



omprakash

Connecting Volunteers, Classrooms & Communities

Spread the Word: A Rubric for Presentations

Want to spread the word about Omprakash in your community or on your campus? We are eager for your help! We encourage you to distribute posters and brochures available on our website, and to speak publicly about your experiences within the Omprakash network. Whether you are talking to friends, family, or co-workers, here are a few points you might want to mention:

- Omprakash is built on the idea that positive social change must begin with human relationships. Our goal is to connect grassroots health and education projects around the world with an international community of volunteers, fundraisers, donors, teachers, and students. We value the educational function of these connections regardless of whether or not they lead to the exchange of resources.
- Omprakash was founded in 2004 as an alternative option for individuals wanting to volunteer abroad but uninterested in the expensive, highly structured trips offered by most "middleman" organizations. Our free database of volunteer opportunities enables volunteers from around the world to connect directly with our partners, and to collaboratively determine when, how, and where they can serve. We encourage presenters to guide audiences through our website to demonstrate the ease with which they can browse volunteer opportunities and connect with our Partners.
- Even without any administrative fees, volunteering abroad can be expensive by the time you buy airline tickets and pay basic food and lodging costs. That's why we offer Volunteer Grants to defray travel and living expenses for volunteers who are highly qualified and demonstrate a long-term commitment to our network. Everyone is eligible for these grants, regardless of age or nationality, but they are highly competitive.
- "Omprakash in the Classroom" is our effort to bring our network onto middle- and high-school campuses and offer it as a resource for global engagement, active citizenship, and service-learning. With the help of our international Partners and the volunteers who have served them, we work to design meaningful hands-on projects that student groups can realistically adopt and achieve from afar. These projects support the work of our Partners while also inspiring, empowering, and educating the people who accomplish them. Compelling project proposals are eligible for start-up funding through our Seed Grant program.
- Our hope is that all volunteers in our network, whether or not they receive Volunteer Grants, will work to build long lasting relationships between their home communities and our foreign Partners. This might involve fundraising under the Omprakash "umbrella," delivering community presentations with photos and stories about your volunteer trip, initiating a pen-pal exchange between students in your home community and students where you volunteered, or working with teachers to build curricula around social issues addressed by partners in our network. The only limit is your own imagination!