

EXPECTATIONS/POINTS TO CONSIDER BEFORE APPLYING

1. We expect the long-term volunteers to really devote your time to the children you'll be serving. On average, most long-term volunteers work six to seven days a week (often two half-day shifts each day), with quite a bit of free time and then also having weekly group activities and three OSSO-sponsored full-day field trips spread out throughout the two and a half-month service commitment. All long-term volunteers help out by managing volunteer housing facilities. There are also leadership responsibilities overseeing the project itself as well as the orphanage sites. Long-term volunteers are expected to fulfill their entire time commitment while on assignment with OSSO.
2. Volunteers may work less or more than what they'd consider optimal because we adjust to the needs of the orphanages in which we serve.
3. Conditions may not be great. You'll be living in a third-world country, but most volunteers are pleasantly surprised by how nice the conditions actually are.
4. Most volunteers find that serving orphaned children can be spiritually moving and challenging.
5. Religious discussion is prohibited in all orphanages. Differences in belief must be respected.
6. No discrimination is made concerning religious beliefs. OSSO originated in a predominantly LDS/Mormon area and the majority of applicants has been and continues to be LDS/Mormon. The non-Mormon volunteers we've had seem to enjoy their time and rate the overall experience just as highly as the Mormon volunteers do.
7. You might get homesick or experience culture shock, but when you immerse yourself in service, these don't really matter anymore.
8. Your heart might break while caring for these orphaned children because you've grown to love them with all your heart.
9. Many volunteers feel guilty upon returning home. They feel they're going back to the easy life, leaving "their" children behind.
10. The program fee includes expenses such as airfare, room and board, etc., and many volunteers find sponsors to pay for part or all of this. U.S. donors' donations are usually tax deductible.