

FAQs on Volunteering for the Albanian Alps Institute

<http://www.albanianalps.org> (or contact Steve Cook)

1. **How much does it cost?** \$450 for two weeks, \$600 for a month.
2. **What do my fees cover?** Transportation from and to the international airport and room and board. There are no “administrative fees.”
3. **How much additional money will I need?** Very little. Only small things like bus fare into the city, chocolate ☺ or other comfort food and souvenirs.
4. **Where will I stay?** AAI will place you in a home where someone speaks English.
5. **Who pays for airfare?** The volunteer is responsible for airfare, which runs \$1500 + in most cases.
Be creative to raise money. Hold a fund raiser. Ask grandparents to help.
6. **When do I go?** Usually summer. Steve Cook, AAI President is usually there for three weeks in June/July. But AAI has a professional on the ground to accommodate volunteers at other times.
7. **How long do I stay?** At least two weeks. Most volunteers stay three or four weeks. There is no upper limit.
8. **Is there cell phone coverage?** Yes. And connection to the internet via cell phone is available as well as skypeing possibilities.
9. **What will I do?** AAI seeks individuals to teach conversational English to elementary and high school aged students. The students have some English training and teaching is done in English. AAI also seeks volunteers who have art or music skills. AAI pays for all supplies.
10. **Is there a “teaching packet?”** No. Volunteers develop their own teaching materials. AAI pays for supplies. There is a wealth of teaching materials on the web, and AAI can help you put things together.
11. **Where will I teach?** AAI has access to village schools. Usually volunteers go to Boga/Xhaj and/or Vrithi. We work closely with School Directors. There are homes in these villages that have hosted volunteers before.
12. **How many students will I have?** Attendance is voluntary for students also, so the number who show up on any given day varies. But, we will divide the students into at least two groups, elementary and high school. Class size is typically less than fifteen.
13. **How much will I teach?** There is little else to do in the villages, so most volunteers have two classes per day, six days per week.
14. **Will there be possibilities to do some sightseeing?** Yes. Locals usually offer to take volunteers to see the sights, to the sea for swimming, etc. If Steve Cook is there, he can take active volunteers on some of his favorite hikes.