

FPT-AGLI Extended Service Volunteers (ESV) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is FPT/AGLI?

Friends Peace Teams (<http://friendspeacetams.org>) is the parent organization of the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI). AGLI (www.aglifpt.org) promotes peace work in Burundi, Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, and, Tanzania. Workcamps are facet of AGLI's work. AGLI (pronounced ag'-lee), supports reconciliation, community building and trauma-healing at the grassroots level through Alternatives to Violence Project and Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities workshops, Mediation and other programs.

What is an ESV?

Extended Service Volunteers serve for 3 months to 2 years. They offer skills of their choosing to one of AGLI's African Partners. The final placement is determined through a process of clearness and mutual decisions.

Who applies to be an ESV?

Anyone with a leading to do peace work who can commit 3 months or longer at a time of their choosing. Many ESV's are recent graduates of higher education who want to use their new skills. Some are older, possibly retired individuals who find themselves free from obligations and able to donate skills they have been developing for some time. Volunteers are not required to be in either of these age groups and there have been numerous exceptions.

What skills do I need?

ESV applicants are expected to review the work of AGLI's African Partners on our website - www.aglifpt.org to seek a leading, a potential fit, for them to be of service using whatever skills they have. Applicants are encouraged to enter into dialogue with AGLI. Each placement is worked out individually. Past ESV's have had skills including organizing, computer skills (including website creation), grant writing, program evaluation, or teachable skills like sewing or gardening. It is expected that each ESV will be able to work cooperatively and to be respectful of and open to local culture. Each ESV works under the direction of a local AGLI partner; an African.

Where will I live? With a family or staff member of the program of placement, or possibly in an apartment.

Is it dangerous where I will be sent?

While it's true that the some communities where AGLI projects take place have been sites of conflict, placements are set up well after the conflict is over and when it is deemed safe. Rates of violence in Africa are much lower than in the US. If a situation becomes unsafe in a specific area we will offer an alternative safe location.

How much does it cost and how do I pay?

ESV's are expected to conduct fundraising and to contribute a base of \$2300 (US) plus the cost of airfare to/from Africa - approximately \$2,000 from the US. \$2300 covers: the first month's room & board; it provides a minimum donation of \$1,200 to the program with which the ESV is volunteering and about \$400 toward AGLI expenses. ESV's must also raise between \$400 and \$500 for each subsequent month of their volunteer commitment. Cost varies dependent on the country of placement. ESV's are also responsible for inoculations and visas. ESV's typically raise funds from a variety of individuals and groups, e.g., monthly meetings (churches), yearly meetings, college grants, civic organizations, local businesses, etc. Some hold fundraisers with assistance from their clearness/support committee. The Volunteer Handbook includes ideas for fundraising and AGLI is pleased to offer support in this area.

How and when do I apply?

Go to the website <http://www.aglifpt.org>. Click on "Get Involved" or "Workcamps/Volunteers" to download the information or contact Dawn@aglifpt.org. Applicants are advised to begin the process 5-6 months before they plan to begin service. Early in the process applicants should meet with a clearness committee to determine the depth of his/her leading. Once a placement has been secured the application form and clearness committee report are sent in via email.

Questions? -- Contact