full list of offerings.

Group Volunteering Service – If you want to experience the Caribbean with your friends, colleagues or family, we have the right projects just for you. Through our **Group Volunteering Service** we organize trips for groups such as universities, churches, community groups, sports teams, service learning groups (faculty-led or student-led), medical campaigns, friends, families and any other group that wants to volunteer in the Caribbean. You can choose from one of the advertised projects. Please see [Group Trip Projects](#) for full list of offerings. You can also tell us about your specific needs and we will tailor a project just for your group. RSVP Caribbean will work with you to determine the specific objectives of your trip and then prepare a timetable which will be sent to the group leader prior to arrival. You don't have to do it alone, get your group together and [Contact Us](#) for more details.

Internship and Dissertation Service – The Caribbean can be an interesting and exciting place to earn your university credits; volunteering in the Caribbean provides the opportunity to do just that. The Caribbean offers you a different perspective on a number of issues, as it is made up of developing countries. You will see, observe and learn about issues that you may never see in your country. Our systems, procedures, resources and ability to creatively use what we have available is a must see. Don't do your internship and dissertation in your country

– what fun is that? Do it in the Caribbean with RSVP. If you are a volunteer who has specific requirements related to your university studies and would like to achieve these objectives on a project in the Caribbean then please see [Internship and Dissertation Projects](#) and [Contact Us](#) today. A full description of the internship is required which will be passed on to the partner agency. Any associated forms which must be completed need to be sent before acceptance so we can determine if we have a suitable internship for you.

Summer Volunteering Service – No-one wants to sit at home for the summer. Everyone wants to do something fun, exciting and meaningful. RSVP Caribbean offers carefully tailored projects for high school students (16-18 years old) who want to volunteer during the summer (June – August). As a volunteer you will work on projects that will change your life and the lives of persons that you will work with. You will leave the Caribbean country you have selected with a sense of purpose and fulfillment. This project is designed to provide ongoing support to volunteers while in-country as you are fully chaperoned and parents and guardians can take comfort in knowing that their children will receive special attention. RSVP Caribbean will prepare a timetable which will be sent to you and your parents prior to arrival. Please see [Summer Projects](#) for full list of offerings. [Apply Now](#) – don't be left out of this incredible experience.

Spring Break Volunteering Service – Do something different for spring break. Do something that will allow you to experience life in another country while helping those in need. If you are a university student who wants to use your spring break in a productive way, then RSVP Caribbean has the right project for you. These short-term projects are customized to suit the limited timeframe but also ensure that the volunteering experience is mutually beneficial. Please see [Spring Break Projects](#) for full list of offerings. [Apply Now](#) – don't be left out of this incredible experience.

Corporate Volunteering Service – Our corporate volunteering service is designed for corporate teams to increase innovation, improve leadership skills and encourage a culture of giving and sustainable development. The **Corporate Volunteering Service** experience improves team building skills, bolsters group dynamics, supports the development of problem-solving skills, fosters resilience, highlights the importance of giving and promotes corporate social responsibility. It allows for a greater understanding of cross-cultural issues, stimulates creativity, challenges leaders and the team to operate outside of their comfort level and contributes to a shared learning experience. Employers can send a group of their employees to volunteer in the Caribbean for short periods so that the activity

does not affect productivity. Employers can also use this as a performance incentive whereby employees are awarded a trip to the Caribbean to volunteer and enjoy the culture. Please see [Corporate Projects](#). You can also tell us about your specific needs and we will tailor a project just for your group. RSVP Caribbean will work with you to determine the specific objectives of your trip and then prepare a timetable which will be sent to the group leader prior to arrival. [Contact Us](#) for more details and we will coordinate a once in a lifetime experience for your team.

Professional Volunteering Service – If you have been working in your field but need to experience how others in your field operate in a developing country then RSVP Caribbean has just the project for you. Professional volunteering allows for a mutual learning experience. You bring your skills and expertise to the partner agency but you also learn from them. Some processes may be similar, others quite different but in the end, all the persons involved would have benefited from the process. So if you are qualified and have been working in your field for at least one year and would like to give of your time, skills and expertise on a programme in the Caribbean why not volunteer on one of our programmes? Please see [Professional Projects](#) for more details.

Language Lesson Service – Do you want to improve your English while in the Caribbean? Then choosing the language lesson service is just for you. Language immersion provides, possibly, the very best way to improve your use of a second language; the immersion is inevitable if you visit a Caribbean country. English is the first language of most Caribbean islands and as such, we are able to teach written and conversational English very well. A trained teacher will facilitate these structured lessons with volunteers. If you would rather learn Patois which is the dialect of Jamaica then you can – yeah mon (yes you can)! A competent Patois teacher will facilitate these structured lessons with volunteers. Please see [Language Lessons](#) for more details.

