COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM

2019
Are you looking to support some of the world's most disadvantaged communities?
To work and learn alongside other volunteers with similar goals?
To have an unforgettably dynamic educational experience?

**EntreMundos invites you to participate in**

**The 2019 Guatemala Community Service Learning Experience**

Since 2001, EntreMundos has connected volunteers with Guatemalan organizations looking for support. We also offer **capacity-building training and IT courses**, as well as **small grants**, to local NGOs and community groups, and publish a free bi-monthly, bilingual magazine (in Spanish and English) about **development and human rights** issues.

Traveling with EntreMundos is unique because we are, first and foremost, a nonprofit organization dedicated to development and defense of human rights in Guatemala via our capacity-building programs and partnerships with over 700 local organizations already involved in this struggle. Our volunteer program is one small piece of our efforts to provide resources and channels through which Guatemalan organizations can expand, network, fortify, and progress. Thus, we offer volunteers a rare and special opportunity to integrate with and work alongside large and small organizations all over the country, in areas and projects that are off the beaten path of regular travelers.

**The Community Service-Learning Program**

**EntreMundos** carefully chooses partner organizations where volunteers can make a truly **meaningful and sustainable** impact in Guatemala while having a **life-changing educational experience**.

Our program is based on a balanced combination of participation in hands-on **community service work** and **educational cultural activities** to provide a profound understanding of Guatemala and its socio-economic and cultural context. We pride ourselves in our flexibility; and with our partnerships we are well-positioned to create a program that is community-driven, diverse, eye-opening and exhilarating. As an NGO committed to the projects with which we work, the proceeds from your trip go directly back into serving the organizations and communities of Guatemala.
Community Service Work
EntreMundos use our wide range of contacts to create an open-enrollment community service learning trip that provides a wide and integrated view of the important social, political, environmental work that local organizations are doing here in Guatemala.

Broadening Horizons: To increase participants’ understanding of a wide range of issues, groups can participate in various volunteer activities.

Service work for the trip will include:

- Promotion of public health and basic resource access in rural Guatemala via appropriate technology construction projects like improved wood-burning stoves and water filters.

- Promotion of environmental sustainability and organizational growth through participation in community training and installation of a solar energy system in a community building currently without electricity.

- Participation in a reforestation project to aid in combatting global warming, reestablishing natural water cycles, and promoting the health of the forest.

- Assisting in a local coffee cooperative, getting an in-depth look into the work of over half of the Guatemalan workforce and supporting small production farmers’ rights and free trade.

- Taking part in a painting or construction project with local youth to improve a school or other educational project.
Cultural Learning

Despite Guatemala’s tremendously complex social issues, it also has amazing cultural traditions and a fascinating history.

EntreMundos arranges educational and cultural activities via local initiatives to enrich the educational perspectives gained through community service, all while supporting Guatemalan enterprises. These provide participants with a deeper understanding of the context and challenges within which they are working, as well as a lot of fun!

EntreMundos organizes activities that compliment the group’s community service, educational and recreational objectives.

Activities are varied, and can include:

- Exploring themes connected to the history and culture of Guatemala through an educational talk from a Guatemalan journalist
- Taking in the local sights and smells through a walking tour of a local market
- Witnessing a traditional Mayan ceremony
- Making traditional Quetzalteco chocolate
- Visiting a Collective Coffee Finca to learn about the growing process
- Participating in an educational conference or workshop
- Learning the region’s famous moves with a salsa dancing class
- Enjoying a Guatemalan cooking class to make a traditional dish
- Participating in a weaving lesson using a backstrap loom
- Visiting the local volcanic hot springs
- Hiking to a sacred crater lake, or up a volcano
- Enjoying a day of relaxation at Lago Atitlán, or the historic sights of Antigua

An exploration of the problems faced by Guatemalans today would not be complete without experiencing the riches of its cultural traditions.
Cost

As a registered Guatemalan non-profit NGO, EntreMundos’ priority is the maximum benefit for the community at minimal cost for volunteers.

The donation cost for the Community Service-Learning Program reflects the cost of all activities in the chosen itinerary. EntreMundos typically asks an all-inclusive donation of US$50—US$95 per participant, per day.

What does this donation include?

- Pre-departure support, information and resources from EntreMundos staff
- Two bilingual guides with extensive knowledge to accompany and translate during all the group’s activities
- All in-country group transportation in a private vehicle, plus the accompaniment of the EntreMundos vehicle to all project sites.
- Comfortable accommodation (hostel, homestay, or community accommodation according to project site locations)
- Three hygienically-prepared meals a day, including non-alcoholic drinks (in hostel, packed for project sites, or in restaurants), as well as snacks.
- All costs associated with community service work (materials/paint/tree saplings etc.)
- A donation to each of the host projects to help support their investment and work.
- All costs associated with cultural learning activities and visits
- All gratuities for food and transportation services.
- A donation to EntreMundos, ensuring that we can continue our projects supporting hundreds of local organizations and projects working for positive social change.

Not included in the program donation:

- International flights to and from Guatemala
- Health/travel insurance and medical expenses (we require that volunteers are adequately covered for these expenses)
- Personal spending money
- Fees associated with bank transfers to EntreMundos

Contact Details

For more information please contact the Volunteer Programs Coordinator at volunteering@entremundos.org or at (502) 7761-2179. (502) 3338-0184

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