



MSAJ Volunteer Trip 2012 FAQ

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Note: A tentative [programme outline](#) is provided at the end of this FAQ. A Programme Booklet will be provided to all confirmed participants.

① Where will we be going?

We will be volunteering at Otsuchi Town of Kamihei District, Iwate Prefecture, for two days (6th and 7th October 2012).

② How much is the cost per participant? What does it cover & how much should I bring?

This trip will cost JPY 10,000 for MSAJ Members, and JPY 12,000 for Non MSAJ Members. It will cover transport, accommodation, food, disposables bought in bulk (masks and gloves only), and volunteer insurance (Disaster Plan B, 720yen per person, refer to Qs ⑨) for all participants. The volunteer insurance can be reused by participants for future volunteer trips until April 2013 at no further charges.

This project will be partially funded by MSAJ. Hence we are able to reduce the actual cost of JPY 20,000 to JPY 12,000 (Non Member) and JPY 10,000 (MSAJ member) respectively.

You should bring some extra pocket money for unforeseen personal expenditures such as drinks, snacks and souvenirs.

③ Why Otsuchi ?

Several members of MSAJ organizing committee have volunteered in Otsuchi previously. We think that there is still a lot of work to be done at Otsuchi and that we can lend a hand in the recovery process.



④ Where will we be staying?

As there is no place large enough to accommodate us near the disaster areas, we will be staying at Mars Kitakami, Kitakami City, Iwate Prefecture. Mars Kitakami is approximately 200 kilometres away (2 hours by bus) from the disaster areas and will not be affected by any tsunami. More details regarding Mars Kitakami can be found here: <http://www.mars-kitakami.com>

⑤ What kind of activities will we be doing?

All instructions will be given by the Otsuchi Town Volunteer Centre. We will most likely help clean up the beach at Kiri-Kiri District, as part of the Volunteer Centre's drive to restart tourism in the area.

More information can be found at <http://kaigo.nsyakyo.or.jp/otsuchi/?p=1264>

Please note that we may also help remove sludge from clogged drains in residential areas, and that the final decision with regards to the nature of our volunteer work lies with the Volunteer Centre.

⑥ Is the job physically demanding?

Rest assured that both ladies and gentlemen will be able to handle the work, and that MSAJ emphasizes safety above all else. We will split all participants into groups, and group members will assist each other in the course of activities. None of the participants will do anything beyond his or her physical limits. There will be enforced breaks every hour, and participants will take additional breaks at their own discretion.

⑦ What is the wet-weather programme?

In the event of inclement weather, the Volunteer Centre is likely to cancel all volunteer activities for the day. In that event, MSAJ will arrange for a bus tour of the disaster area. There may also be opportunities to speak with the locals. If time permits, we will visit some of the tourist spots near Otsuchi Town. We are in the process of finalizing the wet weather plans and this will be included in the Programme Booklet.

⑧ What are the safety measures in place in the event of an earthquake OR tsunami alert?

We will follow all instructions given by the Volunteer Centre. There will be a briefing given by Volunteer Centre staff prior to the start of activities regarding where to evacuate in case of an emergency. MSAJ organizing members have worked in the area before, and group leaders will work with the Volunteer Centre staff to guide participants to the nearest elevated evacuation area in case of an emergency.

⑨ What will happen in case of injury?

First aid will be provided for both MSAJ and the Volunteer Centre. If necessary, the injured will be evacuated to Otsuchi Town Hospital. Please also note that MSAJ will obtain Disaster Plan B Volunteer Insurance for all participants.

(Information on payouts can be found on Page 3 of the Fukushi Hoken Volunteer Insurance pamphlet at <http://www.fukushihoken.co.jp/pamphlet/volunteer.pdf>).



⑩ Do we need to buy any special equipment?

We will provide a full packing list on registration, but, with the exception of boots, no particularly 'special' equipment is needed. MSAJ will purchase gloves and masks in bulk, while the volunteer centre will provide shovels and other necessary equipment.

⑪ Should we worry about radiation?

As a point of reference, it is 306 kilometres along the coast from Futaba-cho (where the Fukushima Dai-Ichi Nuclear Reactor is) to Otsuchi Town. In comparison, it is 250 kilometres by road from Tokyo Station to Futaba-cho.



Relative Positions of Tokyo, Otsuchi, Kitakami (Accommodation) and Reactor



PROGRAMME OUTLINE

Please note that this is a tentative programme outline and a finalized programme will be included in the Programme Booklet, which will be disseminated to confirmed participants at a later time.

Date / Time	Activity	Remarks
5 th October (Fri)		
	Depart Tokyo for Otsuchi (Overnight bus)	Light meal (breakfast) will be prepared by MSAJ
6 th October (Sat)		
	Breakfast (in bus) Otsuchi Volunteer Centre Registration	
1000 hrs	Briefing by Volunteer Centre Staff	
1015 hrs	Commence work	
1200 hrs	Lunch (Bento provided)	
1300 hrs	Continue work	
1530 hrs	Finish work, return equipment	
1600 hrs	Head to Kitakami (Accommodation)	
1930 hrs	Dinner (provided)	
7 th October (Sun)		
0700 hrs	Leave for Otsuchi	
0930 hrs	Volunteer work	
1530 hrs	Finish work, return to Kitakami	
1900 hrs	Dinner	
2200 hrs	Depart from Kitakami for Tokyo (Overnight bus)	Schedule same as 6 th October with lunch provided as well
8 th October (Mon)		
	Arrive Tokyo Station (First train)	