Customized Volunteering Service – If you have checked out the programmes and projects but you are not seeing anything of interest to you please [Contact Us](#) and let us know. If you have a particular interest then complete the [Enquiry Form](#) and our team at RSVP Caribbean will research your interest and let you know if it is possible. If it's possible we will do everything to make it happen.

RSVP GUARANTEES

- **Resource Allocation** - we guarantee that resources will be provided to programmes and projects.

- **Donation** - we guarantee that once per quarter a tangible donation will be made to an institution or individual in need; from one of the RSVP Caribbean destinations.
- **Community Impact** - we guarantee that 5% of your programme fee will go towards a Community Development Fund to support community projects and partner needs through the RSVP Foundation.
- **Needs-Based Programmes and Projects** - we guarantee that you will have a meaningful programme or project that allows you to make a difference.
- **Exceptional Service** - we guarantee to deliver excellent service that exceeds your expectations.
- **Efficient Service** - we guarantee to always respond on time (*within 48 hours for weekday queries and within 72 hours for weekend queries*), for late replies you will receive 2% discount; if we are not on time you pay less.
- **Confidentiality** - We guarantee complete privacy of information collected from you and on your behalf.
- **Uniqueness** - we guarantee a customized approach to each volunteer and will take your particular situation, expectations and needs into consideration at all times.

PROGRAMME AND PROJECT INFORMATION

This information relates to all services (*individual, group, internship and dissertation, professional, summer, spring break, corporate, English lessons, patois lessons and customized*). It provides information on the programmes and projects, how it relates to the global sustainable development goals, the age requirements, programme and project requirements, available dates and minimum stay. You can also [Contact Us](mailto:info@rsvpcaribbean) at info@rsvpcaribbean if you have any questions.

Programmes and Projects	Global Sustainable Development Goal	Age Requirement	Programme and Project Requirements	Offered	Minimum Stay	Destinations
Child Care and Protection Programme (Icon)	Good Health and Well-Being	16+	No specific requirement for some orphanages and day care centre. Volunteers with interest, studies or experience in social work, psychology, sociology or any related area are suitable.	All year round	1 week	Jamaica, Grenada, St. Lucia
Teaching Programme (Icon)	Quality Education	16+	No specific requirement for teaching in early childhood, primary or high school.	2 nd week in January – 2 nd week in June 2 nd week in September –	2 weeks	Jamaica, Grenada, St. Lucia

Programmes and Projects	Global Sustainable Development Goal	Age Requirement	Programme and Project Requirements	Offered	Minimum Stay	Destinations
			<p>However, a good command of English is required.</p> <p>Volunteers with interest, studies or experience in teaching, early childhood development or any related area are suitable.</p>	<p>1st week in December</p> <p>Due to school holidays</p>		
<p>Medicine and Health Care Programme (Icon)</p>	Good Health and Well-Being	18+	<p>No specific requirement for pre-medical volunteers. Volunteers will only be able to observe.</p> <p>Medical students will also only observe and any practical work will be at the discretion of the partner.</p> <p>Professionals will be</p>	All year round	2 weeks	Jamaica, Grenada, St. Lucia

Programmes and Projects	Global Sustainable Development Goal	Age Requirement	Programme and Project Requirements	Offered	Minimum Stay	Destinations
			asked to register to do practical work. To observe only no registration is required. RSVP Caribbean will guide you through the simple registration process.			
Nursing Programme (Icon)	Good Health and Well-Being	18+	<p>No specific requirement for pre-nursing volunteers. Volunteers will only be able to observe.</p> <p>Nursing students will also only observe and any practical work will be at the discretion of the partner.</p> <p>Professionals will be asked to register to do practical work. To observe only no</p>	All year round	2 weeks	Jamaica, Grenada, St. Lucia

Programmes and Projects	Global Sustainable Development Goal	Age Requirement	Programme and Project Requirements	Offered	Minimum Stay	Destinations
			registration is required. RSVP Caribbean will guide you through the simple registration process.			
Physiotherapy Programme (Icon)	Good Health and Well-Being	18+	<p>Volunteers should have completed at least one year of physiotherapy studies (<i>observation only</i>), over two years any practical work will be at the discretion of partners.</p> <p>Professionals will be asked to register with to do practical work. To observe only no registration is required. RSVP Caribbean will guide you through the</p>	All year round	2 weeks	Jamaica

