

Child Leader Project, Inc.

www.childleaderproject.org



Application for Program Coordinator – India

“If you have come to help me you are wasting your time. But, if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.”

- Aboriginal activists group, Queensland, 1970's

Thank you for your interest in the Child Leader Project. Our programming depends on the dedication, innovation and energy of willing volunteers in India. Please read the following carefully and “digest” the information prior to preparing your application. Respond to the prompts as fully and accurately as possible. Your honesty is vital in the application process. **[Return all materials by email to info@childleaderproject.org](mailto:info@childleaderproject.org) in a .doc file or in hard-copy to the UCR Honors Office (Care of Samantha Wilson), no later than Tuesday, March 31st.**

All applicants will receive a confirmation email stating that the selection committee has received the application with further instructions. Interviews will be scheduled via email (interviews will be your opportunity to ask questions about the specifics of the project.)

What is the Child Leader Project?

The Child Leader Project is a non-governmental organization (NGO) based in Riverside, California. CLP was founded by Samantha Wilson, a student at the University of California at Riverside, who committed to creating a student-run leadership, higher education, and scholarship program in a rural, lower-caste school run by a microfinance institution in the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu during her participation in the Clinton Global Initiative University in 2008. Our program currently has 20 students and will expand this summer to include youth from a child labor rehabilitation organization and a slum and street children education center. New participants will be mentored by last year's leadership team.



Indian youth that graduate from CLP's program, which includes leadership training, conflict resolution, higher education planning, and social service, are provided college scholarships as well as given subsidized education with CLP's partner colleges and universities in Tamil Nadu.

Locally, CLP has expanded to include Patriot High School in Jurupa Unified School District. There, CLP has developed a pen pal program allowing Jurupa high school students to exchange letters and develop friendships with leadership students in India.

CLP intends to expand this program to an exchange program this summer. This program, “Send US to INDIA,” will select 4-5 Patriot High School youth to spend 10 days in Tamil Nadu, meeting CLP leadership students and community leaders, and culminating in



an international youth leadership conference and web conference with youth in Southern California. CLP hosted its first international web-conference between Indian leadership students and Riverside community participants on Jan 5.

Our motto at CLP is "*Local Action, Global Change.*" We believe that our efforts succeed only through a true partnership between groups, with mutual respect and kindness. This partnership is mutually transformative, where we learn as much from our friends and allies as they learn from us.

Our Partners in India

Activists for Social Alternatives—Grama Vidiyal

ASA-GV are the original partners of CLP, a microfinance institute and women's empowerment organization that works to provide credit and other social services to rural and urban poor across the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

ASA-GV also sponsors a low-cost/no-cost high school in a rural community 40 kilometers outside of Tiruchirapalli. This school provides the local community with the opportunity for a high-quality education in a state-of-the-art facility. ASA-GV/CLP Leadership students, "The Lights of India," are the first student participants in the CLP leadership program.

Rural Institute for Development (R.I.D.E.) (www.rideinida.org)

Tamil Nadu with the mission to "empower poor and disadvantaged residents of rural Tamil Nadu to improve the quality of their lives". Founded in 1984, RIDE fights to eradicate child labour, promotes economic and social justice for women, provides essential medical and educational services, and cultivates economic opportunity through community-building activities.

This NGO works extensively to eradicate child labor. By collaborating and negotiating with silk mills and stone quarries, the NGO persuades employers and parents of child laborers to attend "transition schools," or "bridge schools". These schools provide children the necessary life skills to operate successfully in a public, government school.

This summer, CLP will work with RIDE to create leadership programming for students who have participated in RIDE's bridge schools, made the transition to public schools, and are finishing their high school-level education (age 15-18). This is an exciting development for both organizations and we look forward to expanding our leadership programming to new students with different needs.

The Angbhagam International Street Children Educational Development Centre

This NGO is located in the city of Chennai—the rapidly expanding capital of Tamil Nadu, stressed under the pressures of globalization, migration, urbanization, and pollution. This organization works with the poor of the city, focusing primarily on orphaned youth and young adults (street children), men and women, and older aged individuals. The organization distributes school uniforms, bags, and notebooks, as well as conducts evening classes, counseling, exam preparation, and medical camps.

(For more information, see article: "Uniforms distributed to children." <http://www.hindu.com/2008/06/04/stories/2008060460470500.htm>).

CLP will collaborate with Anbhagam this summer to develop programming that addresses the needs of the community's street and slum children population through "joyful learning centers," service work, academic assistance, and the development of safe and engaging creative spaces for academic and life-skills education.

