

The Sponsored Student Programme

Welcome to the Foundation for the Education of Rural Children (FERC)



Your sponsorship money will help us make a big difference to the life of a student in Northern Thailand by helping him/her to stay on at school for an additional three years and to secure a better job in the future.

The 3-year sponsorship amount is 36,000 THB. But your support isn't just about money. The student you sponsor will know that someone is thinking about them and wanting to invest in their future. That's a very special feeling.

Getting the most from your sponsorship

This guide is designed to help you get the most from your sponsorship and to answer any questions that you may have. However, if there is anything else you would like to know, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Q & As

How will my sponsorship help?

Here in Thailand, basic education is free, but parents do have to pay some of the associated costs: uniform, extra books and stationery, transport, lunches etc. Many young people have to leave school at the age of 15 because their parents simply cannot afford to keep them at school for a further three years. This usually means that they lose the opportunity to go on to further education or undergo training for other forms of more rewarding employment.

Your sponsorship will enable a student to stay on at school and hopefully, go on to have a better quality of life in the future. A FERC scholarship changes lives, not only for this student but also, for their family and, often, their entire community. You can change a life.

How do I contribute my sponsorship money?

When you have committed with us to becoming a sponsor, your sponsorship money can be paid as an initial lump sum of 36,000 THB or 12,000 THB annually, and we will send you the necessary details. Regrettably, we cannot accept monthly payments because we do not have the human resources to monitor such an arrangement.

It can be paid in the following ways:

- A cheque payable to FERC if you are a Thai bank account holder
- A credit to our savings account via an ATM if you live in Thailand, or an international bank transfer if you live in another country
- A donation through [Give2Asia](#) (for US citizens/taxpayers only)

Please note: The sponsorship money is deemed to be a donation and is not therefore, refundable.

Is my contribution tax deductible?

- If you are you an individual or business with a Thailand Tax ID Number, your donations may be tax deductible. Please contact us for full details or go to <https://www.fercthailand.org/supporting-ferc/>
- If you are a US citizen and a taxpayer, your donation is tax deductible through our affiliation agreement with Give2Asia.

Can the cost of sponsorship rise?

If it is deemed necessary to increase the annual sponsorship figure, existing sponsors may continue to contribute at the existing rate for the full three years, or increase their contribution in line with the revised sponsorship figure, if they so wish.

How are students allocated?

The coordinator of the Sponsored Student Programme retains the right to decide upon the allocation of a student to the sponsor.

S/he does however, offer you the choice of a girl or a boy whenever possible.

What can I expect from my sponsorship?

If you are not able to attend the Award Ceremonies* you will receive a bi-annual report, updating you on the student's progress in school and their plans for the future (and a fresh photograph once a year only).

All sponsors also receive our biannual Newsletter that keeps them up to date on FERC activities.

Can I write to the student?

Yes, but we always ask the student to agree to this first and to allow us to release their contact details to the sponsor.

Note: Not every student has a telephone or internet at home, so written communication would have to be sent to the school.

Please keep letters or e-mails brief, warm and friendly. You might want to describe your family, work and hobbies, or how you celebrate special occasions. Please avoid politics and religion, and being too familiar. Some families may not welcome this.

We do not put pressure upon the student to write to their sponsor so we cannot guarantee that they will respond. We do encourage the student to write to you but some students are shy to write, especially if they are not confident in their English skills.

Note: We cannot guarantee the accuracy of the contact details in the medium to long-term. A student may change their contact details over the three years but forget to inform us.

Can I visit the student independently?

If you are resident in the Chiang Mai area, we invite you to attend the Award Ceremonies* and you will have the opportunity to meet with your student. We do not encourage individual contact outside of these events.

We do not release the home addresses of students to their sponsor.

Can I give presents to the student?

Our work benefits many students from different schools so you are welcome to bring a gift to the presentation ceremony that can be shared with the other students.

Will all my money be used to help the student that I am sponsoring?

Yes! All sponsorship money goes to providing scholarships. FERC operates with low administration costs (less than 4%) and these costs come from general funds and often donations by members of the Advisory Committee. The full amount of sponsorship money is awarded to the student in two instalments, one in May and one in November.

What if the student does not complete the full three years?

The FERC Board reserves the right to allocate any remaining funding to another student who has been approved by the Selection Committee.

Am I under any obligation?

The length of your commitment is up to you but a three-year commitment is most helpful to the student. If, for any reason, you decide to discontinue your sponsorship, just write and let us know. FERC will assume the financial responsibility for the completion of the student's scholarship.

How will I know about FERC events?

When you become a sponsor, you will be added to the Newsletter mailing list. If you do not wish to receive it, please let us know.

How can I leave a lasting legacy?

It is not possible to leave a gift in your Will to your sponsored student. You can, however, leave a gift to FERC and this will help us to continue our sponsorship program and support generations in the future. To ensure

that FERC is able to honor your wishes, the wording of your Will is important. Please seek legal advice on this matter.

Child Protection Policy

The ECPAT International Child Protection Policy guides the FERC Board. For more information please go to: www.ecpat.net

Ready to become a sponsor or need more information?

Please do send us an e-mail via our website: www.fercthailand.org or to our Chair at: chair@fercthailand.org

Our postal address is:

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27.04.2020