Programmes and Projects	Global Sustainable Development Goal	Age Requirement	Programme and Project Requirements	Offered	Minimum Stay	Destinations
			simple registration process.			
Dentistry Programme (Icon)	Good Health and Well-Being	18+	<p>Volunteers should have completed at least one year of dental school (<i>observation only</i>), over two years any practical work will be at the discretion of partners.</p> <p>Professionals will be asked to register to do practical work. To observe only no registration is required. RSVP Caribbean will guide you through the simple registration process.</p>	All year round	2 weeks	Jamaica
Health and Wellness Retreat Programme	Good Health and Well-Being	16+	No specific requirements, volunteers must	Specific Dates September 1-	4 weeks	Jamaica

Programmes and Projects	Global Sustainable Development Goal	Age Requirement	Programme and Project Requirements	Offered	Minimum Stay	Destinations
(Icon)			require special intervention if suffering from psychological, mental or health issues.	30, 2016 November 1-30, 2016 January 1-31, 2017 March 1-31, 2017 May 1-31, 2017 July 1-31, 2017 September 1-30, 2017 November 1-30, 2017 (Minimum 15 persons required in each group)		
Sports Programme	Quality Education	16+	No specific requirement for	2 nd week in January – 2 nd	2 weeks	Jamaica, Grenada, St.

Programmes and Projects	Global Sustainable Development Goal	Age Requirement	Programme and Project Requirements	Offered	Minimum Stay	Destinations
(Icon)			<p>teaching in early childhood, primary or high school. However, a good command of English is required.</p> <p>Volunteers with interest, studies or experience in teaching, sport development, sports medicine or any related areas are suitable.</p>	<p>week in June</p> <p>2nd week in September – 1st week in December</p> <p>Due to school holidays</p>		Lucia
Humanitarian Programme (Icon)	No Poverty	16+	<p>No specific requirement.</p> <p>Volunteers with interest, studies or experience in building, construction, architecture, renovations, painting, carpentry,</p>	All year round	1 week	Jamaica

Programmes and Projects	Global Sustainable Development Goal	Age Requirement	Programme and Project Requirements	Offered	Minimum Stay	Destinations
			and plumbing are most suitable.			
Environmental Awareness and Protection Programme (Icon)	Clean Water and Sanitation	18+	Volunteers with experience and studies in marine biology, waste water management, environmental education, watershed management, tropical ecology, climate change adaptation, sustainable development or any other related fields are most suitable.	All year round	2 weeks	Jamaica
Entrepreneurship Programme (Icon)	Decent Work and Economic Growth	18+	Volunteers with experience and studies in business development, entrepreneurship, accounting, finance,	All year round	4 weeks	Jamaica

Programmes and Projects	Global Sustainable Development Goal	Age Requirement	Programme and Project Requirements	Offered	Minimum Stay	Destinations
			marketing, sales, human resource management or any other related fields are suitable.			
Rastafarian Programme (Icon)	Sustainable Cities and Communities	18+	No specific requirement. Volunteers who want to learn more about the Rastafarian culture are encouraged to apply. Volunteers with interest, experience and studies in cultural development, history, literature or any related areas are suitable.	All year round	1 week	Jamaica
Rastafarian Programme	Sustainable Cities and	18+	No specific requirement. Volunteers who	All year round	1 week	Jamaica

Programmes and Projects	Global Sustainable Development Goal	Age Requirement	Programme and Project Requirements	Offered	Minimum Stay	Destinations
(Icon)	Communities		want to learn more about the reggae music are encouraged to apply. Volunteers with interest, experience and studies music, in cultural development, history, literature or any related areas are suitable.			
Youth and Community Development (Icon)	Sustainable Cities and Communities	18+	No specific requirement, volunteers who want to learn more about community development in the Caribbean and who want to contribute to changing lives	All year round	2 weeks	Jamaica
Internship and Dissertation	Good Health	18+	Completed at least one year of study in	See specific	Programme specific -	Jamaica

Programmes and Projects	Global Sustainable Development Goal	Age Requirement	Programme and Project Requirements	Offered	Minimum Stay	Destinations
Project (Icon) Child Care and Protection, Teaching, Medicine, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Dentistry, Sports, Humanitarian, Environmental Awareness and Protection, and Rastafarian	and Well-Being No Poverty Quality Education Sustainable Cities and Communities Climate Action		relevant field	programme	see minimum stay for each programme	
Professional Project (Icon) Child Care and Protection, Teaching, Medicine, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Dentistry, Sports,	Good Health and Well-Being No Poverty Quality Education Sustainable Cities and Communities	21+	At least a Bachelor's Degree and one year work experience relevant to the programme	See specific programme – Programme and Project Description	Programme specific - see minimum stay for each programme	Jamaica

