



MPI Essential Eligibility Criteria

Participation in Manna Project International's programs requires that individuals meet the following essential eligibility criteria. These criteria are designed to ensure the safety, well-being, and positive contributions of all volunteers, as well as the communities we serve.

1. Commitment to MPI's Mission and Values:

- A demonstrated interest in community development and a willingness to actively engage in MPI's holistic, community-led approach.
- Open-mindedness and respect for the values, traditions, and autonomy of the communities with which we partner.

2. Cultural Humility and Adaptability:

- A genuine enthusiasm to experience new cultures and daily customs, especially those of indigenous and rural Amazonian communities.
- Willingness to step outside of one's comfort zone and maintain a respectful and humble attitude in cross-cultural settings.
- Ability to adapt to a slower pace of life and limited resources in a developing country context.

3. Teamwork and Community Living:

- Ability to live and work cooperatively with a small team of fellow volunteers, often in close quarters.
- Strong collaboration, conflict resolution, and communication skills to foster a supportive and inclusive team dynamic.
- Willingness to contribute to shared responsibilities in communal housing, such as cooking, cleaning, and planning.

4. Personal Responsibility and Initiative:

- Capacity to manage tasks independently, set personal and group goals, and follow through without constant oversight.
- A self-starting attitude with a proactive and solutions-oriented approach to challenges.
- Dependability in fulfilling commitments to community partners and MPI team members.

5. Patience, Resilience, and Emotional Maturity:



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- High tolerance for ambiguity, unexpected changes, and the logistical challenges common in remote or rural settings.
- Emotional resilience and a positive outlook when faced with unfamiliar situations, delays, or interpersonal tensions.
- Ability to practice self-care and seek support when needed.

6. Communication and Interpersonal Skills:

- Strong listening, verbal, and non-verbal communication skills, with an emphasis on respect, clarity, and empathy.
- Comfort interacting with diverse age groups and cultural backgrounds, including children, elders, and local leaders.
- Spanish language skills are preferred but not required; volunteers must be open to learning and practicing Spanish, with opportunities provided for on-site classes.

8. Health Considerations:

MPI aims to create a supportive environment for all volunteers, but we are not equipped to provide in-field mental or physical health services such as regular therapy sessions, crisis intervention, or primary care attention.

Applicants with recent or ongoing therapeutic and physical health needs are encouraged to consult with their care providers and MPI staff during the application process to assess whether the program is a good fit. MPI staff receive basic training in first aid and community care, but they are not licensed health professionals. Reasonable accommodations will be made to support virtual therapy when requested. However, due to the remote location, participants should be aware that periodic power outages—both foreseen and unforeseen—may affect scheduling or connectivity.

Participation in MPI's programs requires a basic level of physical fitness. Daily activities may include walking on uneven terrain, biking, and working in outdoor conditions with limited access to medical facilities. Applicants should be comfortable managing their own health needs in a rural setting and are encouraged to discuss any concerns with MPI staff in advance.

All participants are ultimately responsible for their own health and must consult with MPI staff if they need more support.

Note: MPI encourages volunteers of all backgrounds and abilities to apply. Reasonable accommodations will be made where possible to support participation while ensuring the health and safety of both volunteers and community members.