

FAQ's

General

1. *What is the background of Kid Launch? Why was it set up?*

Kid Launch is a small private organization focusing on the needs of children living in remote hill tribe communities in Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Mae Hong Son and Kanchanaburi provinces. These communities are currently unrecognized by other humanitarian .it was determined that help is definitely needed.

2. *How do you know that these villages and these children really do need your help?*

A formal request for the assistance and educational support of the children living in these communities was made during the initial visits made by Kid Launch. The educational background of the villages was also assessed, i.e. on what kind of educational provision had already been made by the Government or other humanitarian organizations, and it was found that provision had been limited or inconsistent.

3. *What about preserving the culture and traditions of these villages? Has careful consideration been made towards this issue?*

Kid Launch's education program focuses initially on bringing education to the children, in the form of a formal learning center, educational equipment and supplies, and volunteer teachers of various subjects. By staying in their own communities and with their families, the children will not be able to forget their own culture and traditions. In addition to this, as part of the education program that Kid Launch wishes to bring to these communities, the students will be encouraged to participate in cultural exploration activities to give them the means to find out more about their own culture and be able to explain it to others. These activities will involve joint demonstrations of dance, art work, clothing, history etc. One of the goals of Kid Launch is not only to provide opportunities for the children to learn but also to provide a foundation on which the children can be proud of where they come from.

Sponsorship Program

1. *What exactly does the sponsorship money for a child go towards?*

The money will be used mainly for the child's education costs. This includes:

- stationery and books (and other educational supplies, such as artistic equipment),
- transportation, accommodation and food (if the child can continue to study in a government school in a nearby town etc.),
- school fees (same as above)

Other costs that would be incurred in daily life would include food, clothing and blankets as well as a small amount for the child's pocket money.

2. *How do I know that my money is going directly to the child that I'm helping?*

Kid Launch will provide sponsors with photos of the children annually and status updates of the sponsored children monthly. Meanwhile, records of every payment made will be logged in our financial records as a means of providing accountability and transparency to our sponsors.

3. *Can I contact or send anything directly to the child that I'm helping?*

You can contact the child that you are helping care of Kid Launch at the Kid Launch contact address provided. At the same time, Kid Launch will encourage regular correspondence between the children and their respective sponsors.

4. *What is the maximum age of the children eligible for this program?*

Kid Launch runs two programs: one is called the Kids Ministry and this provides for children from the ages of 1 – 12 years. The other is called the Youth Ministry which provides for children from the ages of 13 - 22 years. Sponsors may choose to support a child from the age of 1 year throughout their education for example, or they may choose to support a teenager so that he/she may have the opportunity to graduate from a government secondary school and then enter into further education. Depending on the amount provided by the sponsor, the child may eventually be able to study in order to gain internationally-recognized academic qualifications such as those from IELTS or GED.

5. *How are the children chosen for eligibility?*

Every child in the hill tribe villages in which Kid Launch runs their programs are eligible to join the program, but of course only with their parent's consent. Special consideration is given for children without parents and children with parents without jobs.

6. *Do the children get separated from their parents while they are on the program?*

Initially, while the children are studying at the formal learning centre within their villages, they will not be separated from their parents. If they are given the opportunity to live and study at a government school nearby, transportation will be provided so that children may visit their parents at the weekends.

Volunteering

1. *What are the qualifications needed for teaching?*

Volunteer teachers need to be high school graduates at least, although graduates from further education institutions are desirable. Teachers also need to be dynamic, flexible, energetic and good with children. They will be required to be not only valuable sources of information and knowledge for the students, but also to be role models. As a result, volunteer teachers need to recognize that there are certain codes of behaviour to observe while living in the community and maintaining an element of

discretion is a very important quality. Further explanation about the codes of conduct to be followed while volunteering is given in the 'Volunteer Survival Kit' which is provided after the application process is complete. Or visit Kid Launch website to see our Volunteer Survival Kit.

2. *If I've never spent a long time abroad or in a remote location, how difficult will a volunteer position with Kid Launch be?*

If you've never spent time in Asia before, be prepared for the vast differences between your own culture and that of Asia and that of South-East Asia. It is also important to be prepared to be in an environment that may be completely alien to one in which you are used to.

Similarly, if you've spent time in Thailand but have rarely been off the beaten track, you should be ready to live in environment that will only provide you with the bare necessities for living. If you are a person who can adapt to any kind of environment and enjoy a rustic lifestyle or living frugally, then volunteering with Kid Launch will be a thoroughly tremendous experience.

3. *Can I volunteer for just one week?*

The term of commitment for volunteering as an English teacher can be a minimum of ten days. The term of commitment for volunteering as either an outreach worker, Kids Ministry volunteer or a Youth Ministry volunteer can be a minimum of one week.

4. *Do I have to bring my own food?*

Normally, the villagers in the communities where Kid Launch is running its education programs make meals using the food that they have harvested and volunteers are invited to join in with the meal preparation and can eat with the family that they are staying with. However, don't expect a huge variety of choice in terms of food available. If you have any special dietary needs or allergies, please inform Kid Launch before your period of volunteering begins. **Note: it is very important that you inform Kid Launch of this or that you require extra supplies before you are taken to the village where you are assigned.**

5. *Do I have to bring my own teaching materials?*

Anything that you can bring that will make your lessons a valuable experience for the students is welcomed, although an obvious consideration would be the ease at which you will be able to carry these materials. Kid Launch will ensure that the learning centres are equipped with the basic educational equipment and supplies such as whiteboards, whiteboard markers, pens and pencils, etc.

6. *At the moment, what level of English are the students at?*

Currently, the students have little to no English ability so teachers who have the ability to be creative and communicative will be at an advantage.

7. *Can I teach more than one subject?*

Of course! If you have the experience, the ability or the qualifications to teach more than one subject, this would be an advantage. However, Kid Launch reserves the right to assign a subject to you based on the qualifications given in your application and your references.