



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2011

Name of the organization	Availability	Full - Part time	Activities available	Location	Requirements			
					Age	Min. Time	Spanish level	Experience
National Parks***	All year	Full time	-volunteers live with park rangers in ranger stations and help them in activities such as; orienting the tourists, maintaining trails and buildings, information signs, protecting wildlife, office work and surveys.	Most national parks in Costa Rica	15+	2 weeks	Low / Intern.	No
National Parks. Turtle Projects: Pacific Coast & Mata Palo (Lora Turtle)	From June to Dec.	Full time	-volunteers live with park rangers in ranger stations and help them to increase the amount of sea turtle hatchlings to give higher survival possibilities to these beautiful reptiles.	Pacific Coast	15+	2 weeks	Low / Intern.	No
National Parks. Turtle Projects: Buena Vista - Sámara (4 species of turtles: Baula, Lora, Carey & Verde from the Pacific Coast)	All year, except April	Full time	-volunteers live with park rangers in ranger stations and help them to increase the amount of sea turtle hatchlings to give higher survival possibilities to these beautiful reptiles.	Pacific Coast	15+	2 weeks	Low / Intern.	No
National Parks. Turtle Projects: Barra del Pacuare Caribbean Coast (Baula & Verde Turtles)	From March to July.	Full time	-volunteers live with park rangers in ranger stations and help them to increase the amount of sea turtle hatchlings to give higher survival possibilities to these beautiful reptiles.	Caribbean Coast	15+	2 weeks	Low / Intern.	No
National Park Manuel Antonio	All year	Full time	-volunteers live with park rangers in ranger stations and help them in activities such as; orienting the tourists, maintaining trails and buildings, information signs, protecting wildlife, office work and surveys.	Manuel Antonio Pacific ocean	15+	2 weeks	Low / Intern.	No



					Age	Min. Time	Spanish level	Experience
ASCOMOTI	All year	Full/part	-Protects the titi monkey: the work consists of planting trees. Only for groups of students (not individuals). -Students become aware of the importance of environmental conservation.	Manuel Antonio	17+	3 weeks	basic	No
CEPPA **** Peace Foundation	All year (If it is teaching English All year, except Nov to Feb.& July)	Full/part	-helping the Foundation in so many different things. Teaching English, translations, kids self-esteem, etc. -women rights and self-esteem problems.	San José	18+	3 weeks	Interm. or advanced	No
San José Zoo	All year	Full/part	-taking care of the zoo animals and helping the personnel with administrative activities. -They have special projects to work with, that is why the volunteers can reserve this volunteering just with two months in advanced (Maximum)	San José	18+	3 weeks	Interm.	Must be Veterinarian
Asomufacq Women Association who run a Restaurant	All year	Part	-Volunteers can work as a Kitchen assistant, helping cooking, as well as waiter or waitress.	Manuel Antonio	17+	2 weeks	Intermediate	No



Name of the organization	Availability	Full - Part time	Activities available	Location	Requirements			
					Age	Min. Time	Spanish level	Experience
**Habitat for Humanity	Depends on the Project	Full	Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry. HFHI seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world. Volunteers need to have a strong working knowledge of Spanish, have strong interpersonal and organizational skills, have the ability to cover their own expenses (transport, food, etc.); Be open to living and serving in a different culture. Also HFH offers some work (usually for Engineers) in the office.	- San José - Alajuela Centro - San Ramón	18+	6 weeks	Intern. or advanced	Will be better but it is not necessary
National Museum	All year	Full/ part	National Museum of Costa Rica it is a non-profit public institution, assigned to the Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sports. Its current organizational structure is formed by the Board of Directors and the General Direction as coordinators, and five departments which are in charge of different functions and responsibilities. Volunteers can work on Anthropology & Archaeology, Natural History, National Herbarium & History	San José	18+	4 weeks	High Intern. or advanced	Will be better but it is not necessary



***Agroecological Farm "La Gran Vista"	All year	Full time	-volunteers live with park rangers in ranger stations and help them in activities such as: Organic farming, soil regeneration and conservation, natural herbicides & pesticides and enhancement of the natural environment.	Pérez Zeledón	18+	1 week	Basic	No
Primary Schools schools	All year, except Nov to Feb.& July	Full/ part	-helping students with English classes in addition to recreational and educational activities.	San José	18+	3 weeks	basic	Yes
Hellen Keller Organization	All year, except Nov to Feb.& July	Full/ part	-working with deaf and blind people, both adults and children. -volunteers help in their education by reading or recording books, and participating in recreational activities	San José	18+	3 weeks	High Interm.	No
Private Day Care & Pre-Kinder	All year, Except December	Full/ part	-helping children from 4 months to 4 years old with English classes in addition to recreational and educational activities.	San José	18+	2 weeks	High Interm. Better Advanced	No
Pre-Kinder & Kindergarten	All year, except Nov to Feb.& July	Full/ part	-helping children from 1 to 4 years old with English classes in addition to recreational and educational activities. - Also this Institution offers administrative working.	San José	18+	2 weeks	High Interm. Better Advanced	No
Orphanage	All year	Part Time	-helping in educational and recreational activities that build the children's self-esteem; some of these children are waiting to be adopted and some might return to their parent's home depending upon the situation.	San José	18+	1 week	High Interm. Better Advanced	No
Elderly Home	All year	Part	-Volunteers help by reading books, playing bingo, painting and participating in recreational activities.	San José & Manuel Antonio	15+	3 weeks	Interm. or advanced	No
Roberta Felix Foundation	All year	Full/ part	-Organization to support poor handicapped people. -Fundraising activities.	Manuel Antonio	18+	3 weeks	Interm.	No



