

Coach for College

A Global Initiative to Promote Higher Education Through Sports

Summer 2024 Program Information

Applications accepted through January 31st, 2024

OVERVIEW

In Coach for College (CFC), American college athletes **partner with Vietnamese college students** as teachers and coaches to **teach Sports, Academics, and Life Skills** classes and oversee team-based competitions in **three-week summer camps** held in rural Vietnam. The camps rely on the power of sports and older role models to help youth develop long-term goals, increase their motivation for education, increase their belief in their capabilities to achieve success in challenging circumstances, and help them develop the life skills needed to achieve their goals. In the process, American college athletes help reduce the school dropout rate in rural Vietnam and prepare youth to obtain jobs in an increasingly globalized economy, helping to increase both their economic and psychological well-being. In the program, American college athletes receive an immersive experience in a region of a developing country which could not be experienced as a tourist. They are able to learn about another culture directly through close friendships they develop with local citizens: the Vietnamese middle school students they teach, and the Vietnamese college students they live and work with. They are also able to work closely with student-athletes on other sports teams and who attend other universities. Through the program, **American athletes develop the skills needed to be effective global leaders committed to positive social change.**

DATES

Two or three camps will be held at different schools during each of the following time slots (dates refer to probable departure and arrival days, to and from the US):

Camp 1: May 29th – June 24th

Camp 2: June 26th – July 22nd

Camp 3: July 24th – August 19th

SUMMARY OF BENEFITS FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

- The program allows student-athletes to have an in-depth teaching and coaching relationship with foreign adolescents and works in the same communities year after year, so student-athlete participants are able to have a measurable impact in reducing the school dropout rate in rural parts of developing countries.
- College athletes are able to work towards a common goal in an intensive experience with student-athletes from other sports teams and other universities, through which lasting friendships are formed that bridge rivalries.

- College athletes have an opportunity to participate in the program multiple times, first as a coach, then as a College Student Director, and eventually as a volunteer or paid staff member.
- Through the program, college athletes often find a calling in teaching, coaching, working with children, international development, or other non-profit work using sports for social change that launches them into a satisfying career after they are no longer able to play sports competitively.
- CFC offers the chance to become part of an international movement, an “international Teach for America,” which will eventually involve college athletes from universities across the United States with sites in multiple developing countries around the world.

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

CFC currently organizes camps at five locations in the Mekong Delta region of southern Vietnam. Summer 2024 will mark the 16th year of the program. To date, 667 American college athletes have participated, from all 15 ACC universities, as well as student-athletes from 31 universities in other conferences (including the Big Ten, Ivy League, Pac-12 and SEC). Up to 10 American college athletes will participate in one of the three-week camps as coaches (living and co-teaching with an equal number Vietnamese college students). Student-athletes from any university are eligible to apply.

A student-athlete who participated as a coach in Coach for College a previous year may serve as the American College Student Director for each camp. During each camp, coaches are assigned to four-person teaching/coaching teams (2 American and 2 Vietnamese college students) and work with 80-120 children (rising 6th, 7th, 8th, or 9th graders). Half of the children come for four hours in the morning and the other half for four hours in the afternoon. The youth in the morning and afternoon groups are divided into 4 teams of 10-15 students, and all teaching teams work with only one team of kids at a time. In addition to teaching and coaching in the camps, coaches participate in nightly lesson planning meetings with their teaching partners.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Camps will consist of Sports, Academic, and Life Skills classes Monday-Thursday for three weeks. The Friday of each week will serve as a Competition Day in which the teams of youth will compete against each other to demonstrate what they learned during the week in team-based sports competitions and individual Academic and Life Skills written tests. Final competitions, testing what has been learned over the course of the whole camp will be held on Friday and Saturday of the last week, and an awards ceremony will be held on the last Sunday of the camp. The weekends will involve trips with the Vietnamese college students to various cultural sites near the location of the camps. The standard day of departure from the United States will be the Wednesday prior to the start of the camp. The standard day of departure from Vietnam will be Sunday night, the last day of camp or following Monday morning. The program will work to accommodate student-athletes who wish to leave later than the standard times (to travel after the program) but will not cover any differences in airfare cost. Any expenses and risks related to optional travel after the program are the responsibility of the participant.

