

VOLUNTEER IN NAIROBI, KENYA!

Trip offered by the Office of the Chaplain in partnership with [International Volunteer HQ](#)

For more information, please be sure to attend our informational meeting on September 13th, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the Jones Chapel Common Room.

Important Dates:

- **Oct 11th** - Applications are due
- **Oct 12 and 13th** - Decisions for the first round will be sent out
- **Week of Oct 16th** - Interviews
- **Oct 23rd** - Final decisions will be made; group will be determined and notified
- **Oct 25th** - \$200 non-refundable deposit due

What is this trip?

This is a 2-week volunteer trip to Nairobi, Kenya, organized by Meredith's Office of the Chaplain in collaboration with International Volunteer HQ. Participants will embark on a journey abroad to interact with and teach young minds in Nairobi and the surrounding area. They may teach math, English, science, geography, history, art, and/or physical education. All needed training for teaching will be provided.

Who can apply?

Any Meredith student is welcome to apply for this trip! Applicants will submit an application [via this Google Form](#). You will be asked to provide three references; seniors and juniors must use Meredith faculty/staff, while sophomores and freshmen are permitted to find references from their respective high schools. An interview with the Chaplain, Rev. Stacy Pardue, will also be required if you pass through the first phase of the application (the form and reference contacts). Trip participants will be chosen following the conclusion of all interviews; the group will be no larger than 8 plus Rev. Pardue and Ms. Pleasant (10 total).

Those who exhibit strong leadership qualities, a healthy level of maturity, and who provide strong, thoughtful answers during their interviews will be considered for the trip. Student behavior while abroad will reflect on Meredith as a whole, and thus each applicant will be carefully evaluated.

Preference will be given to upperclasswomen and those pursuing careers/degrees in education.

Student participants must also have a **valid passport** and be **vaccinated against COVID-19** in order to travel with us to Kenya. IVHQ also requires program participants to be **over 18 years of age** so as not to require a legal guardian to travel with them.

What is IVHQ?

International Volunteer HQ is a highly-accredited organization dedicated to providing both fulfilling experiences for volunteers and assistance to the groups and communities that host them. IVHQ has held the title of Top Volunteer Abroad Provider by Go Overseas for the past five years, and has been dubbed such for boasting an exceedingly high quantity of five-star reviews. Many of said reviews touch on safety in foreign countries, availability of help when required, and the quality of the volunteer trips.

For this trip, the Office of the Chaplain will be working closely with IVHQ. While we will handle booking flights with our travel agent, acquiring trip insurance, and holding a pre-travel orientation session, IVHQ will be taking care of everything else! They will organize housing, regular meals, airport pick-up, and hold an orientation session once we hit the ground in Kenya. For general information about their teaching program in Nairobi, Kenya—which is the one we have chosen for this trip—please [visit their website!](#)

IMPORTANT: Meredith College prohibits student groups to travel to countries with a US State Department travel risk rating higher than 2 (from 1-4, 4 being the highest risk). The current rating for Kenya is 2; if the rating climbs to a 3 or 4 near our departure time, IVHQ guarantees a new volunteer location in another country. We will purchase airline ticket insurance in case we have to change volunteer locations.

Staff

Two members of Meredith's staff will be accompanying trip participants, acting as supervisors in addition to IVHQ's attentive staff in Nairobi. The Chaplain has led previous international service trips with Meredith students to Ghana, West Africa and three trips to Belize, Central America. She is a seasoned traveler who has been abroad to Singapore, Japan, Korea, Mexico, South Africa, Europe, Canada, and Spain, and lived in Australia for 6 months.

- **Rev. Stacy Pardue**, Campus Chaplain, pardues@meredith.edu / 919-760-8347
- **Kathryn Pleasant**, Chaplain's Administrative Assistant, kpleasant@meredith.edu / 919-760-8607

Timetable

The duration of this trip will be two weeks, stretching from May 11th, 2024 to May 25, 2024. While we cannot confirm flights until we have all participant names, this will likely be the trip schedule:

- Flight out from RDU on May 11th, 2024 (likely late afternoon)
- Arrival date will be May 12th
- Orientation with IVHQ will be held on May 13th in Kenya
- Flight home from Kenya will board on May 24th
- Tripgoers will arrive home at RDU on May 25th

Any delays or time changes will be communicated to participants ASAP. Students will be expected to organize their own rides to and from RDU for departure and upon arrival back in the United States.

Cost

The cost of the trip is \$550 plus vaccines (approximately \$952). Bringing pocket money is recommended for purchases such as souvenirs, a few meals, snacks, and incidentals. **A \$200 non-refundable deposit is due Wednesday, Oct 25th, 2023 by 5 p.m.; make checks payable to Meredith College and turn them in to the Office of the Chaplain located in Jones Chapel.**

There are a few options for a safari, with the cost varying depending on length. A 3-day safari would average around \$500 per person, while a 5-hour safari would be around \$70 per person. This is an optional adventure for the trip. If you wish to embark on a safari, let the chaplain know, and remember it will be at your own expense.

Fundraising Ideas

Many people will not have the opportunity to go on an international service trip and like to support others who go; it gives them a chance to participate in the good work offered. You might consider setting up a Go Fund Me page, writing letters to family and friends who may support you (the Chaplain can offer you fundraising letter ideas), or if you are active in a faith community, their outreach budget might offer you support. You could also do a combination of these suggestions.

Vaccines

Information on what vaccinations/medications we will be requiring for the trip can be found on [this document](#). Please read this over carefully before applying as there are no exemptions for our required vaccinations.