What's the benefit of being a program coordinator in India?

- Unprecedented opportunity for international dialogue and travel that goes beyond tourism and seeks to transform individual perceptions and ideas about the world with purposeful and directed work on global issues
- Fun, safe, sensitive, and engaging peer environment
- Knowledgeable Indian and USA staff and mentors to assist and encourage program coordinators in their CLP *and* non-CLP responsibilities
- Valuable and exceptional experience working hands-on in the international non-profit sector
- New leadership opportunities and experiences in their school or work, community, and world.
- New international friendships, as well as professional and academic connections for future career and higher education success
- A truly life-changing and perception-altering experience

What is the itinerary for a 2-week long trip as Coordinator?

Upon your arrival, you will be greeted at the airport by CLP volunteers who are already in India during your scheduled participation time. You will be given an opportunity to relax and adjust, as well as participate in activities that allow you an opportunity to see our community, shop, and introduce yourself to our host family and India-based team.

This first half of your trip will include work days (days in which we prepare curriculum together as a team or meet collaborators to prepare for the leadership program), as well as some free days in which you are able to do local travel with fellow team mates. We will spend this time preparing for our leadership program—practicing our presentations, activities, and gathering the necessary resources to have a successful experience.

The second half of your trip will include your involvement and facilitation of the leadership program. You will be working collaboratively with your team to execute a leadership program with at least 20 Indian students, in partnership with one of our partner organizations in India.

This will be followed with one or two days of relaxation and debriefing as a team before you have completed your responsibilities as a participant of CLP in India.

Is there free time? How structured is the itinerary? Can I travel on my own?

PC's are expected to remain in India as a CLP volunteer for a minimum of two weeks to participate as coordinators for the program. During your two-week participation, local travel and individual time is encouraged and facilitated, but participants should be prepared to spend some time alone or getting to know their teammates when not preparing for the Leadership Program. A more detailed schedule of events, along with dates and times for which you must be present, will be provided 2 weeks prior to your arrival in India.

Anytime spent before or after the agreed amount of time will be the responsibility of the PC, and not CLP Inc. If PCs choose to team together to develop their own travel itinerary outside the work they do

for CLP, this is available option—India is a remarkable and rewarding place to travel, and we encourage you to have a memorable experience abroad to compliment your time spent working with our program. However, we require that your participation and leadership in CLP is your primary focus—agreeing that you will make no arrangements that will detract your attention from the programs in India while you are a PC (2-week commitment).

Qualifications for Program Coordinator - India

A Program Coordinator will have/demonstrate:

- Past achievement in social change (ie., working for a non-profit, activism, community service, etc), striving for ambitious and/or measurable results in academics, extracurricular, or work leadership (i.e. youth mentorship, public programming, teaching experience, etc.)
- Perseverance in the face of challenges
- Strong, critical thinking skills—making accurate linkages between cause and effect and generating and applying relevant solutions to problems
- Ability to influence and motivate others
- Organizational ability- planning well, meeting deadlines, and working efficiently with others across cultural boundaries
- 1-3 years of management experience in group settings (*preferred*)
- Understanding of and desire to work relentlessly in pursuit of our vision
- Respect for students, families, and staff in the communities and organization with which we work
- Operate with professionalism and integrity
- Meet basic writing standards
- Some experience living or traveling abroad
- Demonstrate cultural competency and sensitivity to the individuals with which we work

Job Description for Program Coordinator - India



- Participate in the creation of curriculum that exemplifies the values and goals of the leadership program for the Child Leader Project. This curriculum should be centered around social justice, international dialogue, nonviolent conflict resolution, higher education and values-based leadership skills. Program Coordinator's will also have an opportunity to present on their own specific interest and how that field relates to our leadership values—this is an exciting opportunity for our students in India. Past presentations have included topics such as medical anthropology, photography, ethnic studies, and psychology.
 - Facilitate the completion of curriculum with students, one on one, in small groups, or in large groups up to 20 or 40. The students have basic English skills. This involves supervising group work, leading discussions and giving or assisting lectures.
- **Program Coordinator is responsible for the following...**
 - Minimum 2 weeks (*maximum 3 weeks on-site, or as discussed at time of interview*) in India to allow for preparation, acclimation, and completion of the leadership program.

