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ProjectsAbroad

中国



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Nihao or Hello!



I would like to welcome our new Assistant Manager, Dennis Bridgeforth to our Projects Abroad Family in China. Dennis is from New York. As you read on in this issue, Dennis will share a little bit about where he's been and why he chose to come to China.

To our volunteers who arrived in May, we also would like to welcome you to Projects Abroad China! We plan to make your stay to be memorable one and look forward to working with you in our Social Out-Reach that we have plan on a monthly basis.

We've been experiencing hot weather lately in the 30s degree. It's nice to be rid of the cold temperature but the heat came too fast! Spring is here but it felt like the middle of summer already. To keep cool you have to drink a lot of water and stay out of the sun.

Our Feature this month is from one of our Teaching volunteers, Stephanie Ward and she's from UK. She will share with us in her story how she led us into Fund Raising Event.

There's a lot of work to be done and we welcome our future volunteers as you prepare for your trip to Projects Abroad China. This month we have many fun activities plan for you, so please remember to check our Projects Abroad China The Official Group for pictures and announcements. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at chanesutsadang@projects-abroad.org.

Projects Abroad China The Official Group Members are now 296!

You can also view our Newsletters on Projects Abroad China The Official Group on facebook. You just click on the link and that's it! Photos can be seen of our weekly activities as well. We are also on Twitter at this link... http://twitter.com/Proj_AbroadCH

Chinese's Holiday: 1st May 2011. Labour Day

Best Wishes,

Chane

Social Manager

A Gift of Words

Stephanie Ward

(UK, Teaching, 3 months)



On 28th February I was taken to my placement; Ziluolan Primary school. I would be working here for ten weeks as an English Teacher. Now it's the end of May, I have finished my placement and have returned to London. When I look back on my time at the school all I feel is great satisfaction; the feeling when you have accomplished something brilliant and knowing the reception has very much benefited from you.

I taught four classes a day, these classes could be any of five grades. In each grade there were three classes, class one was academically the brightest. At the time my knowledge of Mandarin could be written on a stamp and one would expect it to be difficult to teach Chinese students English. However it wasn't, I used the current English Teachers' materials, for example the 'Teacher's Book' which the students also had a copy of - the children could easily follow me (with the help of exaggerated body language). The most memorable experience was when a class cheered each time I walked into their classroom. I had a really wonderful time teaching at the school.



During my time at the school I noticed there was a limited number of dictionaries that were available to the children. Immediately I thought of how the quantity could be increased as from my perspective dictionaries were a compulsory educational material, they would really develop and expand the children's knowledge of English. Between Hans David (another volunteer also taught English at Ziluolan) and myself we decided to undertake a sponsored walk to Century Park. The walk would take approximately forty minutes from where our apartment was located. In total we raised 1000 RMB which meant we were able to purchase just over 100 dictionaries for the school, the dictionaries were given to the school on 26th April in the form of a small ceremony which took place in one of the classrooms. Mr Chen (the headmaster of Ziluolan) gave a small speech, many photos and videos were taken and we (the volunteers) were asked to sign our name and the date in each of the dictionaries. The dictionaries gave the children the freedom of being able to translate a word when they needed to as well as teaching themselves by searching for further words.

The week beginning 2nd May was my last week. When you have to leave somewhere where you are very happy and settled and a place where you are surrounded by people you are extremely fond, of course it is bittersweet. I felt enormously rewarded and greatly satisfied with what I had been asked to do throughout my time at the school and what I had achieved. However I also felt a great feeling of sadness; everyone at the school are so warm, kind, deeply amiable and helpful and I was extremely sad to leave them. Furthermore I will definitely stay in touch with everyone at the school and I very much hope to return to both China and Ziluolan in the near future.

Kate Haresnape's Story

(UK, Journalism, 3months)



First impressions of Shanghai were simultaneously a lot to take in and an immediate feeling of familiarity. When I first arrived I found the member of Projects Abroad who had been sent to meet me from the airport straight away, we got into a taxi where I filled out a bundle of forms that I was far too tired to read. Admittedly on arriving at my flat I just wanted to go to bed but I had to go get a new phone, transport card etc, after a twelve hour flight I was pretty exhausted however the benefit of being sorted out with forms of contact immediately was the sense of security it provided- whilst I may not have been happy about it at the time, it was probably for my own good. I was also provided with an international calling card on arrival. My flat was impressive in its size and how modern it was but I certainly could not tell that the cleaner had been in the day before, there was not even a clean cup for me to drink out of. Having said all that, it was certainly not the nightmare it could have been and all in all my transfer from the UK to the airport to Shanghai seemed to go very smoothly, I kept expecting something to go wrong and was waiting for the moment when I would meet an irresolvable dilemma but it never came.

