Overview

**Location**  Cape Town, South Africa.

**Duration**  From 4 weeks.

**Dates**  This project operates during school terms. It is closed during all school holidays and public holidays.

**Requirements**
- You must have a high Intermediate level of English (please complete our English test on [http://www.goodhopevolunteers.com](http://www.goodhopevolunteers.com)).
- Special skills: It is an advantage to have worked with children before. You need a love for children and you should display sensitivity and empathy.

**Your impact**  💜💜💜💜💜

**Documents required**  Enrolment form, curriculum vitae, letter of motivation, passport copy, proof of medical insurance, police clearance certificate.

**Day of arrival**  Thursday.

**Day of departure**  Saturday.
Highlights

• Work with lovely children in a structured and welcoming environment.
• Leave a lasting impact in the lives of the children you work with.
• Slogan “Words can change Worlds” – encourage children, parents and communities securing a better education for children.
• Help in creating a nation of readers, seeing how each individual child develops.
• Receive on site support from the centre manager.
• Experience amazing tours and adventures in and around Cape Town.
• Make new friends from all over the world.

Project information

Many parents and caregivers choose to send their children to inner-city schools, far from where they actually live, in the hope of them receiving a better education. English is usually the language used to teach in these schools and is, for most children, a second language. Larger classes add to the challenges of children whose below the norm literacy levels put them ‘at risk’.

The teaching centres provide individualised support to children to strengthen their English reading, writing and speaking skills. These children are chosen based on their level of need and the level of competency the volunteers can provide.

This project also brings benefits for the whole school, not just for those children who attend this programme. Classrooms with young learners are also equipped with multi-cultural, age-appropriate storybooks to promote a culture of reading throughout the school.

Using the slogan ‘Words can Change Worlds’, the Teaching Centre successfully encourages children, parents, schools and communities to work in partnership at a critical stage in early childhood development in order to secure a better education for these children.

Programme details

The Teaching Centre provides support in language and reading for children in Grades 1, 2 and 3 who may need literacy support. Based in schools, trained volunteers sit with one to two children for an hour a week during school hours, to grow their love of books and reading. The project currently works in six centres.
supporting seven schools around Cape Town. The project looks for keenness and flexibility in the volunteers who apply, plus the ability to think independently and use initiative. Applicants should be hard working, with a willingness to adapt to the situation, have a sense of humor, display an ability to be able to work in a team and have the awareness that they can help change lives with this work. Every little connection and task that you are involved with during the day will help with the project’s quest, which is to make a meaningful and positive difference to the education of the children we work with.

Your role
Depending on which Teaching Centre you are placed in your roles and responsibilities could vary. In general, your work schedule is from Monday to Friday, from ±08:30 – 12:00 or 14:00.

A possible work schedule could be:

± 08:30 – 12:00:
- Arrival at the centre and assist the centre manager to set up for the day. You may also assist teachers in a resource class in the school. You help and identify and fetch the scholars which need extra care and attention.
- Assist scholars one on one or in pairs for the first and second hours of the literacy sessions.
- Help return children to their classes, gather materials for the second session.
- Help teachers/centre managers put materials away and clean up.
- Help teachers/centre managers with administrative work, organising and creating resources and photocopying.
- Possibly assist with training, assessment and parent workshops depending on the time of year
- Always assist in keeping the centre clean.

12:00-14:00:
- Volunteers who would like to stay longer or to assist teachers in a much more rigorous environment can work directly with teachers and staff in the resource classes. These classes take volunteers who are motivated, encouraging, and who have a positive attitude. Some volunteers also ask to be involved in after school activities and sport. But this would vary depending on each candidate.

The centre runs a parent workshop on some Saturday mornings, and all volunteers are welcome and invited to participate.

It is important to note that this description serves as an example only. The daily tasks and challenges depend on the volunteer and the work that needs to be done. The final job description can therefore vary substantially from the above.

This project can be emotionally draining. It is important that you are aware of this before applying for this project. We will assist you during your stay to make sure that you are coping with the experience, but you need to be mentally prepared to be open to the challenge.

Arrival
You will need to arrive on a Thursday at Cape Town International Airport. Our driver will meet you at the airport and take you to your accommodation.
After an orientation meeting at the language school in Newlands on Friday, your first day of volunteering will be on Monday.

Accommodation

You will live at the Volunteer House. It is a private house in an upmarket residential area and consists of rooms with 2 single beds and 2 bunk beds. There are 4 bathrooms to share, a communal kitchen, a dining room, a lounge with TV and DVD and a beautiful garden with a swimming pool. A commercial laundry service is close by. Bedding is provided. Towels will be not provided.

Meals

Self-catering. The main shopping areas as well as restaurants, pubs, etc. are within walking distance of the Volunteer House. Also, the Teaching Centre is close to shops, cafes and grocery stores.

