



Volunteer Opportunities with Trailblazer Foundation



Thank you for your interest in volunteering with Trailblazer Foundation. Every day, our dedicated volunteers work with our Cambodian staff constructing and delivering bio-sand water filters, thereby making a real impact in the communities of Siem Reap Province, Cambodia. There are other ways that you, as a volunteer, can lend your skills to make a difference with Trailblazer as staff identifies the needs.

Trailblazer has been blessed to have 100 volunteers per year, on average, support our work in Cambodia. The country of origin, and time commitments, of these volunteers is most impressive.

Our volunteers have come from thirty-two (32) countries, to help support Trailblazer's work with our partner villages in Siem Reap province. These volunteers have donated between one day and three months of their time to Trailblazer, with most people helping out for one to two weeks. You can read a more complete review of the origins and time commitments of these volunteers [here](#).

VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT

We ask that volunteers commit to a minimum of two (2) weeks of work. This allows our team to fully invest the volunteer in our project work, enables Trailblazer to get a good “return on investment” of the time our staff have to put into training each volunteer, ensures the consistency and quality of our work, and provides the volunteer with a deeper, more substantive, experience working with our Khmer staff and rural village partners. Exceptions can be considered on a case-by-case basis, especially if a volunteer has a particular skill or experience (more details in the “Skills” section below).

If you are unable to volunteer for the minimum of two (2) weeks, but still want to work with us, we ask that you make a contribution of US\$10 per day, which helps offset the time commitment our local staff needs to make in you, and allows Trailblazer Foundation to support more rural villagers.

While we understand you are volunteering your time, due to the nature and scheduling of our project activities (especially on days when the team goes into the field), we do expect our volunteers to be punctual -- or to inform us if they cannot volunteer on a given day. We appreciate your cooperation in this regard, as it aids in a positive and productive experience for all parties.

During your volunteer experience, you might make some observations, or have ideas, about how we could improve our operations. We welcome your comments, but ask that you share them with Trailblazer Foundation’s Executive Director, Chris Coats, at info@thetrailblazerfoundation.org. We value and appreciate constructive feedback that does not have a negative impact on our field staff (both in what is suggested, and how it is suggested).

WORKING ENVIRONMENT

We prefer our volunteers to begin on a Monday, so they can attend the orientation. Typical work hours for our volunteers are Monday through Friday, starting at 8:00 AM, and working until mid-to-late afternoon (typically no later than 4:30).

Our volunteers work in two different settings: at our worksite, and on field trips to local villages. A typical day for our volunteers at the worksite consists of helping construct (and otherwise prepare) bio-sand water filters.

With respect to the water filters, our volunteers help prepare the filter molds for construction, assist in mixing and pouring the concrete into the filter molds, deconstructing the molds when the new filters are dried, painting and otherwise prepping the filters for delivery, and sifting and washing the sand and gravel that goes inside the filters.

Finally, we make every effort to get volunteers out with our field crews at least once during a two-week stay. In the field, our volunteers help deliver and install water filters to rural villagers. These field days tend to be longer hours than a typical day at the worksite.

While these laborious activities are perhaps not the most glamorous work, everything described above is important work toward fulfilling Trailblazer's mission. The vital support our volunteers provide enables us to provide fresh water to our rural partners. Therefore, the greatest satisfaction in your work, as a volunteer, will likely come from knowing you helped any number of rural Cambodian families begin rising up out of subsistence living, toward a place of sustainable living.

OTHER POSSIBLE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you have a professional or academic background in any of the fields listed below, or other skills and interests that you'd like to offer, we look forward to talking with you about how we might enlist your help – whether in Cambodia and/or the United States. Please let us know if you want to explore the idea of supporting Trailblazer as a volunteer in one of these areas.

Communications
Graphic Design
Literature Reviews

Marketing
Photography/Videography
Case Studies Research

Fundraising
Social Media
Technical Writing

For volunteering, please contact Chris Coats (Executive Director): chris@thetrailblazerfoundation.org