

YMCA Alumni International Service Corp Program

The International Service Corp is a program initiative sponsored by the YMCA Alumni, a fellowship of YMCA retirees in the United States. It is a service opportunity that provides short and mid-term volunteer placement for YMCA Alumni members in YMCAs in other countries.

What kind of volunteer service opportunities are available and for how long?

The scope and the length of each assignment varies based on the needs and the specific request of the overseas host YMCA. There is no minimum length of placement, however, the maximum should not exceed one year. With a large talent pool of former YMCA professionals ready to serve, typical assignments include YMCA administration, program development, fund-raising, staff training, teaching English as a second language, and board development, to name a few.

Who administers the program?

The program is administered by the YMCA Alumni International Service Corp Taskforce. Their scope of work is to promote the program and its benefits to YMCA retirees and develop and maintain a technical resources data bank. In addition, the taskforce identifies, recruits, and maintains a list of potential overseas host YMCAs. Through a careful and thorough vetting process, volunteers with the required skill sets are matched and placed with their host YMCA.

How is the program funded and what are the costs?

A special International Service Corp Fund was established in 1982 with funds secured from individual donations, World Service, foundations, and Y Alumni chapters. The costs associated with the program are shared by ISC, the host YMCA, and the volunteer. Typically, ISC will cover the cost of round-trip travel, visa and immunizations; the host YMCA will provide housing, local transportation, some meals, and in some cases a weekly stipend. The volunteer will typically pay for food, personal effects, health insurance, and entertainment.

Is there an application process? If so, how can I apply?

There is an application for interested volunteers as well as for host YMCAs. To request an application, please contact Wayne Uhrig, Taskforce Chairman at wuhrig.msusports@gmail.com or call or text 740-398-2830.