



Volunteer Program

Bridges to Prosperity

Updated December, 2009

CONTENTS

1.0 Welcome Volunteers	4
2.0 Introduction to the B2P Volunteer Program.....	4
2.1 Where it All Started and Where We're Headed	4
2.2 The Volunteer Experience	5
2.3 Characteristics That We Desire in Volunteers	6
2.4 Bridge design 101	6
3.0 Pre-Trip Homework	7
3.1 More About Bridge Design, Construction, and Sustainable Development.....	7
3.1.1 References	8
3.1.2 History and Culture.....	8
3.1.3 Language Skills.....	8
3.1.4 Basic First Aid.....	8
3.2 Fundraising	9
3.3 Medicine and Vaccinations.....	9
3.4 Visas and Passports	10
3.5 Letter of Introduction	11
3.6 International Drivers Permit.....	11
3.7 Packing Recommendations.....	11
4.0 During Your Trip.....	11
4.1 How to Be a Good Ambassador	12
4.2 Photos.....	13
4.3 Safety and Security	13
5.0 After Your Trip	13
5.1 Provide Feedback	13
5.2 Stay Plugged in	13

6.0 How to Apply 13



1.0 WELCOME VOLUNTEERS

Welcome Bridges to Prosperity potential volunteers! Thank you for your interest in helping our organization. The goal of this brochure is to tell you everything you want to know about the Bridges to Prosperity volunteer in-country program.

If you decide to volunteer for us, we believe you'll have one of the most memorable and meaningful experiences of your life. So read on, and please send in an application. We review applications as they come in and place volunteers based on both our need and the potential contributions of the potential volunteers

We look forward to hearing from you!

2.0 INTRODUCTION TO THE B2P VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

To know whether you and Bridges to Prosperity are a good match, we need to find out what we can gain from each other. This section describes what you'll do as a Bridges to Prosperity volunteer, the character traits we look for in volunteers, the Bridges to Prosperity mission, and a little bit about the bridges that you'll be working on. After reading this section, if you think that you and Bridges to Prosperity might be a good match, then read on for a more in depth look at our volunteer program.

2.1 WHERE IT ALL STARTED AND WHERE WE'RE HEADED

Bridges to Prosperity was founded in 2001 when construction contractor Ken Frantz saw a picture in National Geographic Magazine of a partially collapsed bridge over the Blue Nile in Ethiopia and felt compelled to help. He spoke with his brother, Forrest about it and found that he had seen the same picture and felt the same urge to act. As a result, Ken, Forrest, and a few close friends together founded Bridges to Prosperity as a volunteer organization to assist in situations like the one they saw in the National Geographic (For more about this story, see our website. Click on "Learn About Us", then "History" or click on this link: <http://www.bridgestoprosperty.org/history.htm>)

Soon after forming, Bridges to Prosperity volunteers successfully repaired the Blue Nile Bridge. Since then, Bridges to Prosperity has been hard at work, and as of June, 2007, has helped train over 250 bridge engineers, 250 masons, who then in turn constructed 19 bridges in Ethiopia, 2 in Nepal, 1 in Indonesia, and 8 in Peru. We have also helped leave behind sustainable bridge building programs and businesses in Ethiopia, Peru, and Nepal.

The following is the mission statement of Bridges to Prosperity:

Bridges to Prosperity is non-profit organization that seeks to empower poor African, Asian, and South American rural communities through footbridge building, thereby advancing personal responsibility, community public works, economic prosperity, and access to schools, clinics, jobs and markets.

The goal of Bridges to Prosperity is to develop a bridge building program in a new country every 2 years (although our goal is to increase this pace in the future). The first 2 years of our presence in a country are spent training engineers and masons who, with the labor from the beneficiary community, build at least 4 bridges. These bridges shorten routes to schools, markets, hospitals and farms, and also serve to demonstrate our bridge design and construction techniques. During these first 2 years, our In-Country Directors live in the country and coordinate bridge construction and other aspects of the bridge building program.

At the end of the first 2 years of a Phase 1 program, Bridges to Prosperity's objective is to have created an in-country bridge building organization that will continue to build bridges without our direct involvement. In some cases, an NGO continues our work, while other times, it's a private bridge building company. In Peru, for example, one of the engineers who assisted Zoe during the first 2 years already owned a small engineering and construction company, so it was natural for her to add bridge building to her company's services.