Programmes and Projects	Global Sustainable Development Goal	Age Requirement	Programme and Project Requirements	Offered	Minimum Stay	Destinations
Humanitarian, Environmental Awareness and Protection, and Rastafarian						
Summer Project <i>(Icon)</i> Child Care and Protection, Humanitarian, Sports and Medicine	Good Health and Well-Being No Poverty Quality Education	16-18	Please see Summer Project	Summer 2016 Child Care and Protection Sunday, June 12, 2016 – Saturday, June 25, 2016 Sunday, July 3, 2016 – Saturday, July 16, 2016 Sunday, July 17, 2016 – Saturday, July 30, 2016	Programme specific - see minimum stay for each programme	

Programmes and Projects	Global Sustainable Development Goal	Age Requirement	Programme and Project Requirements	Offered	Minimum Stay	Destinations
				<p>Humanitarian</p> <p>Sunday, July 3, 2016 – Saturday, July 16, 2016</p> <p>Sunday, July 17, 2016 – Saturday, July 30, 2016</p> <p>Sports</p> <p>Sunday, July 10, 2016 – Saturday, July 23, 2016</p> <p>Sunday, August 7, 2016 – Saturday August 20,</p>		

Programmes and Projects	Global Sustainable Development Goal	Age Requirement	Programme and Project Requirements	Offered	Minimum Stay	Destinations
				2016 Summer 2017 Child Care and Protection Sunday, June 11, 2017 – Saturday, June 24, 2017 Sunday, July 2, 2017 – Saturday, July 15, 2017 Sunday, July 16, 2017 – Saturday, July 29, 2017 Humanitarian Sunday, July 2,		

Programmes and Projects	Global Sustainable Development Goal	Age Requirement	Programme and Project Requirements	Offered	Minimum Stay	Destinations
				<p>2017 – Saturday, July 15, 2017</p> <p>Sunday, July 16, 2017 – Saturday, July 29, 2017</p> <p>Sports</p> <p>Sunday, July 9, 2017 – Saturday, July 22, 2017</p> <p>Sunday, August 6, 2017 – Saturday August 19, 2017</p>		

Programmes and Projects	Global Sustainable Development Goal	Age Requirement	Programme and Project Requirements	Offered	Minimum Stay	Destinations
Spring Break Project (Icon) Child Care and Protection and Humanitarian	Good Health and Well-Being No Poverty	16+	Please see Spring Break Project	Spring Break 2017 Sunday, February 26, 2017 – Saturday, March 4, 2017 Sunday, March 5 2017 – Saturday March 11, 2017 Sunday, March 12, 2017 – Saturday March 18, 2017 Spring Break 2018 Sunday, February 25, 2017 – Saturday, March 3, 2017	Programme specific - see minimum stay for each programme	

Programmes and Projects	Global Sustainable Development Goal	Age Requirement	Programme and Project Requirements	Offered	Minimum Stay	Destinations
				Sunday, March 4 2017 – Saturday March 10, 2017 Sunday, March 11, 2017 – Saturday March 17, 2017		
Group Trips <i>(Icon)</i> Child Care and Protection, Teaching, Medicine, Nursing, Sports, Humanitarian and Rastafarian,	Good Health and Well-Being No Poverty Quality Education Sustainable Cities and Communities	16+	Please see Programme and Project Description	You select your dates and we will try our best to make it happen	Programme specific - see minimum stay for each programme	Jamaica
Corporate Projects <i>(Icon)</i> Child Care and Protection,	Good Health and Well-Being No Poverty	20+	At least one year work experience	You select your dates and we will try our best to make it	Programme specific - see minimum	Jamaica

Programmes and Projects	Global Sustainable Development Goal	Age Requirement	Programme and Project Requirements	Offered	Minimum Stay	Destinations
Teaching, Humanitarian, Rastafarian, Sports, Medicine, Nursing, Holistic Retreat Projects	Quality Education Sustainable Cities and Communities			happen	stay for each programme	
Language Lesson Project (Icon)	Quality Education	16+	No requirements for English, a basic command of the English Language for patois	All year round	2 weeks	Jamaica
Customized Project	Based on specific request	18+	Based on specific request	Based on specific request	Based on specific request	Jamaica