

Coach for College

A Global Initiative to Promote Higher Education Through Sports

Summer 2022 Program Information

While it is not possible to be certain of the global and local Covid situation, most main factors give us confidence in proceeding to plan in person camps again this summer:

- Local authorities who give permissions for the camps have encouraged us to hold them in person
- Vietnam has fully vaccinated almost 100% of citizens 18 and above. The large majority of 12-17 year olds are now also fully vaccinated (we work with early teens in camp). Plans are in place to also begin vaccinating 5-11 year olds soon. Vietnam is currently one of the countries in the world with the widest vaccination coverage and is on track with its plan to have close to 100% of the population 12 both fully vaccinated and boosted by the end of March.
- While the country had been following a strict Zero Covid approach, they have shifted to a living with the virus policy, and have been gradually opening up. Travel to Vietnam currently is still restricted, but the ministry of tourism and the prime minister have both stated that tourism should fully reopen in April without restrictions.

We are therefore moving forward with plans to hold some camps in person this summer, knowing that if something were to happen to make international travel or social gathering no longer possible in the summer, we have our well-proven and highly rated service-at-a-distance program model that we can swiftly revert to.

Following is the description of our traditional, in-person model, which we are hopeful we can run this summer, followed by a description of our 2021 model, which was highly valued by participants.

In-Person Model

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

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 23rd – June 20th

Camp 2: June 20th – July 18th

Camp 3: July 18th – August 15th

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.

2022 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

CFC currently organizes camps at five locations in the Mekong Delta region of southern Vietnam. Summer 2022 will mark the 14th year of the program. To date, 600 American college athletes have participated, from all 15 ACC universities, as well as student-athletes from 29 universities in other conferences (including 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.

2022 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 Duke, Harvard and Stanford, **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 currently partnering with CFC 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, insurance, domestic travel within Vietnam, lodging, meals, 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.**

Service-at-a-Distance Model

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Due to Covid-related restrictions in 2021, which barred international travel between many countries around the world, CFC created a new program format. We ran four camps at a distance, highly successfully. Average student-athlete participant ratings of their experience ranged between 9.4 and 9.7 out of 10 in every category. Given the unsettled nature of the pandemic and policies around the world, should there be developments which impede travel to Vietnam or holding camp, we will be able to rapidly pivot to the 2021 model. We are confident from the experience in each camp last summer that participants will find it highly meaningful and worthwhile, despite the obvious disappointment. We do plan to be with you in-person, but know that a solid and well-proven back up is in place.

Should circumstances necessitate running camps at a distance:

Kids will be able to take part camp in person, with the Vietnamese university student half of the team teaching directly on site. The US student-athletes will team up with their Vietnamese peers virtually, helping plan the lessons, and recording videos to be shown to the kids in class.

Just as in person, each American and Vietnamese participant will be assigned to one **academic subject, one sport** and to one team of kids to mentor more closely and teach **life skills** to. Each student-athlete will therefore be part of 3 small teaching teams typically with 1 other American and 2 Vietnamese college students.

We recommend clicking on **Camp Schedule** at the top of the Participate webpage, to get a visual overview of the program. **Sample lesson plans** and **video clips** from the **sports** are also posted next to the **Apply** button.

Throughout the 3 week camp, the participants will meet with their teams over Zoom each evening, Sunday through Thursday (US time), to plan the next day's lessons and for a **cultural exchange activity**.

- 1) One strength Americans bring to the table is their creativity and experience with interactive learning styles. Each day, the Americans will share with their Vietnamese teammates their ideas for making the next day's lessons hands-on and engaging for the kids.
- 2) Americans will also take the lead on planning the sports lessons.
 - a) They will prepare video clips explaining the sports techniques to show the kids.
 - b) They will demonstrate by video the various games and drills, so the Vietnamese coaches understand how to run them.
- 3) The American coaches will also contribute directly to the kids by filming themselves performing experiments tied to their subject, explaining an academic concept, showing how to pronounce English vocabulary correctly, sharing experiences from their lives that relate to the life skills topic, etc. These will be used as part of the lessons in class for the kids.
- 4) A valuable and fun part of CFC has always been the experience of working with and getting to know peers from a different culture. This continues to be a goal in 2021. To that end, after working together on the lessons, participants will meet for a cultural exchange/team bonding activity, with the goal of getting to know each other and learn about each other's culture while having fun. Each day CFC will propose a new topic or activity (e.g. share a story of a favorite childhood memory, go on a tour of your teammates' house and school, learn to make a Vietnamese dish live, and the next day teach an American dish to your Vietnamese counterparts, etc.). Volunteers who tested the 2021 model in January, reported especially enjoying getting to know their peers in the other country in general, and said that the cultural exchange activities were a particular highlight.

SUMMARY

In summary, during the 3 week camp, Americans and Vietnamese will meet over video call in the evening (Sun-Th). They will meet in their teaching teams to share ideas for the next day's lessons (in their academic subject and life skills). They will also explain the sports lesson they have prepared, so the Vietnamese coaches are confident in implementing it. They will also meet in small groups for the day's cultural exchange activity.

During the day, the Americans will work offline on their own schedule to read through the lesson plan, think of activity ideas, and to record videos with content to be used in class.

An online forum for the group will be set up. The Vietnamese coaches will post pictures and funny or touching stories from the day, and the group can comment. The Vietnamese coaches will also update the US coaches each evening on how the day's lesson went, how the kids, are doing, etc. We plan to hold Q&A sessions between the Americans and the kids, so they can learn about each other directly as well.

Americans will be able to take part in 1½ to 2 hours of direct work and immersion with their Vietnamese partners each day, and committing to about 1 hour of work daily on their own, brainstorming good teaching activities and preparing videos for sports and for class.

As when traveling in person to Vietnam, we wish to strongly emphasize our conviction that what each participant will gain from the experience will be directly related to the dedication and passion they put into it.

TYPICAL DAY

OFFLINE: Read the provided lesson plan for your academic subject for the next day and for the life skills lesson. Think creatively of ways the material can be made interactive and engaging for the kids.

OFFLINE: Film yourself demonstrating and explaining proper technique for the skill being taught in your next sports lesson (for the kids). Film yourself demonstrating the drills, games and relay races you have planned for the next day (to help the Vietnamese coaches, who usually do not have much sports experience).

OFFLINE: Vietnamese coaches post pictures and stories throughout camp to group forum. Americans and Vietnamese comment freely. Goal to connect as a team and stay connected to daily camp life.

LIVE: Meet with your academic team. Vietnamese coaches update you on how the day went. You share the brainstorming ideas you have had for tomorrow's lesson.

LIVE: Meet with your life skills team: Vietnamese coaches update you on how your team of kids is doing and how lesson went. You share your ideas for class.

LIVE: Meet with your sports team. Vietnamese team shares how teaching is going for them, and what challenges they may be facing. You share any advice and encouragement you may have. You go over the lesson plan and activities you and your American co-coach have come up with, helping them understand it.

LIVE: Cultural exchange: Meet in small groups, for a conversation or activity. New topic given each day. Goal: get to know each other, learn about each other's culture, all while having fun.

Note: With good prior preparation during the day, each of the above meetings will be short. Overall meeting times will typically be 8-10 PM ET or less, including breaks. Volunteers who tested the program reported that the amount of live interaction was good and that they did not experience Zoom fatigue.

DATES

Camps will take place at the dates below. Orientation activities, introduction to teammates, and initial preparation for Week 1 activities will take place the week prior.

Camp 1: May 29th – June 18th

Camp 2: June 26th – July 16th

Camp 3: July 24th – August 13th