To learn more about current Bridges to Prosperity projects, please visit our website at <http://www.bridgestoprosperty.org/>.

2.2 THE VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Before we describe what volunteers do during their trips, you should be aware of some "administrative" details. Perhaps the most important detail is that volunteers must pay for their own trips and all of their in-country travel, hotel, food, and other expenses. We are a volunteer based organization in the purest sense of the word. Any money that we do raise goes directly to pay for training and materials inside the countries we work in. Also, all of our volunteer board members are required to make substantial annual cash donations. Another important detail is that we encourage volunteers' trips to be between 3 weeks and 3 months. Trips shorter than 3 weeks tend to be less fulfilling because you'll be leaving the country just as you're figuring out what's going on. Finally, we strongly encourage volunteers to visit the countries where we have full time staff. Our staff help familiarize volunteers with our program and figure out where their assistance is most needed.

It is also important to understand the role of a B2P volunteer. While every volunteer's experience will be different, there are some common features. You will travel within the country where you are volunteering, camp at bridge sites, supervise construction, do some good old-fashioned manual labor, work with locals, possibly purchase and transport materials, and most importantly, have an absolutely unforgettable experience!

To help you better understand where you would fit into our Bridge Building program as a volunteer, it is important to know how the bridge building process works. Our in-country managers manage the overall training and building program, for which they initially train 2-4 key lead engineers and bridge technicians. As a volunteer, you are likely to work with these engineers and bridge techs. For example, you might travel with them to a bridge site where they will introduce you to the community and familiarize you with the bridge's current status and what needs to be done during your stay. The engineer might then travel to a new bridge site, leaving you behind to work with the community and supervise construction. As a result of this set-up, you must be able to work independently as well as with local engineers.

After arriving in your destination country for the first time, you'll spend the first few days becoming acquainted with the in-country manager and the engineers, and purchasing supplies for your first expedition to a bridge site. When you arrive at the bridge site, volunteers then meet the members of the community and review the current state of the bridge under construction.

B2P staff or partners will ensure that a schedule and specific directions are provided for your expedition to bridge sites. Please keep in mind though, that it is possible that neither a B2P staff or a local engineer will stay with you at the bridge site. In either case, you will work most of the day with members the community. There will be times when you'll have to direct the community and explain to them what needs to be done, and other times when everyone will know the routine so you can simply work side-by-side with the locals.

We encourage volunteers to dedicate their time to one bridge and community whenever possible. In the past, some volunteers have visited a different bridge site every week or two. We now believe that you will have a better experience working with one bridge and community. You'll have more time to develop relationships with the locals, and you'll see more

construction progress. You will also become familiar with the nearby towns and how best to travel in the region, which will make you more of an asset to the bridge building program. While there will be times when you'll be needed at another bridge site, we plan to have volunteers dedicate their time to one site whenever possible, for both our benefit and yours.

As a volunteer, you will travel within the country quite a bit, staying in hotels in cities and camping while working at your bridge site (all of such costs being paid for by the volunteer). You may have the option to stay in a small hotel if there is one close enough to your bridge site; however, you will almost certainly camp for a significant portion of your trip and should come prepared to do so. Our experience is that most volunteers prefer to camp for at most 5 days at a time. After this amount of time, they are dirty, tired and tend to want a shower and a bed. When volunteers reach this stage, we encourage them to travel back to the nearest city or town with a hotel and grocery store where they can buy more supplies, freshen up, and prepare for another round of camping.

2.3 CHARACTERISTICS THAT WE DESIRE IN VOLUNTEERS

In-country Directors and the local engineers will be busy - they are responsible for simultaneously overseeing the construction of multiple bridges and conducting training sessions for locals. Their jobs require a lot of travel, thought, and planning. Therefore, they are looking for volunteers with traits that allow them to be greater assets to the bridge building program. A willingness to work independently, flexibility, problem solving ability, and communication skills are all important volunteer characteristics.

A certain level of **independence** is essential in volunteers. We also look for volunteers who are willing and able to be alone. If you are willing to travel alone, independently arrange for transportation of materials, and be a construction supervisor, then you will be more of an asset to the bridge building program. Of course, independence requires common sense, and you must follow our safety guidelines and use good judgment at all times.

