



Ocean Academy High School Caye Caulker, Belize Volunteer Application Form

Why is Ocean Academy fundraising?

Once you get to know our island's economy, our school's history, and our students' struggles, you'll understand why fundraising is so important to the continued operation of our non-profit community school. We really appreciate your donation of time and energy as a volunteer, and hope you are also willing to help fundraise as part of the overall experience.

Background

Students: education is not free in Belize. Both primary-school and high-school-aged kids must pay for their school uniform, books, fees and sometimes even their school drinking water. Before Ocean Academy opened in 2008, Caye Caulker students also had to pay for the daily water taxi commute to mainland schools and their meals.

Ocean Academy: we work tirelessly to fundraise and provide a great education on a shoe-string budget. Ocean Academy is not fully funded by the government of Belize (currently only one teacher salary is paid by the government). We lobby our Ministry of Education representatives to increase financial contributions for Ocean Academy but they in turn point to their own lack of finances. To run the school we apply for grants, reach out to international donors, hold BBQs and events, and run student-led businesses. To help the students we fundraise for student scholarships, subsidies, apprenticeships, and donations of school supplies.

Community members are great supporters of Ocean Academy and local businesses contribute annually to scholarship drives and fundraising campaigns. However, on such a small island they can only give so much to each worthy organization that asks them for donations.

Your volunteer Program Fee goes directly to Ocean Academy programs and students.

Please e-mail this form along with a copy of your resume and references, to **Williams.Penny@oaseatide.com**.

The total Program Fee is \$250 USD.

\$25 USD "information request fee" must be paid at the time of application on our Global Giving page in order to continue correspondence, Q&A and planning with our Projects Director.

<http://goto.gg/43785>

If accepted into our Volunteer Program, return to our Global Giving page and deposit the remaining Program Fee of \$225 USD. If you volunteer for longer than a month then we will refund part of your fee at the end of your stay. Details about application fee, program fee and fundraising are on the last page of this application.

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Name	
Date of Birth	
Nationality	
E-mail	
Telephone	
Address	
Languages spoken	

How long do you want to volunteer at Ocean Academy? Please provide arrival and departure dates.			
Do you want to volunteer ...	Full-time	Part -time	
Why do you want to volunteer at Ocean Academy?			
What are your expectations for volunteering at Ocean Academy?			
Do you have experience working with youth? Explain.			
Please describe your prior travel and intercultural experiences:			
What skills and role(s) could you see yourself doing as a volunteer?			
Are you willing to fund-raise for Ocean Academy either before, during or after your trip? Do you have any interesting/creative fundraising ideas?			

Why do we charge a volunteer application fee?

Ocean Academy receives numerous requests for information related to volunteering, and while we are grateful for the interest, responding to these queries takes up a significant amount of time and resources. We want to direct our energies to recruiting volunteers willing to make a definite commitment. The application fee is primarily a show of good faith that you are serious about volunteering, and if accepted into the program, you want us to start immediately planning the details of your placement. The initial \$25 can be paid through our Global Giving website page: <http://goto.gg/43785>

The application fee will also give you access to the following information and services:

- Prompt e-mail correspondence and organization leading up to your visit
- FAQ about Ocean Academy, volunteering, cost of living, island photos etc.
- Contact emails of former volunteers
- Contact information for fundraising ideas
- Letter on Ocean Academy letterhead to assist your fundraising efforts

Why do we charge a Volunteer Program Fee?

At Ocean Academy we are sincerely grateful to you for your donation of time and skills, and we empathize with the financial burden of paying your airfare, room and board and visa while volunteering on Caye Caulker. However, as you will realize once you are here on the island, funding is crucial to keeping our doors open.

In researching other similar organizations, one quickly sees that they charge a volunteer placement fee to help cover administration time and paperwork, a volunteer coordinator to lead orientation, purchase of project supplies, and sometimes even a profit margin

Your volunteer Program Fee goes directly to supporting the programs you will be involved with and the students you will be working with. Long-term volunteers are especially needed because we can schedule class timetables to include your skill sets, and entrust entire programs and groups of students to your leadership.

Volunteer Period	Program Fee (USD)	We provide you with:
1-4 weeks	\$250 & fundraising efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● loan of bicycle and lock (with deposit)● school tour and orientation● Authentic cultural experience working with Belizean youth● Tally of volunteer contact hours and involvement on Ocean Academy letterhead (by request)
1 – 3 months	\$175 & fundraising efforts	<u>All of the above, plus:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Ocean Academy uniform top● Full access to school computer lab and internet● In-depth staff training and mentorship● Reference letter on Ocean Academy letterhead (by request)
4-6 months	\$125 & fundraising efforts	<u>All of the above, plus:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Leadership position for a program, club, or group of students● Inclusion in all staff meetings, student celebrations and field trips
7-12 months	Fundraising efforts	<u>All of the above, plus:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● School photo I.D.● Assistance with Volunteer Visa process <u>if desired</u> (processing fee of \$100, trips to Labour Department, paperwork and photos)