CFC will not help to arrange this optional travel, including any tourist visas that such travel might require.

ELIGIBILITY

Varsity athletes from any university, and any sport, may participate. With the exception of Harvard **students in any year of college are eligible, including graduating seniors**, provided they are still in school at the time they apply.

Coach for College seeks to partner with many universities, to help offset a portion of the financial costs for their student-athletes.

Varsity student-athletes from universities which are not yet partnering are welcome as well, but are encouraged to contact Seth Napier first, to discuss the differing financial conditions, and ways to involve their universities in supporting some of the costs. Please write [Seth Napier](#), U.S. Assistant Director for Coach for College, if you have specific questions regarding your eligibility for the program.

SELECTION

A preliminary selection will be made based on the written application. Finalists may be invited to participate in a phone interview with a member of the Coach for College selection committee and/or with their athletic department staff in the days after the application deadline. All applicants will be notified by email of their result. Contact Seth Napier (seth.napier@coachforcollege.org) with any questions about the application process.

When filling out the application, please refer to these specific fundraising, sports, and education descriptions for supplemental information:

FUNDRAISING PLAN:

If you are selected to be a coach from a partner university (with the exception of a small number of universities, which cover more than the standard \$3,500), you will be expected to raise a minimum of \$1,680 for the Coach for College program. Participants from a university which is not able to help financially support their participation, fundraise and/or contribute \$5,100. **Coach for College covers most costs for participants from when they get on the plane, to when they return home** (flights, visa, health insurance, transport within Vietnam, lodging, meals at the campsite, weekend excursions, camp materials, fulltime on site support, etc.).

The Coach for College program will provide you with access to program brochures and videos and will provide you with a personalized online donation page, which your donors can use to make online contributions to your fundraising. To view last year's fundraising website, go to www.coachforcollege.org and click on "Participant Fundraising" toward the bottom of the home page (wait several seconds for the participant photos to load, and then click on them). Effective fundraising is an essential part of your participation in the

program. The success of the program is dependent upon private donations and each and every coach is expected to meet or exceed his or her fundraising goal.

SPORTS:

If selected, **you will teach one sport** (basketball, soccer, volleyball, baseball/wiffleball, tennis, ultimate frisbee or dance) to all the teams of youth in the program (to two teams in the morning session and two teams in the afternoon session). You will work with two bilingual Vietnamese college students and one other American athlete to teach six different 45 minute lessons to each of the four teams of youth over the course of the three weeks. You will be asked to teach stretching, fitness and plyometrics, and drills related to the sport. Lessons usually focus on a variety of fundamental skills, building towards some form of a full game by the final competition day at the end of the three weeks. In general youth in the area are familiar with volleyball and soccer but they have had only limited, if any exposure, to tennis, basketball and baseball. Many students in the program (except for rising 6th graders) will have participated in the program at least once and will have some basic proficiency in all the four sports taught in each camp. You will be asked to work during camp with your fellow coaches to help design the six sports lesson plans and weekly competitions for your designated sports class.

ACADEMICS:

If selected, **you will teach one academic subject** to all the teams of youth in the program, using examples from sports and real life. As with the sports classes, you will work with two bilingual Vietnamese college students and one other U.S. athlete to teach six 45 minute classes to each of the four teams of youth. The sports-themed academic modules will use sports to teach the youth Biology, Physics, English as a second language or Math, all subjects and topics the youth learn during the school year. **You will be given lesson plans** linking sports with the particular academic subject on which your class focuses.

LIFE SKILLS:

In addition to teaching one sports and one academic subject, each selected athlete will more closely mentor one of the four teams of youth (Red, Orange, Yellow, or Green team) and teach them Life Skills, including goal setting, the benefits of higher education, and positive strategies youth can use to achieve their goals. **You will be given lesson plans for all the Life Skills classes.**