Flexibility is another extremely important quality that we seek in volunteers. Weather, community events, holidays, unreliable village workers, municipality government road blocks, and labor strikes are a few examples of common causes for schedule changes. You must understand that these events are likely to occur and can be impossible to predict or control. Your willingness to change your plans and work around unexpected obstacles is very important.

Your **problem-solving** ability is key to the success of our bridge building program. Unexpected obstacles may arise during bridge construction while you are the only Bridges to Prosperity representative on site, and your capacity to creatively tackle these problems will be extremely valuable.

Finally, the ability to speak and understand the local language is very useful because you will be working side by side with locals who are unlikely to speak English. It is not imperative that you are fluent; however, at a minimum you must have confidence in your ability to **communicate**, either with hand signals, a few words that you have remembered from a dictionary, or use of hand held translators. There are now Ectaco translators sold that you can speak an English sentence, and a translated audio sentence is produced.

2.4 BRIDGE DESIGN 101

The majority of bridges built by Bridges to Prosperity are suspended cable type bridges. Each river bank has a foundation with a short masonry tower and a concrete cable anchorage. The foundation and towers are built with stone masonry walls and the interior is filled with large stones. If one river bank is lower than the other, the tower on that side is built higher in order to level the bridge deck. Higher towers have multiple foundation tiers above the ground, each one approximately 1 meter in

height and slightly smaller than the one below it. The bridge walkways are about 1 meter wide and built on 4-6 cables; 2-4 cables that support the wooden deck and 2 that support the handrails and fencing. The bridges we build vary in length; the shortest is typically 20 meters, and the longest – the Mantaro River Suspended Bridge in Peru – is 137 meters (about 70 to 450 feet of span).

Construction of these bridges is very labor intensive and usually takes 4-6 months or more. The most useful skills are concrete and mortar mixing, and stone masonry. If you don't have much experience, don't worry - all you have to do is come prepared to learn quickly and work hard.

Below is a simple illustration of the Bridges to Prosperity suspended cable design. The bridge design and construction manuals are on the Bridges to Prosperity website.

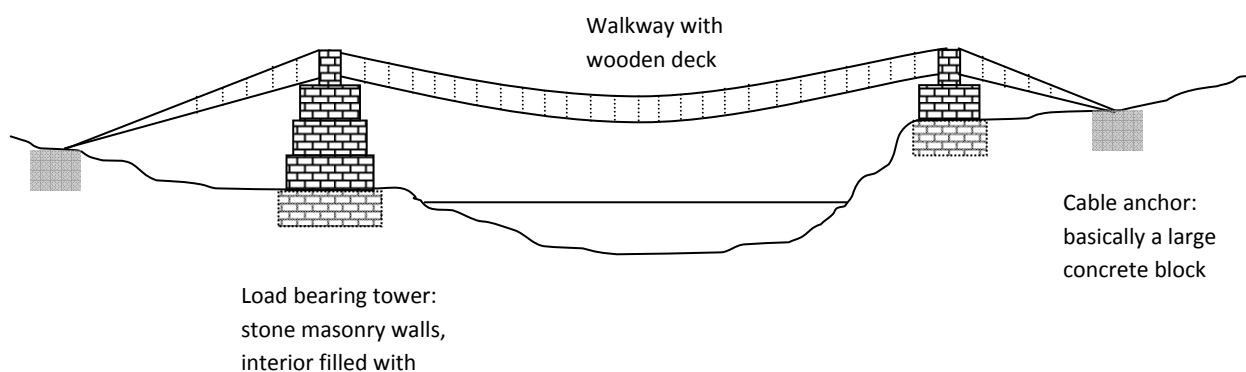


Figure 1 B2P Suspension Bridge

3.0 PRE-TRIP HOMEWORK

If you are selected as a volunteer, you'll have to do some work before your trip. You will need to learn more about our bridge design, the construction process, and the history and culture of the country in which you'll work. In addition, it's essential that you make informed decisions about vaccinations and medication as well as learn basic first aid. You will also need to raise funds for your trip, and possibly obtain a visa or international drivers permit.

If you volunteer, you'll have a lot of preparation to do. But we assure you, it will be worth your time!!!