- Enthusiastic participation in all activities prior to departure for India, as well as all in-country activities and post-country follow up according to curriculum and any other situation that arise. Your responsibilities and dates of participation will be provided upon your acceptance. Possible activities may include group or individual meetings with CLP Staff or Directors, presentations, fundraising events, conference calls, etc. You are also expected to respond to all preparation and post-travel communications (emails, phone calls and meetings) in a timely and professional manner.
- Funding of one's own trip. CLP does not provide up-front funding—all costs are paid as individuals in preparation for, or during their stay in India. Based on estimates, each participant must have at least \$2,000-2,500 available. This accounts for all the expenses above. It is also recommended that you have funds available for purchases and unforeseen incidental costs.
- Health insurance/travel insurance
- All participants will be required to sign a waiver of liability form that protects CLP from responsibility for any occurrence in India or at home. Individuals are solely responsible for their own wellbeing while abroad.

Challenges and Considerations for Travel: India is a challenging and rewarding place to travel to, learn from, and participate in. India, however, poses different physical and emotional challenges than what individuals are may be accustomed to in America. Therefore, it is essential that all interested participants be comfortable with the following conditions that *may* occur during our stay in India:

- Eating unfamiliar food with or without utensils (CLP will provide opportunities for participants to sample Indian style food before the trip)
- Living in a hotel or rental home with fans as air conditioning, "Indian-style" toilets, and/or cold showers. Participants will share gender-specific rooms with their fellow PHS participants in housing provided by CLP and partners/affiliates, and/or hotels during travel
- Limited/no wireless internet, basic internet and phone access (CLP insures that students will provide time for a phone call home at least once a day)
- Interactions with limited-English-speaking community members and collaborative work-tasks with Indian peers during the International conference
- Health concerns are obvious. Problems are rare, but due to the nature of traveling abroad, precautions must be taken. For more information, see Center for Disease Control website (www.cdc.org also see <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/destinationIndia.aspx>). CLP will provide quality, experience-based guidance on health and well-being practices for all student participants before and during the trip
- Standing out as a foreigner, and being the source of curious interest due to this "difference"

- Being sensitive to and attentive of appropriate behavior and mobility as related to “gender distinctions” in our local context. All participants are required to work/travel with partners as a universal safety precaution and will not travel alone at any time
- Difficult or emotional situations in regards to the experiences of our youth participants, including issues related to child labor, street/slum life, or rural poverty. This also includes individuals we come into contact with on a day to day basis, dealing with physical or mental health issues related to abject poverty

Funding



Participants are ultimately responsible for completely funding their own trip. Most costs are paid up-front to CLP Inc. based on the following time-schedule (see below).

* Please Note: CLP does not provide funding. However, once program coordinators are hired they will work as a group to apply for funding through UCR and outside businesses. You will not be alone in looking for funding. However, by applying, you accept ultimate responsibility for all funding.

Payment Schedule:

Wednesday, April 15th: Informed of selection

Friday, May 15th: Plane ticket purchases (\$1200-\$1500)—should you wish to arrive with a “group” and will not be planning your own individual travel. This can be negotiated at time of interview.

Monday, June 1st: \$500 deposit (covers cost of all CLP-related expenses, including travel and room/board for two weeks—does not cover food expenses or personal expenses)

Estimated Personal Costs:

The following costs are paid by the individual student in preparing for their trip—they are not included in the fees for CLP and CLP is not responsible for these costs. CLP will provide assistance and guidance in completing these activities.

Medical Preparation: \$150-\$300 (Vaccines, malaria pills, doctor’s visit

US Passport: \$100-150

Visa: \$130 (Processing fees, photos, etc.)

Personal souvenir-shopping, clothes, etc: \$200-300



CHILD LEADER PROJECT APPLICATION: CODE OF CONDUCT

(Code of Conduct adapted from UUSC JustJourneys Application)

As a Program Coordinator and project participant, I approach this project in accordance with the following beliefs:

1. Our coalition partners have power. They are agents of change—not victims.
2. Rights are not charity.
3. Power is created in coalition *with* others, not *over* others.
4. This project will be developed and executed on the basis of equal power partnerships.
5. By our words and deeds, we will create space for relationships of mutuality and respect that honor the inherent worth and dignity of **all** people involved.



