

LIFE ON CAMPUS

(drafted by Marcella Montresor, Country Manager)

There are 84 children currently in the program, and they are the ones who live at the center and participate in all the activities we do.

Children's Day:

- 7.00 am breakfast
 - 1.00 pm lunch
 - 7.00 pm dinner
 - from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm school, from Monday to Friday
 - free time from 2.00 to 5.00 pm
 - 5.00 pm shower and homework until 7.00 pm
 - 9.00 pm everyone in bed
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- Saturday morning is dedicated to cleaning the center, washing clothes, sheets and towels
 - Saturday afternoon is free
 - On Sunday morning all kids leave the center to go to their classes churches or to take a tour of the city
 - Sunday afternoon they remain at the centre

The age of the children ranges from 2 to 20 years, the average age is 13 years.

At the Center the prayer is limited to the simple Our Father before meals.

The spoken language is Wolaytina, some (very few) speak Amharic, which is the national language, many kids manage to make themselves understood in English (very limited). Don't worry, with children you always understand each other and with you there will always be Busajo and the educators, who will act as translators if you have something "complicated" to say.

Activities

Available at the Center are: a football field, a basketball court and a volleyball court, a ping-pong table, balls, all the materials for drawing and writing (crayons, markers, pencils, cards, paper sheets, ...).

It will be rainy season and it will not always be possible to use the football and volleyball fields. We have a huge open but covered tukul, under which you can do many things, and an equipped gym.

It's many of you and it would be good to diversify the activities, a group specifically dedicated to recreational / educational activities will be able to do many things.

The **day of the volunteers** is divided into two parts:

- The morning will be dedicated to manual work at the Center and in the afternoon you will work with the children.
- You will have your main meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) in the canteen with the children, eating what they eat (which is good!).
- Very important for us is that timetables are respected.

Going out

MAYBE we could visit a village and a couple of schools, we will try to organize an outing to the waterfalls, but for most of the stay you will be at the Center. Concerning the outings in the city, we will have to plan them very carefully, you will have to always, always, always remind THAT WE ARE WHITE AS MILK and that we can be spotted from kilometers away, so trips into the city must be done in small groups (maximum 3 of you) with Busajo or with the educators. There are no evening outings, no bars to have a beer, or anything like that.

Practical things at the Center:

- you will have three double rooms with bathroom at your disposal, therefore six places available: decide on the room pairings before leaving
- we will give you sheets and towels
- it will be cold and humid and it will rain, and then it will suddenly get hot (when the sun comes out it beats down!): clothing to bring:
 - 2 pairs of long trousers
 - 1 pair of shorts for sports activities
 - 1 pair of knee-length shorts
 - 2 sweatshirts, better not branded ones, but things you don't care about and can leave at the Centre when you leave
 - Short-sleeved shirts (no tank tops)
 - Short and long socks
 - A pair of closed trekking shoes
 - A pair of closed gym shoes
 - A pair of slippers
 - A K-Way
- Medicines: bring an anti-diarrheal, tachypirin, a broad-spectrum antibiotic (amoxicillin), mosquito repellent.
- the water at the Center is good, you can surely use it to brush your teeth and if you drink it nothing happens, but we will provide you with bottled water.
- in Soddo it is hard to find things such as tampons, soaps, sponges: so bring your own.
- bring coffee to make during breaks, snacks if you need to recharge between breakfast and lunch or between lunch and dinner (children don't have snacks).
- we will have a meeting upon your arrival and a daily meeting in the evening (very short) and another one before your departure. It is important to share rules and tools to carry out the volunteering: for example shared group diary and evening group meetings with the group leader.
- it is already specified in the regulations not to take photos or videos or give personal addresses to children or Center employees; you will be able to use your cameras or cell phones in the last 3 days of your stay.

We advise you to make use of the meetings to get to know each other, but also to organize a small calendar of activities that you want to do at the Campus, then of course we will talk about it together, but it is important to arrive already having some ideas of what you want to do.