3.1 MORE ABOUT BRIDGE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Please familiarize yourself with the relevant bridge manual before the trip. It is not necessary to remember every detail of the bridge design, but you must be able to understand the manual and reference it at the construction site. The In-country Manager and the local engineer will not be on site for the majority of bridge construction because they will be traveling from site to site and conducting training sessions for locals. If you are comfortable with the bridge manual, you'll be able to answer questions and solve problems independently. If you do happen to come across a problem you cannot answer yourself, you are free to seek assistance but keep in mind this might require travel to the nearest town or city with a phone or internet access.

3.1.1 REFERENCES

Please review the Bridges to Prosperity design manuals, found under the Reference tab on the website. Request the design for your respective bridge site and spend time with those specific drawings before your departure.

As you review the technical manuals, browse through photos on the website to reinforce the concepts that you are learning: Feasibility, Fabrication, Survey, Stone and Sand Collection, Excavation, Foundation Tier, Tower, Cable Anchor, Sag Set, Approach Wall, Deck Fencing, Bridge Completion, and Training. Additional photos are included to also give you a better sense of what to expect.

In order to hit the ground running when you reach a bridge site, please do a little research before your trip on cement and concrete – how it's made and most importantly, how to properly mix it. There is also a Engineers Without Borders concrete document on our website that will help you in this regard, also located under the References tab on the website.

Please also try to develop a solid understanding of rural development, sustainable livelihoods, and current development issues. The following websites are excellent resources to start with:

<http://www.ewb.ca/content/en/learn/learnaboutdevelopment.shtml>

<http://www.ewb.ca/content/en/learn/focusonimpact.shtml>

<http://www.ewb.ca/content/en/getinvolved/workingoverseas.shtml>

3.1.2 HISTORY AND CULTURE

In addition to familiarizing yourself with our bridge design and construction process, you need to learn about the history and culture of the country in which you are going to volunteer. Knowing some basic information about the country will help you in interacting with the members of the communities in which you will work, and ultimately, enrich your experience.

As a start, use online resources such as Wikipedia (<http://www.wikipedia.org/>) and the CIA World Fact Book (<https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html>). Also check out Gapminder, (<http://www.gapminder.org/>), an interesting web site with lots of information and statistics about developing nations.

We also strongly recommend purchasing a Lonely Planet Guidebook or other reputable travel guide. You'll want to carry the guidebook with you as you travel within the country.

3.1.3 LANGUAGE SKILLS

Learn as much of the local language as you can. The more that you have studied and practiced before your trip, the faster you'll improve while in country. It is certainly not essential to be fluent, but if you can communicate with the members of the local community, you'll be more of an asset to our Bridge Building program and have a more meaningful experience.

3.1.4 BASIC FIRST AID

You'll need to have a basic understanding of first aid before you travel. There is a good chance that you'll be many hours from the nearest medical clinic, and up to a day away from the nearest respectable hospital.

Print our [first aid guide](#), and keep it with you during your trip. Also, you must remember to always keep a good first aid kit with you during your trip.

3.2 FUNDRAISING

As previously mentioned, B2P volunteers are expected to pay all of their own trip expenses. We believe that given the proper preparation and understanding of our program, working for Bridges to Prosperity can be one of the most memorable and fulfilling experiences of your life!

Volunteer trips tend to be expensive - most volunteers spend approximately \$25 to \$35 per day, in addition to the cost of camping equipment and supplies purchased before the trip (depending on what you already have, this may be anywhere from \$200 to \$1,000 – please see the packing list mentioned below for details on this expense) and travel costs to and from the country. Hence if your airline ticket is \$1,000, and you are staying for 30 days, your total trip expenses will range from a low of \$2,000 to a high of \$3,000. You might be thinking that this is a lot of money to spend in a developing nation, especially if you're going to be staying in budget motels, traveling by bus, and not eating at fancy restaurants. However, our experience has shown that volunteers' money generally disappears much more quickly than anticipated.

Please don't despair! Raising funds for your trip might be much easier than you think. There are many possibilities for raising money. Friends, family and work colleagues tend to be the best sources of donations.