I went to work the day after I arrived, a member of Projects Abroad came to meet me at the metro station to show me the route and came with me all the way into the office. I got the impression that it would probably just be an introduction and that I would be allowed to go after a couple of hours, unfortunately my supervisor did not seem to be aware of this (an ex Projects Abroad intern herself) she frowned when I eventually asked if I could leave a bit early due to my jetlag and asked whether I had finished my work yet- not exactly the sympathetic start I expected. After that rocky start, things seemed to smooth out a bit with dinner at a Thai restaurant provided by my work, a DJ class and visits to lots of art galleries for the mag (in between a heavy load of data entry of course). The journalism placement has given me the opportunity to explore and really get to know the city- even the dreaded data entry can sometimes help you to discover upcoming events or a cool restaurant/bar you can try out with your friends.

The organized Projects Abroad events included a charity walk and helping paint table tennis tables at a migrant school. Whilst it perhaps seemed as though we were clutching at straws for charity work (table tennis tables, really?) this was one of the best experiences I have had during my time here, it was amazing to meet the kids who were all so happy and well behaved. The best part of the day had to be when most of us had gotten bored with the task at hand (we had been painting from around half nine to half four) and the kids went off to entertain themselves with playground games, some of us decided to join in which induced screams of delight at the silliness and unexpected reverse roles. The charity walk ended up at Century Park which made up for the lack of scenic eye candy from the starting point in Pudong. We played some frisbee and then went to dinner at a Chinese restaurant courtesy of Projects Abroad.

Now I have been here nearly eight weeks, Shanghai is beginning to feel like a second home. I never thought I could get used to the roads or be able to find my own way on the metro without consulting a map every time but I can now listen to my ipod without having to strain my ears for the metro stop announcements, I am a regular at my local steamed bun stall (they can anticipate my order without me having to open my mouth) and I can cross the road fearless of the impending mass of scooters just like a local. Shanghai provides a lifestyle of fast living that is equally as quick to adjust to but I feel will be difficult to leave behind. I have made great friends here and done things I never would have had the opportunity to do without the Projects Abroad network, all I can say now is that I don't want to go home!

My Experience with Projects Abroad in China

(Spain, Business, 5months)



Pedro Patino

the far right one

Una vez finalizados mis estudios decidí lanzarme a la aventura china en busca de una experiencia que me abriese las puertas del gigante asiático y me permitiese conocer una cultura diferente

Tras valorar distintas agencias elegí Projects Abroad por su extensa red de contactos y su amplia experiencia trabajando con voluntarios de todo el mundo.

Hace un mes que llegué a Shanghai y estoy profundamente satisfecho de mi decisión. Estoy realizando un internship en una empresa de consultoría que asesora a empresas occidentales interesadas en hacer negocios en China. Desde el primer día he asumido grandes responsabilidades y estoy seguro de que esta experiencia me ayudara a conseguir mis objetivos profesionales a corto plazo

Una de las ventajas de elegir Projects Abroad es que somos un grupo amplio y multicultural de voluntarios y todas las semanas se organizan cenas y otros eventos de forma que siempre tienes muchas opciones de ocio para disfrutar de tu tiempo libre.

Respecto a los miembros de la organización solo puedo decir que son gente estupenda y que siempre están disponibles para ayudarte a solucionar cualquier problema que te pudiese surgir.

En definitiva, recomiendo Projects Abroad a todos los que estéis pensando en venir a China, no os arrepentiréis de vuestra decisión.

Volunteers' Corner





New Staff At China's Office



Dennis, the one in red

I am originally from New York City, but later moved to Raleigh, North Carolina. I earned my Bachelor's from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro, NC where I studied Business Administration, with a Management and Entrepreneurship concentration. I was involved in various school activities. Summer of 2009 I traveled throughout China, studying Business. In 2010 I worked for a Chinese firm in Shanghai as a Business Development Assistant.

What attracted me to Projects Abroad, was the fact that I would interact with various kinds of people from various countries. Projects Abroad seemed like it would be anything but dull.

I enjoy history, traveling, learning languages, various sports and hanging-out.

Dennis Bridgeforth
Assistant Manager - China

Gao li Temple or “Flower Adornment Temple”



In 1085, Yi Tian had moved into the Chishan Port and between the Yu Lin Mountains in Hangzhou where Gao Li temple is located. The fourth son of Korean National Wen Zong Wang Hui, Yi Tian also known as “World Monk Mary Help of Christians system” came to this place in search of Dharma and stayed with the master source of wisdom.

He wrote Chinese scriptures for Buddhism religion that had been named the “Flower Adornment sutra” and more than 170 volumes have been donated to the Hui Yin Institute.

Due to war, the temple was destroyed many times and it was rehabilitated but it took two years and seven months to complete the job in 2004. At the same time the temple got put in as the West Lake’s 36th historical and cultural attraction. The size of this area covers 15,000 square meters, total construction area about 2,500 square meters. The architecture is Song style and some of Yuan Dynasty.

In this temple house many statues, murals and the Tibet “runner possession”. The “wheels hiding” is a tall wooden pagoda-style building which house the Tibetan scriptures. It weighs several tons of fine Tibetan wheels.

“Pushing one circular turn is the same as reading a meaningful scripture once”. A person can hand push and rotate it slowly the construction around the middle of the spindle while tasting the essence within.

