Budgeting Tips

The GO Fellowship includes most of your expenses related to your volunteer service. The Committee would prefer to have as complete a budget as possible, so that we have a good idea where the money is going and what can be changed if necessary. Most budgets are limited to $4,000 so that we can fund the greatest number of students. The committee does take into account financial need, length of service, and other circumstances beyond your control. It is better to reflect the “real” amount you need than to skimp on the budget.

As you create your budget, some things you might want to include but are not limited to:

- **Program Fees**
  - These are usually on the organizations website

- **Airfare**
  - Check a website like [www.travelation.com](http://www.travelation.com) or [http://www.studentuniverse.com/](http://www.studentuniverse.com/) or [http://www.expedia.com/](http://www.expedia.com/) or one of the many out there
  - Add 10% to the cost of the flight you find (historically we have seen airfare go up as much as this

- **Visa Costs**
  - Do a Google search for “Country Name visa cost” This will probably return a link to their embassy where you can find out what type of visa you will need and how much it will be.
  - Factor in the cost of postage – sometimes as much as $20

- **Immunizations**
  - Check with the CDC [http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list) for what is required
  - You can then call the County Health Department to see how much they will cost
  - Generally it is runs from $100-$200 depending on which ones you have had before
  - Or, check with your family physician

- **Insurance**
  - Some programs include this, most require it
  - Sometimes your current insurance will cover your medical costs but you need to check
  - Check out [http://www.worldnomads.com/](http://www.worldnomads.com/) for reasonable prices on comprehensive insurance

- **Background Check**
  - If you are working with children some organizations require that you have a criminal background check. Check the organization. There are several out there, but here is one to look at: [http://www.intelius.com/](http://www.intelius.com/)

- **Other transportation costs**
  - Contact your organization to see what other costs might be

- **Estimation of food costs**
  - This can vary a lot depending on where you are going and is often included with your program fees

- **(Optional) Estimation of cost for supplies to give to organizations**
  - Can include books, school supplies, gifts for host families, etc.

- **(Optional) Other personal costs**

Keep in mind that the program with which you are working will be able to help you with what they cover and what they do not. A camera will be loaned to you if you don’t have one.

Please do not hesitate to contact Viki Reeder, [vreeder@austincollege.edu](mailto:vreeder@austincollege.edu) if you have any questions.