An easy and proven method of raising money by Bridges to Prosperity volunteers is through the First Giving website: <http://www.firstgiving.com/>. This website allows you to easily create your own web page, where visitors can read a description of your upcoming volunteer trip, make an online contribution, and post a comment to you. The process is quick and simple, and allows you to raise significant sums of money from a large group of people. When setting up your website, just click on the "Start Fundraising" button, then click "Other", select the amount of time you would like to raise money for, then enter the name "Bridges to Prosperity". All you do is create the website (which take just 30 minutes or less) and then send the website link to all of your family and friends. The typical Bridges to Prosperity volunteer has raised from \$1,200 to \$3,000 by using this site. Contributions made through this website have to be paid directly to a non-for-profit organization in order to be tax deductible for your donors. So, Bridges to Prosperity receives the donations. Before your trip we'll send you a check equal to the amount that you raised. Here is a great example of a successful First Giving web page created by Amy Floren, a past Bridges to Prosperity volunteer and current Board Member: <http://www.firstgiving.com/B2Pfloren>.

If you are a student, you are likely to have additional fundraising opportunities. Many colleges and universities offer scholarships and grants for socially responsible endeavors, including volunteer trips. You'll probably have to compete with other students for these grants, but you'll have a great case if you explain Bridges to Prosperity's mission and how you will be contributing as a volunteer.

3.3 MEDICINE AND VACCINATIONS

Consult the website of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/>. At least 6 weeks before your trip, and preferably sooner, you should consult a knowledgeable doctor about vaccinations for Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, yellow fever, typhoid fever, rabies, measles, meningitis, and tetanus-diphtheria. Bridges to Prosperity does not have any specific requirements concerning medication or vaccinations; however, we do make recommendations in our

packing list that you should read very carefully. For example, we strongly suggest that you bring Ciproflaxin, a prescription antibiotic used for food-poisoning that has proven to be extremely useful since you will likely encounter a bout of food poisoning. However, please visit a doctor and make informed decisions on vaccinations and prescription medications. In some of the countries we work in, antibiotics like Cipro can be purchased over the counter for about 20% of the cost here in the USA. So, it never hurts to ask our in-country director about such availability.

If you suspect food poisoning, take Cipro immediately. It is the prevalence of dangerous bacterial organisms in the food due to improper food handling and existence of pathogens. The most common cause of improper food handling is the food preparer not washing their hands, or improper heat or cross contamination. In a study in the UK, the forms of bacterial food poisoning were as follows, listed in the order of prevalence: Campylobacter jejuni (very dangerous, because this can lead to Guillain-Barre syndrome, salmonella and E. coli. Symptoms include: Diarrhea (sometimes bloody), nausea and vomiting, abdominal pain and/or cramping, malaise (general uneasiness), and fever. Without treatment (just taking lots of liquids and eating a BRATY diet (Bananas, Rice, Applesauce, Toast, and Yogurt), symptoms usually will lessen in 2-7 days. To quicken the recovery, most doctors prescribe 250 mg. Ciproflacin or Erythromycin to travelers that expect to be exposed to poor food preparation practices. Cipro is typically taken just before ingesting a suspect meal, or just after onset of symptoms. Overuse of Cipro causes later ineffectiveness of the drug. Cipro has no affect in helping to shorten viral food poisoning.

Bacterial food poisoning generally represents over 50% of all cases of food poisoning. Viral food poisoning like Hepatitis E. represents about 30% of all cases. Food poisoning can also be caused parasites such as zoonoses, natural toxins, exotoxins, such as Clostridium, Staphylococcus, and Bacillus cereus.

There is a fine-line between being cautious about food preparation and missing out on the opportunity to share food and thus culture with your host country. The following discusses preventative measures, but weigh your personal benefits and downfalls before banning all local foods; To prevent food poisoning, cook your own foods over a hot fire, or in boiled water. Overcook meats. Wash your hands before eating. Eat only simple foods, such as breads, rice, pasta and canned vegetables and meats. Do not eat the local vegetables, unless they are cooked in boiled water. Do not eat lettuce or other cold vegetables. Eat only peel-able fruits and vegetables, such as oranges and bananas. Do not use ice in your drinks, unless the water for the ice is bottled or boiled. Drink only bottled water or boiled/filtered water. You are playing with fire if you eat food from street vendors. Also avoid eggs, egg sauces, and raw or partially cooked meats. Egg sauces to avoid include Caesar dressing, Béarnaise sauce, Hollandaise sauce, Aioli sauce, homemade Mayonnaise, and homemade Ice Cream. Do not drink unpasteurized milk.