Alternatively, you have the option of ordering homemade meals (Monday to Friday) that only require reheating. You can choose to order lunch only, dinner only, or both. These healthy meals are freshly made every day and delivered daily to the accommodations. Prices for 2017 and 2018 are ZAR 325 (€ 23, US$ 26) per week for lunch, ZAR 375 (€ 26, US$ 29) per week for dinner and ZAR 700 (€ 49, US$ 55) for both lunch and dinner. Orders and cancelations need to be submitted at least 2 days in advance.

Free time

Together with other volunteers and language students from Good Hope Studies you can take part in the entertainment programme of the Social Club. There are organised events, outings and tours most evenings and at the weekends. To find out about the current programme, go to www.goodhopevolunteers.com.

How to get to the project

This project operates from various locations. Depending on where you are placed, and your accommodation, the project could be within walking distance. Alternatively, you will need to use MetroRail or the MyCiti bus. Weekly costs are around € 6.40 / US$ 8. You can also use Uber which has recently become popular in Cape Town.

What to bring

There are no special requirements in this regard but we recommend bringing comfortable, practical clothes. Please note that the teaching centres are very hot in the summer and cold in the winter. Anything else you might need is readily available at local supermarkets in South Africa.

Your commitment

Please be aware that in applying for a volunteer project, you are making a firm commitment to the project. Our projects depend on the volunteers. It is necessary that you take this commitment seriously.
Some projects will appoint specific responsibilities to you; others are less structured and require the volunteers to use their initiative. If you prefer the one type over the other, please ask us for the most appropriate project for your preference.

Your daily presence is required and working hours are to be followed strictly. Not fulfilling your obligation can result in your dismissal from the project.

**Cell phone use during working hours**

Please note that the use of cell phones is strictly prohibited on all of our projects during work hours. This includes taking photos and instant messaging. This is for the safety of the volunteers as well as the safety of the children who are supported in our social projects. South African law states that the taking of photographs of children without direct parental consent is unlawful under the “South African Children’s Act (Appendix 4)”.

Any volunteers found taking photographs of children and/or posting photographs of children will be presented with a written warning and asked to leave the project if the request is ignored.

**What to wear**

You are asked to wear sensible clothing and to be culturally sensitive of the communities you are working with. You are expected to wear modest clothing, which includes jeans, leggings, long shorts, and long skirts. Closed shoes are advisable, especially when working outdoors. Underwear is not to be seen under any circumstances.

Not acceptable are low cut tops, short shorts/shirts, bikinis and swimwear, belly tops, shirts/t-shirts with no sleeves for male volunteers as well as flip flops or no shoes.

Any volunteers found inappropriately dressed will be given a written warning and asked to leave the project if the written warning is ignored.

**Medical insurance**

It is required that you take out medical insurance before travelling to South Africa. For stays exceeding 90 days, it is compulsory to take out South African medical insurance. We recommend NetworX from Compcare, which is specifically designed for people who visit South Africa for 3 to 12 months. You will receive an information leaflet and an application form together with your confirmation of booking.

**Health**

No vaccinations are required except for travellers going to the north-eastern areas of South Africa, where anti-malaria precautions are recommended. Clients should consult their doctor for recommendations.

A yellow fever certificate is compulsory for those persons who have travelled from, or intend travelling through, countries in the yellow fever belt:

Africa: Angola, Burundi, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia,
Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Rwanda, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda.

South America: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guyana, Guyana, Panama, Peru, Surinam, Venezuela, Argentina and Paraguay.

Bring medication just in case you suffer from any travel-related illnesses, e.g. stomach upsets, since your body needs to adjust to the change in food and water during your first few days in South Africa.

It is important to keep in mind at all times that HIV and Aids are widespread diseases in South Africa.

Safety

HIV/AIDS and TB are a major public health concern. You should be aware that you are working with children that could be affected.

What’s included / not included

Included:

- Project placement
- Airport transfer on arrival
- Accommodation (Volunteer House: shared room, shared bathroom, self-catering)
- Full-day excursion on the first Saturday
- A donation towards the project
- Good Hope Volunteers welcome pack
- Weekly site visits by our coordinator
- An orientation at the beginning of your volunteering
- Mandatory literacy hour training on the first or second Tuesday after arrival
- Participation in the activities of the Social Club (extra charges may apply)
- Electronic certificate (printed copy on request)
- Local support including a 24-hour emergency number
- WiFi

Not included:

- Food
- Local transport
- Any items of a personal nature

When combining with a language course

When you participate in a language course before you start at this project the day of arrival is Sunday and the free full-day excursion on the first Saturday is not applicable.
Visa

You can volunteer in South Africa on a visitor’s visa for up to 90 days.

Nationals from certain countries (e.g. Brazil, Switzerland, Germany, Australia, France, the Netherlands, Spain) will receive their visa when entering South Africa. Other nationals need to apply for a visitor’s visa at a South African Embassy in their home country before travelling.

If you come to South Africa on a visitor’s visa, you can extend once by another 90 days.

If you plan to come for more than 90 days, you need to apply for a volunteer visa at a South African Embassy in your home country. Please ask us for the necessary documents for your visa application.

For the latest information contact the South African Embassy or Good Hope Volunteers.