



Salesian Mission Volunteer Service

Advisory Board



SALESIANS
DON BOSCO

Introduction

Salesian Mission Volunteer Service (SMVS) has gained incredible momentum in the Salesian Congregation over the past few years. It has been incredible to witness the growth in many different parts of the world of Salesian Mission Volunteering. SMV focuses on volunteering as a life choice for a young person to grow in the understanding of themselves and their relationship with God, while developing new life skills that can help them in their future.

There are many different kinds of volunteering; however, SMVS has been very specifically defined by the Salesian Congregation as:

Solidarity service, made gratuitously and freely by a young person, sent and welcomed by a community, integrating him/herself into the educative and pastoral project of a Salesian presence or promoted by it, with a sufficient continuity of time, motivated by the faith, with the missionary style and according to the pedagogy and spirituality of Don Bosco.¹

Given the increase in volunteering and the emphasis as a valuable life choice for a young person, an advisory board has been created to support this very valuable service by supporting the Salesian Mission Volunteer programs around the world.

Introduction of the SMVS Advisory Board

Who are we:

We are a group of Salesians of Don Bosco and Salesian Lay people with extensive experience working in Salesian Volunteer Programs. The Board is supported by the Missions and Youth Ministry departments of the Salesian Congregation. We come from different parts of the world and have different areas of expertise. Our common passion and goal is a desire to provide support and connectedness to Salesian Volunteer programs and Salesian Provinces who have volunteer programs and would like to network or who are wanting to initiate SMVS.

The role and identity of the Advisory Board will evolve as specific needs change, but what is certain is that we want to be of service to Salesian Mission Volunteering. Your feedback, collaboration and contribution is essential to enrich SMVS throughout the world

¹ Volunteering in the Salesian Mission Manual. Pg.48

Our overarching goal:

Connect and network with Salesian volunteer organizations to provide support, guidance, formation, and opportunities to network and collaborate. This will hopefully improve the quality of service provided by Salesian volunteer organizations and will support and animate the Salesian Volunteer Movement that will support the Congregation with quality volunteers with a clear Salesian identity.

The key objectives of the Advisory board are:

- Understand and support SMVS in the various contexts, provinces, and regions throughout the Salesian world
- Assist Mission Animation and Youth Ministry Delegates in any concerns about their volunteer program
- Provide continued professional development
- Facilitate the sharing of resources among volunteer programs
- Provide advice, guidance, and support to Provinces that would like to initiate a volunteer program or some form of SMV
- Listen to the needs of those responsible for volunteering and create appropriate responses to those needs
- Develop data that will increase the UpToDate knowledge of the volunteer program

Who is our audience:

- Delegates of Mission Animation - (PDMA/DIAM)
- Delegates of Youth Ministry
- Directors of Salesian Volunteer programs
- Anyone in need of direction and support who are creating or interested in Salesian volunteering programs



How can we help you and what do we need from you?

We are still in the process of defining who we are and what we want to do but we know that we want to be of service to Salesian Mission Volunteering. Your feedback, collaboration and contribution is essential. Our goal to be of service can only be achieved by ascertaining the genuine need at a grassroots level. We want to be guided by you. How can we support you? How can we collaborate with you? What are your needs?

For more information or to get in touch with the SMVS Advisory Board please email: salesianvol@sdb.org



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