



Volunteer pack

JAMAICA

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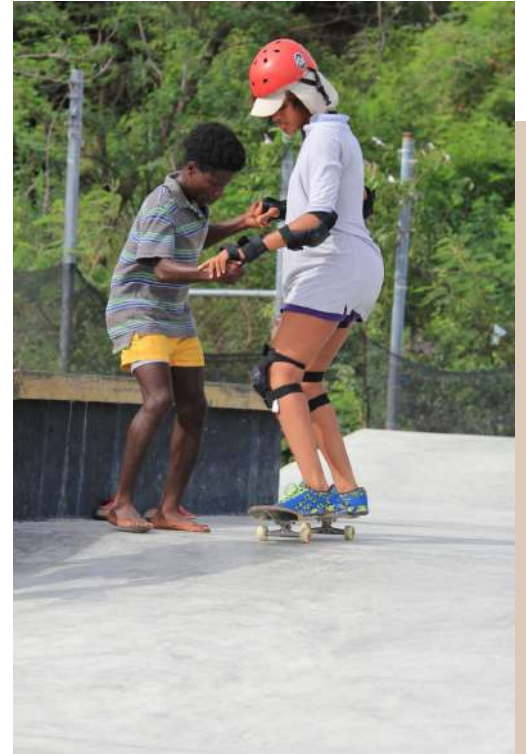
01 / Intro

Thanks for your interest in volunteering with us at our skateboarding project in Kingston, Jamaica!

Jamaica, and especially its capital, is one of the most vibrant but also violent places on earth. In fact, while boasting impressive music, arts and sport cultures, it also has one of the highest national homicide rates in the world. Providing Jamaican at-risk youth with a positive, constructive and healthy outlet to avoid getting tangled in such criminality and violence thus lies at the heart of this project.

Located just outside the Jamaican capital in 8 Mile Bull Bay, the 1300 sqm Freedom Skatepark was built over the course of 7 weeks in early 2020 by some 40 international and local volunteers. The build saw the first implementation of CJF's paid apprenticeship programme, which allowed 6 local skaters to shadow professional builders over the construction period while earning a living wage.

The Edu-Skate programme was implemented at the Freedom Skatepark following the Covid-19 restrictions in August 2020 and continues to work on using the skatepark as a safe space for community development and personal development for the local youth with the aid of local staff and international volunteers.



— 02 / Where do we work?

Bull Bay

Bull Bay is an area located on the coastline 7-10 miles east of Kingston with a population of around 13,000 people. With the ocean at its doorstep and the mountains in its back, life is a bit calmer and closer to nature in this community than the bustling city life in Kingston. Houses are more spread out, there are plenty of fishermen in the area, there are people who follow the Rastafarian beliefs and way of life and with Jamaica as a hub, reggae music and surfing have become a part of life in this community.

Life however, still comes with its challenges here: low skill levels and high levels of unemployment are reported, water supply is not always present and the area is not unfamiliar with the deployment of the army when a State Of Emergency is being placed to keep excessive violence rates at bay.

The area around the skatepark (8 Miles) is relatively safe compared to the more violent communities of 7 Miles and 9 Miles, and none of our volunteers have encountered any trouble in the area so far.



The Skatepark

In collaboration with Flipping Youth Inc., Seprod Foundation, Sandals Foundation, Tomorrow Today Festival and The Skateroom, CJF built the Freedom Skatepark in early 2020 over the course of 7 weeks. Being the first skatepark of the Kingston area, the Freedom Skatepark was designed to offer a large variety of obstacles and to facilitate both beginners as well as more advanced skaters. The result is a flowy, diverse and incredibly addictive skatepark engaging many of the local youths on a daily basis.



Partners

The Freedom Skatepark is managed by the Freedom Skatepark Foundation. This charity organisation consists of all organisations involved in the project, divided into two entities:

The Board.

The board looks for funding and makes sure the Freedom Skatepark stays true to its charitable purposes. In the Board of the Freedom Skatepark you find Seprod Foundation, Flipping Youth Inc., Tomorrow Today Festival and Concrete Jungle Foundation.

The Committee.

The committee is in charge of decisions regarding the day-to-day management of the skatepark. In the Freedom Skatepark Committee you find SK876, Paris Skate Culture and motivated individuals that have been working tirelessly to get the Freedom Skatepark realised.

03 / How do we work?

Vision.

Concrete Jungle Foundation (CJF) is an international non-profit organisation that uses skateboarding as a tool to stimulate positive personal and community development for underprivileged youth around the world.

Personal Development

Soft Skills.

We work on soft skills through our Edu-Skate Programme, which aims at transferring the life-skills you learn in skateboarding like perseverance, respect, courage and a supportive attitude, to life in general. The programme is based on the Self-Determination Theory, and aims at satisfying the 3 basic psychological needs of humans, which are defined as competence (being good at what you do), relatedness (a sense of belonging and feeling connected to your social environment) and autonomy (making your own choices). We believe that skateboarding is a perfect platform to satisfy all these needs, and therefore can contribute to someone's psychological well-being and life-quality. We focus on growing as a person through doing what you love.

Hard Skills.

The Planting Seeds programme provides paid apprenticeship placements and jobs for local youth at Concrete Jungle Foundation's project locations. Aimed at adolescents aged 16+, the programme focuses on providing hard skills in areas such as skatepark construction, filming/photography and editing, teaching, management, event planning, entrepreneurship and more.

Reports.

Find [here](#) the link to the most recent report on programming activities at the Freedom Skatepark.

Community Development

Soft Skills.

We believe a skatepark can be a powerful place that brings people together and stimulates positive socialisation. One of the biggest aims of the skateparks we build, is ensuring they are accessible, positive and safe spaces that nurture an engaged community to grow around it.

Hard Skills.

Every month we organise a Community Activity, to bring the community together and work on projects that need to be done around the park. These activities are aimed at stimulating a sense of ownership for the skatepark community, as well as providing opportunities to gain experience in the skills involved in these activities like carpentry, gardening and event management. Depending on volunteers and initiatives, we also organise workshops for the youth during the weekends and smaller community support jobs with similar aims.

04 / Volunteer structure

Our ongoing activities in Jamaica rely on the dedication and support of both local skaters as well as international volunteers. Keen to get involved on the ground?

CJF's aim is local sustainability: our work is centered around providing the support, skills and knowledge to the communities that we work with, so they can eventually run the projects themselves. As an international volunteer, you play a key role in this mission: you provide the support the local community needs to autonomously manage more and more aspects of the project and to develop the project further. Although you will be enjoying an exotic place and skateboarding-filled days, this volunteering opportunity comes with responsibilities and a focus on development of the project as well as yourself.

Project Volunteer.

 **Minimum commitment: 1 month**

We believe people thrive when they are well supported and can make their own choices in the areas they are passionate about. Besides providing you with on-the-ground and remote support, we want to make sure there is sufficient space for your own choices in our volunteering structure. As Project Volunteer at the Freedom Skatepark, you have 4 choices to make:

1 Your **Main Position** (time commitment: minimum 15 hours per week)

- Edu-Skater
- Film Maker
- Homie Worker
- Skatepark Management

2 Your **Support Project** (time commitment: 10 hours per week)

- Homie Worker
- Skatepark Management Assistant
- Environmental Sustainability
- Assistant Skateboard Teacher
- Film Maker
- Graphic Design/ Artwork

3 Your **Own Project** (time commitment: up to you)

This is your opportunity to contribute to the Freedom Skatepark in your own unique way. We require every volunteer to execute their own project to benefit the Freedom Skatepark during their volunteering time: this can be a training, a workshop, an event: whatever you want, it's completely up to you! If you already have an idea please include it in your application, if not: you can take 2 weeks at the project to figure out what kind of project you'd like to take on.

4 Your **Volunteering Time Commitment**



By providing this autonomy, we expect the following from our volunteers:

- You apply with relevant skill sets
- You are self-motivated, proactive in your work-ethics and take responsibility for the tasks you take on
- You report to your supervisor about your work and ask for feedback before implementing new ideas

General criteria for volunteering:

- You are at least 18 years of age
- We require you to provide us with a criminal background check since you'll be working with (vulnerable) children
- Travel insurance for the time period you will be volunteering in Jamaica

1 Main Positions

Choose here the workfield you're most interested in: you will spend most of your time at the Freedom Skatepark focussing your attention and efforts on this aspect of the project.

Edu-Skater

Has skateboarding helped you develop skills that helped you grow as a person? Hyped to teach local youth and spread the love further? Then this position is for you. As an Edu-Skater you organise skate classes with a focus on life-skills like perseverance, respect and creativity as part of the Edu-Skate programme. Classes run on weekdays for 1,5 hours with groups of up to 15 students. Your responsibilities involve lesson planning, teaching and evaluating with the local teacher team.

Film Maker

Are you well experienced in filming skateboarding and making skate videos? Are you interested in taking on a video project in Jamaica? Look no further, this position is for you! We expect a professional end product at the end of your volunteering time capturing the project. Besides your video project, you'll be sharing your knowledge and skills in filming skateboarding and editing video with our local Media Manager in a mini-traineeship.

Homie Worker

We don't want the skatepark to be an interference with the education of our homeboys and girls at the skatepark. Students attending public schools have a large disadvantage to private school students in Jamaica, with low academic achievement as a consequence. Our beneficiaries could benefit from some extra support in their education and for this reason we provide a homework-support programme at our Community Centre during the weekdays. This position can also include organising fun educational activities for the kids.

Skatepark Management

Our 2 local Skatepark Managers are in charge of managing the skatepark, but they can surely use your support as there is always something to do. Skatepark Management includes (but is not limited to) running the Get-on-Board rental programme and the skatepark shop, managing the skatepark schedule, supervising the park, keeping the skatepark clean, taking care of the greenery around the park and any other jobs that need to happen around the park. In this position you emerge yourself fully in the skatepark community: you get to know the daily visitors fast and become a key player in keeping the skatepark rolling.

2

Support Projects

Here you choose a project you would like to support besides your main responsibility at the project. The following projects always need support:

Homie Worker

We don't want the skatepark to be an interference with the education of our home boys and girls at the skatepark. Students attending public schools have a large disadvantage to private school students, with low academic achievement as a consequence. Our beneficiaries could benefit from some extra support in their education and for this reason we provide a homework-support programme at our Youth Centre during the weekdays. This position can also include organising fun educational activities for the kids.

Skatepark Management Assistant

Our 2 local Skatepark Managers are in charge of managing the skatepark, but they can surely use your support as there is always something to do. You will assist the Skatepark Managers in their work of running the Get-on-Board rental programme and the skatepark shop, managing the skatepark schedule, supervising the park, keeping the skatepark clean, taking care of the greenery around the park and any other jobs that need to happen around the park. In this position you emerge yourself fully in the skatepark community: you get to know the daily visitors fast and become a key player in keeping the skatepark rolling.

Environmental Sustainability

We wouldn't be Concrete Jungle Foundation without greenery at the park. The Freedom Skatepark has a lot of green spaces around it where we've planted fruit trees, vegetables and plants. These spaces need maintenance, so if you have green fingers, we can definitely use them! This project also includes working on the recycling capacity of the skatepark.

Assistant Skateboard Teacher

The Edu-Skaters are in charge of organizing the skate classes, but we can always use some extra assistance with executing the classes. As an assistant teacher you will immerse yourself in the Edu-Skate Programme and support students that have some more difficulty learning.

Amateur Film Maker

Are you excited about filming skateboarding and making skate videos? Are you interested in taking on a video project in Jamaica? You're not expected to deliver a professional end-product, but just your documentation and perspective of your time at the project.

Graphic design/Artwork

Although there are plenty of talented designers and artists involved in our community, we don't have someone to coordinate and manage all this potential. If you are excited about artwork around the skatepark and graphic design work for information posters, this is the side project for you!

3 Your Own Project

This is your opportunity to contribute to the Freedom Skatepark in your own unique way. We require every volunteer to execute their own project to benefit the Freedom Skatepark during their volunteering time: this can be building furniture for the Youth Centre, a workshop, an event: whatever you want, it's completely up to you! If you already have an idea please include it in your application, if not: you can take 2 weeks at the project to figure out what kind of project you'd like to take on.

Time commitment & volunteer contributions.

We want to make sure that our volunteers are safe and supported during their volunteering time at the project. We make sure that you have comfortable accommodation and are supported both on the ground as well as by our international team remotely.

To accommodate you and to sustain our work at the Freedom Skatepark, we ask the following volunteer contributions:



Minimum commitment: 1 month

You pay this fee within the first week you arrive, and every following month on the same day

Your contribution covers the following:

Housing.

You will have your own room at one of our homestay locations, all within 1 mile from the skatepark and the beach. You can find small shops and a few restaurants in the area (you can get dinner for around USD \$2,50), and taxis/ the bus to Harbour View (the closest town) and Kingston (USD \$0,70) stop anywhere on the easily accessible main road. We have wifi at the skatepark, and laundry options nearby.

Jamnesia Surfcamp is also within half a mile from the skatepark, but accommodation here comes with extra costs.

Coordination and support.

Our international team will walk you through the application process, and make sure you are prepared and informed before you head off to Jamaica. Most volunteers organise a fundraiser in their local scene before they leave to offset some of their contribution fee, if you're interested in this, we can support you here as well. When you're on the ground, there will always be a Project Manager to introduce you to the project and your work, and to support you throughout your volunteering time.

Donation to the Freedom Skatepark.

The Freedom Skatepark is a charity project. The costs to keep it running are far higher than the small income the park generates. We rely on donations to keep this project running, so part of your contribution will go directly into the Skatepark Budget to cover the daily expenses of the park.

05 / Jamaica

The Island.

The tropical island with around 3 million residents that is Jamaica has a huge tourism sector: in 2019 it had 4.3 million visitors, more than its own population! This is for a good reason: the island is beautiful and has a rich culture. Although you will not be staying in a very touristy area, it is definitely worth it to add an extra week or 2 to your journey to enjoy all of Jamaica's riches. Here are some ideas for weekend trips nearby:



Portland.

With its beautiful whitesanded beaches, rivers and lush greenery, Portland is a beautiful place to visit. There is also good surfing in Boston Bay, with the gnarly Boston Bay Skate & BMX Park not far away.



The Blue Mountain.

Not too far from Kingston sits Jamaica's highest mountain peak at 2,256 meters. You find the famous Blue Mountain Coffee freshly brewed here, and the hike up to the peak is beautiful: the cold fresh air is a nice change from the hot temperatures in and around the city. On a clear day, you can see Cuba from on top of the Blue Mountain.



Safety.

Kingston, Jamaica is a very dangerous place, with considerable gang violence and criminality, often connected to the drug trade. It is ranked as number 16 in a list of 50 of the most dangerous cities in the world, while Jamaica itself has the 3rd to 5th (depending on your source) highest homicide rate in the world. Please bear this in mind at all times.

While other areas including Spanish Town and some parts of Kingston are best avoided due to gang trouble, crimes against tourists have also dropped greatly, and the overwhelming majority of visitors enjoy their vacations without incident. That being said, most tourists stay at resorts. CJF's Development Director was robbed twice in the same day when visiting central Kingston alone in November 2019.

Here are some general tips for staying safe during your time in Kingston:

- Do not venture into Central Kingston or any other unfamiliar neighborhoods alone
- Carry as little cash as you need, preferably in a satchel around your waist or in your pants
- Wear low-key clothing
- Do not flash valuables (especially smartphones or jewelry)
- Only take licenced taxis

A note on drugs: Ganja (marijuana) is everywhere in Jamaica and you're almost certain to be approached by hustlers selling drugs. While ganja has been decriminalized, it is still illegal to smoke it in public. For this reason, and because our staff and volunteers serve as role-models in the community, smoking in the park is prohibited. Other drugs are strictly illegal and penalties are severe.

06 / Next steps

Next steps.

If you are excited and have determined you want to volunteer at the Freedom Skatepark, these are the following steps:

- 1** Fill out the application form
- 2** Call with CJF's Programmes Director to get to know each other and explore possibilities
- 3** Call with Jamaica's Project Manager to discuss practicalities and feasibility of projects
- 4** You got accepted! You apply for your criminal background check and confirm your volunteering projects and dates.
- 5** After we received your criminal background check you book your flights and arrange your travel insurance. We will provide you with the relevant information and preparation for your volunteering experience and you sign your confirmation letter + the CJF Code of Conduct.
- 6** *(optional)* You organise a fundraiser in your local skate scene to collect skate gear and to raise funds for the project and/or your volunteering experience.
- 7** You fly to Kingston, Jamaica and get your adventure started!

CONCRETE JUNGLE
foundation