To visit this place it only costs 20 RMB.

Chinese Dumplings

“Jiaozi” or Chinese dumplings with meat and vegetable filling is a traditional food. This dish is essential food in Chinese New Year. Since the shape of Chinese dumpling is similar to ancient Chinese gold or silver bar, they symbolize wealth. Chinese people choose to eat the dumplings to tie in with the meaning of their wishes for good fortune in the New Year. The history date back to ancient times 500 -600 years ago since the Sung dynasty.

Ingredients:

Filling:

- *1 lb. ground pork (or beef)
- *6 T. sesame oil
- *2 t. sugar
- *0.75 t. salt
- *0.25 t. pepper
- *0.25 lb. cabbage
- *1 t. salt
- *0.25 lb. chopped green onions

Skin:

- *3 c. flour
- *0.75 c. cold water
- *0.5 c. flour (to prevent sticking during kneading)

soy sauce

- water
- vinegar (white or rice)
- garlic (fresh, chopped fine, or powdered)
- ginger (fresh, chopped fine, or powdered)
- small bowl with water for dipping.

Instruction to make Chinese dumplings

1. Filling: Mix ground pork, oil, sugar, chop cabbage, salt and pepper until fine. Let sit for 10 minutes; then squeeze out the excess water.
2. Skin: In a bowl, add water to the flour and knead into smooth dough; let it stand for 10 minutes. Roll the dough into a long baton-like roll and cut it into 50 pieces. Use a rolling pin to roll each piece to a thin circle.
3. Combine: Place 1 portion of filling in the center of a dough circle. Fold the circle in half and moisten the edges with water. Use index finger and thumb to bring the together the sides. The smooth edge will conform to the decreased length of the pleated edge. Pinch the pleats together then pinch to seal. Place the dumpling on a floured tray and repeat this with the remaining dumplings.
4. Boil: Boil 10 cups of water and add dumplings; gently stir to prevent dumplings from sticking together. Bring to a boil; turn the heat to low and cook for three minutes. When serving, use vinegar, soy sauce, sesame oil, hot bean paste, etc. as dipping sauces.
5. Serving: Serve the dumplings hot (if you cook them in bamboo baskets you may wish to serve them from it directly at the table) with bowls of soy sauce mixed with red wine vinegar.

On Saturday May 7 Kay had arranged a cooking class on how to make Chinese Dumpling at Accent Mandarin School on Fuxin Road. Twelve volunteers and three staff attended this class. Many of them have had Chinese Dumpling before but have never tried their hands at making one. Kelly, our teacher brought her parents over to teach us how to make Chinese Dumpling the right way. Kelly had to translate for us because neither of her parents can speak English.

When we arrived at the school all the ingredients were all laid out on the table...wrapping dough, cooked cabbage, pork, vegetables, mixing bowl, chopsticks a glass of water and flour. The wooden table was covered with plastic half-way, while the other part white flour was sprinkled on. The area that had flour sprinkled on is the area we rolled the dough on and cut them into small pieces of dough. The dough then get flattens by the wooden roller.

Everyone was looking forward to making the dumplings and eating them afterward. I think we must have made over 100 dumplings that afternoon. It was easy and fun to do with the group and I think our volunteers will take this experience to share with their families and friends when they return home. It did not take very long to do and from what I could see everyone devoured it all.



Social Activities in May

Date	Activities	Time
7 May Saturday	Chinese Dumpling Making Location: Accent Mandarin School	2- 4 PM
12 May Thursday	Bowling Night	8- 9 PM
17 May Sunday	Journalism Work Shop Location: Accent Mandarin School	3- 5 PM
21 May Saturday	Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Hall Location: People's Square Station	1- 4 PM
24 May Tuesday	Law Work Shop Location: Accent Mandarin School	3- 5 PM



Social Media Links

Join our official Facebook Group: Projects Abroad China – The Official Group

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=15816381194>

Read our monthly newsletters.

<http://www.projects-abroad.co.uk/volunteer-destinations/china/newsletters-from-china/>

See what is going on with Projects Abroad! Read our Country Blog!

http://www.mytripblog.org/mod/blog/group_blogs.php?gl=true&group_guid=2859

Contact Details and Practical Information

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In China, most of us use China Mobile for our telephone services. Here's helpful information that will help you during your stay in China. When checking for available credit first text YECX to 10086 to be sent back your current credit. To find out how much you've spent so far in the current month you would need to text 102 to 10086.

To set up direct-dial international long distance services call 10086. Once that has been arranged, dial 17951 before the international number to receive a discount on your long distance charges. The discount number also works if you're doing a little domestic roaming outside your local calling area.

The other telephone provider is China Unicom. When checking for available credit text YECX to 10010 to be sent back your current credit.

To set up direct-dial international long distance services call 10010. Once that has been arranged, dial 17911 before the international number to receive a discount on your long distance charges. The discount number also works if you're doing a little domestic roaming outside your local calling area.