

**A volunteer service
opportunity abroad for
Brandon-area youth**



BRANDON ABROAD

**Applications due on
September 1, 2020.**

Spread the word:
www.BrandonAbroad.org

Brandon Abroad is offering an annual scholarship to one Brandon-area youth with the opportunity to travel abroad and volunteer in a service organization for up to four weeks.

The purpose of this scholarship is to offer Brandon-area youth the opportunity to experience new cultures, languages, traditions, and perspectives. Service opportunities range from school teaching and medical care, to wildlife rescue and childcare. Assist with wild elephant or sea turtle conservation, sustainable agriculture, food rescue, special needs care, and more. The hope is that this volunteer service experience inspires Brandon-area youth to pursue additional service experiences in the future, here in the U.S. and abroad.

How to Apply

Prerequisite: This scholarship is available to youth ages 16-18 with Brandon-area addresses.

- **FIRST**, talk with your family about this scholarship opportunity. *Brandon Abroad* will cover flight costs and program fee and registration expenses, but the applicant will be asked to invest in the experience, too, by covering personal expenses related to passport, visa, background check, immunizations, and travel insurance. Consider how you might fundraise in your community for these personal expenses.
- **SECOND**, review the two organizations' websites below - International Volunteer HQ and Plan My Gap Year - and explore the most current service opportunities that are available to 16-18-year-old youth. Select one project that appeals to you.
- **THIRD**, write a 500-word essay that contains these four components:
 - where you want to volunteer (based on available options on websites below)
 - why you want to go to that specific country/project
 - why you think volunteer service is important
 - how you'll share your experience with the Brandon community once you return (e.g. presentations, articles, art)
- **FOURTH**, submit the 500-word essay to entry@brandonabroad.org by September 1, 2020, along with your name, age, address, parental/guardian consent and two character references (which is required by International Volunteer HQ). *Brandon Abroad* will review all applications and announce the recipient of the 2020 scholarship on its website.
- **FIFTH**, check in at www.BrandonAbroad.org on November 1, 2020, for the announcement of the scholarship recipient. The recipient will have one year to complete the volunteer service experience (this recognizes that volunteer service experiences book months in advance and this allows for sufficient time to organize, register, etc.).

Final Note: *Please note that the preferred volunteer experience identified in the 500-word essay may not be the volunteer experience available by the time the winner of the scholarship is announced. Flexibility in volunteer service choices will thus be necessary. Scholarships will range from 2-4 weeks depending on cost and location as flight and program costs vary per project.*

International Volunteer HQ (www.volunteerhq.org)

Please read this information from IVHQ's website: "Volunteers between the ages of 16-18 years old can travel and volunteer alone on select IVHQ programs with parental/guardian consent. Volunteers under the age of 18 will be required to provide IVHQ with parental consent and two character reference letters in order to participate and may be asked to provide further documentation to local teams depending on their chosen project." Examples of volunteer service opportunities available for youth, ages 16-18, at the time of *Brandon Abroad's* launch: Sri Lanka, Peru, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Ecuador, Laos, Philippines, Vietnam, Portugal, Romania and Tanzania.

Plan My Gap Year (www.planmygapyear.com)

Please read this information from PMGY's website: "We have a number of programs which participants aged 17 can take part in and one project specifically designed for 16 year olds. Volunteers are provided with extensive pre-departure support service, airport pickup, orientation, meals, accommodation, project transportation and local support. The majority of participants are first-time solo travelers; therefore, safety and support is our top priority to ensure you have a positive volunteering experience." Examples of service opportunities available for ages 16-18 on PMGY's website at time of *Brandon Abroad's* launch: Ghana, India, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam.