



STARS UGANDA VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Serve, Empower, and Transform Lives in Jinja, Uganda

Corporate Document

Are you a healthcare professional, educator, therapist, child development specialist, or dedicated advocate passionate about making a tangible difference? Stars Uganda invites you to share your skills and heart in an immersive, ethical service experience designed to create lasting, sustainable impact for children and families in Uganda.

I. Why Volunteer with Stars Uganda?

At Stars Uganda, volunteering isn't just about visiting; it's about partnering with local efforts to build a resilient, self-sustaining future. As a volunteer, you will:

- Put your specialized knowledge directly to work where it matters most, from health screenings and educational development to sustainable agriculture.
- Serve directly within our transitional home and community initiatives, helping children grow in safe, loving, and stimulating environments.
- Work side-by-side with our team on projects like our layer poultry and agricultural programs, which provide both nutritious food and long-term financial stability.
- Build genuine relationships, learn local traditions, and experience the rich culture and hospitality of Jinja.

II. Volunteer Roles & Service Focus Areas

Child Development & Education

- Facilitate basic literacy, art, music, and creative play activities to stimulate cognitive and emotional development.
- Assist local staff in providing structured academic support and life-skills tutoring.

Healthcare & Therapeutic Care

- Conduct health assessments, hygiene workshops, and specialized care or physical therapy activities.

- Provide guidance on emotional wellness, trauma-informed care, and child development support.

Sustainable Agriculture & Operations

- Contribute hands-on support to our layer poultry farming and vegetable garden operations.
- Help build sustainable food sources that feed our residents and generate community support.

III. Core Expectations & Values

To foster a harmonious and mission-aligned team, we seek individuals who:

- **a.** Are deeply committed to serving vulnerable populations with humility, empathy, and respect.
- **b.** Demonstrate a positive, adaptable attitude when navigating unexpected daily situations or change.
- **c.** Are proactive problem-solvers who foster teamwork and prioritize the well-being of the children above personal preferences.
- **d.** Communicate constructively, professionally, and privately with leadership.

IV. Safeguarding & Requirements

The safety, dignity, and privacy of the children in our care are our highest priorities. All candidates must meet and agree to the following criteria prior to final approval and arrival.

1. General & Travel Eligibility

- **Age:** Must be 18 years or older. (Applicants aged 15–17 are welcome only when accompanied by a parent or legal guardian).
- **Language:** Fluent in spoken and written English.
- **Visa & Travel Documents:**
 - Valid passport with at least 6 months validity remaining from entry date.
 - Approved Uganda Tourist Visa applied at visas.immigration.go.ug at least two weeks prior to departure (\$50 USD). A printed hard copy of the approval must be presented at Entebbe International Airport (EBB).
- **Health & Immunizations:** Medical clearance from your healthcare provider, mandatory Yellow Fever vaccination card, and up-to-date routine immunizations.

2. Mandatory Vetting & Background Checks

To maintain a safe environment, every volunteer must complete vetting before setting foot on site. First, submit your application through the appropriate channel.

- **Official Criminal Background Clearance:**

- **International Applicants:** Must submit a nationwide criminal record check issued within 6 months of the start date (e.g., FBI Identity History Summary in the US, ACRO/DBS Check in the UK, or Police Clearance Certificate in Canada/Australia).
- **Ugandan Applicants / Local Residents:** Must provide a valid Certificate of Good Conduct issued by Interpol/Uganda Police Force.
- **Reference Verification:** Submission of two professional, academic, or character references who can speak directly to your character, integrity, and suitability for working with vulnerable youth.

3. Child Protection & Media Code of Conduct

Before commencing service, all volunteers must sign and abide by the Stars Uganda Child Protection Policy, which includes the following core principles:

- **Zero Unsupervised Contact:** Volunteers must always operate in open, visible, and supervised settings. One-on-one time behind closed doors with a child is strictly prohibited.
- **Strict Social Media & Privacy Limits:** To protect our children's safety and privacy:
 - Volunteers may not take or post identifiable photos or videos of resident children on personal social media accounts, websites, or public channels without Stars Uganda's prior written permission.
 - Captions or posts disclosing full names, sensitive personal histories, or specific vulnerabilities of any child are strictly forbidden.
- **Personal Boundaries & Direct Gifts:**
 - Volunteers must not share personal contact details (phone numbers, email, social media profiles) with staff members.
 - Giving direct cash gifts, money, or individual personal presents directly to a child or to a staff member is prohibited. All donations must go through official management channels to ensure fairness and equity.
- **Mandatory Orientation:** Attendance at an introductory virtual or on-site safeguarding briefing prior to commencing activities.

V. Program Fees & Inclusions

Stars Uganda operates on a transparent non-profit cost-sharing model. Program fees cover your housing, meals, and local coordination while directly funding educational materials and program operations for the children.

Program Fee Structure	Cost
2-Week Standard Program	\$850 USD
Each Additional Week	\$300 USD

What Your Fee Covers:

- **Accommodation:** Safe, comfortable guest house in our own facility.

- **Meals:** Three fresh, locally prepared meals daily. If you prefer to go out, the cost is not included.
- **Airport Transfers & Local Transport:** Dedicated round-trip driver pick-up and drop-off between Entebbe International Airport (EBB) and Jinja, plus transportation to program activities.
- **In-Country Support:** Comprehensive arrival orientation, 24/7 staff coordination, and local emergency support.
- **Direct Project Donation:** A portion of every fee directly purchases learning materials, medical supplies, and feed for our sustainable farm programs.

(Note: Fees do not include international airfare, visa fees, personal travel insurance, or personal discretionary spending.)

VI. Practical Travel Information

Travel & Emergency Medical Insurance

- **Mandatory Coverage:** Comprehensive travel health insurance is strictly required for all volunteers prior to arrival.
- **Key Provisions:** Your policy must cover Emergency Medical Expenses and Emergency Medical Evacuation & Repatriation.
- **Coverage Scope:** Ensure your policy covers volunteering/community service activities, travel delays, lost baggage, and trip interruption. Providers such as World Nomads, SafetyWing, IMG, or Gallagher Charitable are popular options for international volunteers. Proof of insurance policy must be submitted prior to departure.

Flights

Major airlines including Delta, KLM, Qatar Airways, Ethiopian Airlines, Turkish Airlines, and Brussels Airlines fly regularly into Entebbe (EBB).

Currency

Uganda Shilling (UGX). International Visa/Mastercard-compatible ATMs are available in major towns. Your local driver/coordinator can assist with secure currency exchange.

Stay Duration

We recommend a minimum 15-day stay to ensure adequate time for travel adjustment, orientation, and meaningful project engagement.

Important Notice

- Stars Uganda reserves the right to refuse or terminate a volunteer placement at any time if concerns arise regarding the applicant's identity, background, conduct, references, safeguarding requirements, or suitability to work with young children.
- The best interests and safety of the children will always take priority.

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