

CHINA



TPS CHINA 2020 SERVICE TRIP INFORMATION

A good education is more than just classes. International travel and service prepare students for career and life in a multi-cultural world. TPS provides opportunities for service, leadership, and cross-cultural experiences, and the China trip is one of several foreign service trips TPS offers every year. This trip has two primary components:

Serving Chinese Children and Families Through English Language Activity Camps

Join the TPS team as we support a local Chinese educational organization in hosting two week-long day-camps for Chinese students. English language skills are highly valued in China and the opportunity to practice with native English-speakers is strongly desired by many Chinese families. Through outdoor games, drama, engaging hands-on activities, and crafts, the camps will help the kids improve their English-speaking skills, their relational skills and their character. On the weekend between the two week-long camps, the TPS team will host a family day for parents and their children to come together to play games, engage in relationship-building activities, and have fun! Student and parent follow-up from the camps and the family day is then facilitated with local groups and families for those interested in pursuing the character and relational principles further.



Cultural Experience and Education

On evenings and weekends during the two camp weeks, the TPS team will also engage in cultural activities, such as visiting cultural sites, meeting pandas, learning ancient Chinese calligraphy, rolling dumplings, shopping, and more. And, of course there will be a wide variety of foreign and semi-familiar foods to try at every meal. Then after the camps conclude, we will travel to Beijing, the capital of China, and explore the Chinese culture through guided tours of the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, the Temple of Heaven, and more. The team will also climb the Great Wall, encounter traditional Chinese religion at a famous monastery and learn Chinese history at a famous museum or archaeological site.

When is the trip?

The approximate dates of the trip are July 2-21, 2020. These approximate dates are from the group meeting (Washington DC metro area) on the day before leaving the U.S. to the group parting at the airport on the day of return.

Who may participate?

Students ages 16 and up, siblings, friends, parents, and teachers. All interested participants must apply and be accepted. Individuals under the age of 16 will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and much younger students would be required to have a parent apply for the trip as well. We are also happy to consider applications from alumni and college students.



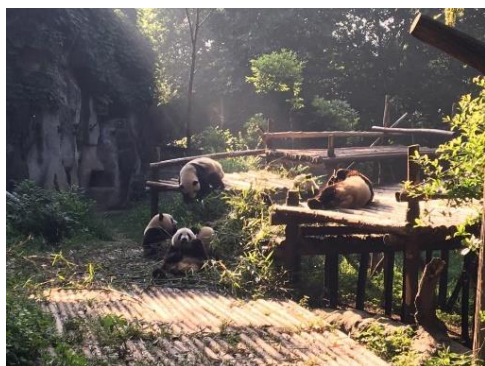
Do students get credit for this service trip?

TPS is a certifying organization for the President's Volunteer Service Award. The total service hours from this trip earn each participant (U.S. citizens only) an individual Bronze Award. TPS will provide the certificates in fall 2020. Students may report this on their college applications and résumés. More information is here:

<https://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov/the-award>

How does the travel work?

Participants must have a valid passport and make their own flight reservations to and from the Washington, DC point of origin. TPS cannot support a U.S. based participant traveling overseas unaccompanied to meet our group (families living overseas should contact TPS to discuss options before applying). Participants will be required to arrive in Washington, DC the day before we depart for overseas. TPS will arrange all airport pickups, overnight housing, and meals in the DC area prior to departure and when we return.



How much money must I raise or donate to participate?

The donation requirement is \$3,000 for a U.S.-based participant. Participants should expect to provide one-third by June 24, and then the remainder within three months after the trip ends. Participants may also propose an alternate plan to pay the remainder over time. The Potter's School (TPS) is a 501.c.3 organization and donations made to TPS for China Project 2020 are tax-deductible for the U.S. donor. TPS will provide a letter you can use for the purpose of raising funds, if you choose.

Participants coming from outside the U.S. will be assigned a different donation requirement to better match their individual travel and participation profile. This must be worked out as part of the application process. Non-U.S.-based participants who are serving in support-based work outside their passport country may also be eligible for support from the MK Service Trip Fund (see below).

What expenses are covered by TPS and what should I expect to pay?

TPS pays all mission and trip expenses, planned and unplanned, from the group meeting (Washington DC area hotel) on the day before leaving the U.S. to the group parting in the airport on the day of return. This does not include any hotels individually needed to support follow-on flights home from the Washington, DC area, though TPS will help arrange this lodging and provide a representative at the hotel that night and to assist with airport departures the next day. TPS will also cover the cost and take care of getting the required travel visa for all trip participants.

In addition to a donation requirement, participants pay all individual expenses, planned and unplanned, prior to the initial group meeting and after the final group parting. Individual expenses include: obtaining a valid passport; elective vaccinations (none are specifically required); luggage and travel necessities, including snacks and personal medications;

travel to and from Washington, DC; lodging in Washington, DC after the trip (if needed to support individual travel from Washington, DC); and personal spending money for snack or souvenir items purchased during the trip. TPS cannot reimburse individual expenses related to this trip.

Is China “safe”?

~~China travel is under a U.S. State Department level 2 travel advisory (levels are 1-4, with 1 being safest), particularly cautioning those who may be involved in legal disagreements with Chinese entities. Any participant who falls under those criteria should not apply for this trip. A level 2 advisory is not unusual—France, Germany and others are also level 2 (for terrorism). This service trip supports an annual summer camp run by a legally-operating China company. The trip is a cultural exchange and all of its activities are conducted within the laws and regulations of China. Participants are briefed regarding laws and cultural norms prior to departure and guided closely throughout the trip.~~



Travel Safety and Health Information for 2020: We are tracking the coronavirus status and its effect on travel in China. The places we visit and work are nowhere near the affected area and we do not travel through or near Wuhan in our routing. However, the problem is not contained and as of Jan 31, China is under a “Level 4: Do Not Travel” advisory by the U.S. State Department. Until the situation is contained and the advisory is lifted, 2020 trip planning is suspended. If the advisory is not lifted by early May, we will cancel planning for a 2020 trip.

Special Opportunity for MK’s already serving outside your passport country

Thanks to a generous donor, you could receive support for up to half of your required donation. Please consider our MK scholarship opportunity:

<https://www.pottersschool.org/mk-trip-scholarship>

Additional Information or Questions

Want to know more? There are videos, photos and testimonials here:

<https://events.at-tps.org/china>

If you have questions you want to discuss individually, please let us know and we’ll reply by email or arrange a phone call with you. Please direct all questions to: ChinaTrip@pottersschool.org

How do I apply?

All interested participants (including parents and other adult participants) must apply and be accepted. The application is here:

<https://www.pottersschool.org/service-trip-application>

The application requires a reference (if you have been on a TPS trip before, no reference is required), so you may want to get working on that soon, even if you’re still trying to decide whether this trip is right for you. **Please note that the application is due by (TBD – do not submit until the trip is announced), 2020.** All applications and questions should be submitted to

ChinaTrip@pottersschool.org

WE HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU AND LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING IN CHINA WITH TPS!