Should one contract food poisoning of any type, and later experience seemingly unrelated symptoms such as abnormal sensations in the legs and arms, one should immediately contact their health care professional and tell them of Guillain-Barre syndrone and the lumbar test to see if there are elevated fluid proteins. For more on Guillain-Barre syndrone, go here: <http://www.gbs-cidp.org/aboutgbs.htm> Should one have anemia or renal failure, this would be cause for a medical emergency and treatment of E. Coli diarrhea. Go to a hospital immediately. Salmonella poisoning (contamination from feces in food) can cause typhoid fever. The symptoms of Typhoid fever are progressively higher fever up to 104F or 40C, profuse sweating, gastroenteritis, and diarrhea. The Typhoid vaccine that one takes prior to traveling in Typhoid endemic areas is not a guarantee that you will not get the disease. The vaccine is considered to be approximately 80% protective.

3.4 VISAS AND PASSPORTS

If you do not have a current passport, we strongly recommend that you apply for one at least 6 months before your trip to ensure you will have it in time for your trip.

Check with the local country embassy for visa requirements. You will most likely be traveling under a tourist visa. Generally, these are given out upon arrival at the airport, but some countries require you to obtain one in advance.

For more information use the following links:

<http://www.emb.com/>

<http://www.embassy.org/embassies/>

http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/brochures/brochures_1229.html

3.5 LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

If you choose, you can type out a letter of introduction for yourself, using the letterhead forms on this site or - <http://www.bridgestoprosperty.org/Attachments/Form-Letterhead-Letter-Rev2.doc>. A letter of introduction would be used if you are questioned by police about your presence in the country to explain what you are doing there. This situation is very unlikely, but it's better to go prepared.

Here is an example of a letter of introduction:

"To Whom it May Concern: John Smith is a volunteer that is sponsored by our organization. He will be assisting us building bridges and training locals in _____ during the month(s) of _____, 200_. If you have any questions, please call our local representative in _____ at the following phone number: _____. Thank you in advance for your generous treatment of this individual."

This letter should be in the local language. If you do not know the language, you can get it translated at:

<http://translation2.paralink.com/>. Do not use this letter for customs, or for visa purposes.

3.6 INTERNATIONAL DRIVERS PERMIT

While most volunteers will not need an international driver's permit, if you are required to obtain one, AAA issues these. We will notify you before you leave if your volunteer experience will require such a permit. Also, make sure to check international treaties with respect to acceptance of these international drivers' permits.

3.7 PACKING RECOMMENDATIONS

Please read the packing list, [B2P generic packing ideas & comments](#). Packing for your trip can be challenging, especially if you are going to stay in country for a month or more. The trick is to strike a balance between your level of preparedness and the weight and bulk of your bags.

4.0 DURING YOUR TRIP

This section is a compilation of Bridges to Prosperity's in-country recommendations – advice for volunteer behavior, safety guidelines, and other requests that we have of volunteers.

4.1 HOW TO BE A GOOD AMBASSADOR

Volunteers represent both Bridges to Prosperity and their home countries. As a supplement to Section 2.2, this section provides advice on how to be a good ambassador. If you follow these guidelines, you will be a great volunteer, make friends with members of the local community, and have a great time!

Humility – You may come from a more fortunate background than the members of the local community, but this doesn't make you a better person than they are. It's good to be confident, but please behave in a humble manner. If you do, you'll be a great ambassador and more easily earn the respect of members of the community in which you are working.

Empathy – During your trip, try to foster empathy and compassion for the people you are helping.

Communication – The more you can communicate with members of the community, the better you'll understand each other, and the easier it will be to make friends.

Enthusiasm – We imagine that if you're driven to be a Bridges to Prosperity volunteer, you're probably enthusiastic about working hard and making a difference. The more enthusiastic you are, the more you will be able to motivate the members of the community to work hard and take ownership of their new bridge.

Willingness to Learn as well as Teach – Because of your different backgrounds, you and the members of the community can learn a lot from each other. Be open to learning opportunities; you'll be surprised what you can learn from others!