My commitment, as an organizer of this project and participant with CLP and abroad:

1. I will educate myself on higher education, child labor, micro finance, poverty, and gender issues in India prior to this project through personal research and discussions with UCR faculty.
2. I will be responsible and accountable in my actions with all members of this project—Indian and American.
3. I will be an engaged listener. I will be sensitive and attentive to the needs, hopes, and desires of all those I work with.
4. I will not make promises of gifts, donations of money, or return visits to partners or local residents, nor do I go with the intention to represent any other organization than the Child Leader Project.
5. I will be respectful and observant to the lives, cultures, and decisions of the groups and individuals I meet.
6. I commit to respecting and honoring the suggestions of our hosts with regard to our presence and mobility in India.
7. I commit to recording my experience, and, upon my return, sharing my experience with the Riverside community for purposes of public education and political advocacy on behalf of the Child Leader Project.
8. I commit to being mindful about my next steps in accordance with what people in India ask of me and communicating these ideas and feelings to my colleagues.
9. I commit to consulting with program leadership and my fellow participants when in doubt concerning appropriate response or actions.
10. I will carry out my responsibilities for the duration of the time agreed upon with enthusiasm and eagerness and a willingness to ask for help. If I must discontinue my participation in the program, I will inform my colleagues in a timely and respectful manner in recognition of the importance of my presence in the project.

Basic Information

Full Name _____

Email _____ Phone Number(s): _____

Address _____

Do you have a Passport? _____ Passport # & Exp. Date: _____

Educational Background

School Name:	Degree Type:
Year:	Major/Minor/Program:
Relevant Coursework:	

Work Background (include paid and volunteer work—include more pages if necessary)

Name of Employer:	Date:
Job Title & Description:	
Name of Employer:	Date:
Job Title & Description:	
Name of Employer:	Date:
Job Title & Description:	

Reference (Name, Contact Info, Relationship): _____

Reference (Name, Contact Info, Relationship): _____

Written Portion for Application

Please answer each prompt in standard format: typed, 12 point font, double spaced, with proper spelling and punctuation. **This is your chance to demonstrate your writing ability, as well as an opportunity for the selection committee to get to know you.**

Short Answer Section

(Approx. 5-10 sentences each. May be longer if necessary to provide a full and complete answer—must be typed.)

1. What is your workload prior to the leadership program? How many hours a week can you devote to this program, and what work do you expect to do for this program?
2. What are your objectives and expectations for this program? Why is this project important to you/why do you feel drawn to this project? What are your suggestions or new ideas for this project?
3. Please list any and all relevant interests or skills you have.
4. Please describe any relevant work, volunteer, and/or travel experience you have. What work have you done with social justice or social change programs?
5. Please thoughtfully assess your health in light of the potential rigors of participating in this program. What are your concerns with your personal health? What are your concerns with your presence in India? How will you prepare yourself for this trip, or how might you handle uncomfortable or difficult experiences while abroad (i.e. unfamiliar food, etc.)?
6. Please include anything else related to your participation that we should know.

Essay Section

(250-500 words for each prompt)

1. Demonstrate your understanding of cultural sensitivity. What is cultural sensitivity? What experiences (personal, academic, professional) have helped you develop your understanding of this concept and how it applies to this work?
2. How do you understand the values and vision of CLP—in theory and practice? How do you *specifically* see yourself contributing to this vision?

Declaration of Candidacy

By submitting this application, you are agreeing to the following statements. Your submission is akin to an electronic signature.

I, _____, agree with and understand the implications of the following statements:

- a. I feel confident that I can safely finance my trip without causing undue burden to myself, those who financially support me or those whom I financially support.

- b. I have read all of the provided materials and understand my responsibilities. I understand that, should I neglect my responsibilities, one procedural, documented warning by the CLP Board of Directors will take place before I may be rightfully excused from the program. CLP Inc will not be responsible for any financial loss incurred due to this dismissal.

- c. I understand the challenges I may face in India and feel confident and enthusiastic of my ability to be resilient, excited, and engaged in this work—mindful of my responsibilities to CLP, my fellow Program Coordinators, and, most importantly, the individuals and communities we are responsible-to and in-covenant-with while in India.

- d. I have read and I fully agree to the Child Leader Project Code of Conduct (included in this packet).

With this electronic signature, I publicly declare my candidacy as a project participant in the UCR Child Leader Project.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Upon your submission of this application, you will receive an email-receipt notifying you of the immediate timeline regarding the review of your application, individual interview, as well as group interview, prior to your acceptance to the program.

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to email your inquiry to info@childleaderproject.org.

Reminder: Return all materials by email to info@childleaderproject.org in a .doc file or in hard-copy to the UCR Honors Office, no later than Tuesday, March 31st.

**University Honors Program (C/O Emily Nudge)
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