Work Hard – The harder you work, the more hands on you can be, and the more able you are to deal with harsh living conditions, the easier it will be for you to earn the respect of the members of the community in which you work. Don't be afraid to get dirty and tired; it will help you sleep at night and make it easier to make friends!

Giving gifts – Your gift is being there and helping them. That is enough! But, if you must, gifts can be taken for children, such as writing implements, journals, markers, and tennis balls. It is always best to give our gifts late in your stay. Otherwise, ration your gifts over the entire time you are there.

Accepting Gifts – In general, accepting gifts from members of the community is an excellent way of expressing your respect for them and will help you make friends (and it's fun to have authentic gifts rather than tacky souvenirs). Turning down locals' gifts can be interpreted as a way of saying that you don't need what they have or that their possessions are inferior. If you think a gift is excessive and would feel guilty accepting it, please try to be as respectful and grateful as possible when turning it down. You must think much more carefully about accepting food gifts!! With food, you must balance the potential benefit of building relationships with the risk of getting food poisoning, diarrhea, or feeling ill.

Think Very Carefully about Accepting Potable Gifts – Drinks containing local water from taps or rivers has a greater chance of making you ill than food, so please keep that in mind at all times during your stay. If you are carrying Cipro, this can be your second line of defense.

Pride in Your Own Country & Faith – While it's important to be humble about your background, it's good to be proud of your roots! (Just don't think that your roots make you better than somebody else)

Smile, Listen, and Make Eye Contact – No explanation needed!

4.2 PHOTOS

The best advice is research local customs and beliefs in regards to acceptance of being photographed. We recommend that volunteers take lots of photos during your trip since pictures are worth a thousand words, but be aware that not all situations are 'perfect photo ops'. The majority of past volunteers' photos have been of the actual bridge construction. These are valuable, but please remember that photos of the surrounding communities and its members are equally, if not more important. After all, people are the reason we are building the bridges in the first place. The Volunteer Picture Manual is available for general ideas on pictures that are of use for Bridges to Prosperity material.

4.3 SAFETY AND SECURITY

The safety of our volunteers' is of the utmost importance to us. We care about our volunteers and want to do everything in our power to keep you safe during your trip. Nonetheless, there are dangers and risks that you need to be aware of in every country.

Specific safety requirements and guidelines vary from country to country, and can be found in the Bridges to Prosperity Feasibility Study for each country, provided by Director of Operations upon a volunteer's assignment.

Medjetassist offer travel evacuation insurance. <http://www.medjetassist.com/>. They have plans for travelers that will evacuate them back to the U.S. during a medical emergency with specific plans for short term travelers. Also available are personal beacons that are capable of sending "I'm OK" or not OK e-mails sent to your family back home. <http://www.findmespot.com/Home.aspx>.

5.0 AFTER YOUR TRIP

The volunteer coordinator will call you after your trip to get feedback and hear about your experiences. We hope to gain from each of your experiences and make sure the next volunteer is able to learn from each previous' successes and failures.

5.1 PROVIDE FEEDBACK

We welcome any constructive suggestions for ways that we can improve our bridge building and volunteer programs, so please don't hesitate to share your ideas with us. Past returned volunteers have added and commented on our packing list—creating the (wonderful!) document you have today.

5.2 STAY PLUGGED IN

Many of our returned volunteers have remained involved with our organization. In fact, a number of our board members as well as our Director of Operations are all returned volunteers who just couldn't get enough of Bridges. We are always looking for individuals as passionate about our program as we are, and returned volunteers tend to be the best source—after all, the field is where the difference is made.

6.0 HOW TO APPLY

After reading and considering this information, we hope you are excited to apply to become a volunteer with Bridges to Prosperity! To apply, please email or mail the Volunteer Application, and the Liability Release Form, [Volunteer Liability](#)

[Release Form*](#) to our Director of Operations, Avery Bang at the address at the bottom of this page. Also, please contact the her that you are applying and ask any questions that you may have.

Thanks for reading, and we hope to hear from you!

Avery Bang

29 Pine Road

Golden, CO 80401

Cell: 001.319.621.1345

Fax: 757.234.0523

email: avery@bridgestoprosperity.org