Name of the organization	Availability	Full - Part time	Activities available	Location	Requirements			
					Age	Min. Time	Spanish level	Experience
Hogar Nuestra Señora de la Esperanza	All year	Full/ part	This non-profit organization offers integral attention and medical services, funded by the Costa Rican Social Security System, to persons suffering from HIV-AIDS who have been abandoned and/or have serious financial problems. Volunteers may help with daily routine work and must be very sensitive to the patients' condition. They may also share and participate in group activities or converse with the residents in an effort to create a healthy and friendly environment.	Cartago	18+	1 week	Interm. or advanced	Will be better but it is not necessary
Alianza por tus Derechos	All year, except Nov to Feb. & July	Full/ part	Alianza is a non profit organization located in San Jose that works against the violation of the rights of minors. Depending on the background of the students, they can be involved in counseling, preparation and presentation of cases, translation of laws only rewritten in English, help with workshops, etc.	San José and another areas from the Central Valley	18+	2 weeks	Interm. or advanced	Will be better but it is not necessary



Name of the organization	Availability	Full - Part time	Activities available	Location	Requirements			
					Age	Min. Time	Spanish level	Experience
CEPIA Organization (the organization help the volunteers to look for accommodations)	All year Except December and January	Full/part	The main problems for youth in Guanacaste are: teenage pregnancy, domestic violence, drug abuse, unemployment, and the lack of counseling, prevention and health promotion. The organization CEPIA offers these children and teenagers better opportunities through free cultural and educational activities, nutritional and psychological support as well as through collaborations with local schools and many organizations and public institutions. CEPIA implements educational initiatives such as computer classes, English classes and professional trainings.	Guanacaste North Pacific	18+	2 months	High	You must be: Teacher Teacher assistants' Social Workers Psychologists People with creative minds
*****ANDAR Association	All year	Full	It is a center for training and transfer of technology of Medicinal Plants, Biodiversity and Renewable Energy of the goal of improving the quality of life of families in Guápiles with special focus on female-headed households.	Limón The Caribe	18+	1 week	Interm. or advanced	No
***Development of Environmental and Human Consciousness "La Flor Farm"	All year	Full time	-volunteers live with park rangers in ranger stations and help them in activities such as: Organic agriculture, Botanical garden and forest, Domestic animals, Medicinal plants, Construction, Arts & Crafts, Community work, Environmental Education	Cartago	18+	1 week	Basic	No



Name of the organization	Availability	Full - Part time	Activities available	Location	Requirements			
					Age	Min. Time	Spanish level	Experience
ACAI	All year	Full/ part	Association of International Advisors – ACAI is the Implementing Agency for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – ACNUR. ACAI develops interdisciplinary activities and programs (legal, social, small credit) to ensure the protection of the migrant population currently requesting a refugee status.	San José	18+	2 weeks	Interm. or advanced	Will be better but it is not necessary
FECON Federación costarricense para la protección del medio ambiente	All year	Full/ part	The Costa Rican Federation for the preservation of the Environment conforms a group of Costa Rican organizations that take actions in the field of advocacy, protection and recovery of the environment, thus procuring improvement and equity on living conditions for all. This is the only existing network in the Central American region.	San José and another areas from the Central Valley	18+	1 week	Interm. or advanced	Yes
Fundación Mujer	All year	Full/ part	It is a foundation which helps people – both women and men - to start their micro- and small entities / companies. They have very interesting projects. Their focus includes different areas, such as management, accounting, marketing, costs and incomes, market analysis, etc.	San José and another areas from the Central Valley	18+	1 week	Interm. or advanced	Will be better but it is not necessary
Organization: “Un techo para mi país “	Depends on the Project	Full	Un Techo para mi País (UTPMP) is a Latin American Non Government Organization (NGO), created and led by university students and young professionals from different countries in the continent who share a common goal: Break the poverty cycle that affects more than 200 million people the region. We work together with the continent’s most marginalized people, improving their quality of life through the construction of affordable, transitional houses and civic training programs; including education, employment, health, legal and cultural activities. We seek a better quality of life for the millions of families who live in extreme poverty throughout Latin America.	Country side areas	From 18 through 29 years old	1 week	Interm. or advanced	No



Name of the organization	Availability	Full - Part time	Activities available	Location	Requirements			
					Age	Min. Time	Spanish level	Experience
Museum and Shop of crafts of Costa Rican indigenous communities "Chietóñ Moréñ"	All year	Full/ part	This museum and craft shop Chietóñ Moréñ, is a project of the Catholic Church, where they help the indigenous communities of Costa Rica to sell the products they make. The store sells crafts from 13 indigenous communities. Volunteers help at the store to sell products and share time with the indigenous. Volunteers can also teach the indigenous to make crafts.	Down town San José	18+	2 weeks	Interm. or advanced	NO
Obras del Espiritu Santo They work to prevent crime, drugs, aggression and other social problems Our income comes from the voluntary donations of foreign and Catholic Church. They offer formal education (supervised by the Ministry of Public Education)	All year	Full/ part	They are a humanitarian aid NGO, declared to be of public benefit All their students receive a daily lunch and have access to free dental care. The formation of Christian and moral principles is our key strength that leads to change in the community. They make no distinction among our students because of their religion, political beliefs or nationality. They are an NGO recognized by the Costa Rican government. Volunteers can work in: 1. Formal education approved by the Ministry of Education, covering pre-school through high school. 2. Daily feeding program for all students 3. Dental and general health care for all students 4. Permanent counseling for students and parents 5. Occasional material aid for the most needy families	San José	18+	3 weeks	Interm.	No



*** IMPORTANT NOTE: VOLUNTEER WORK IS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND INTERNAL POLICY CHANGES INSIDE OF EACH OF THE ORGANIZATIONS.**

*** IT IS IMPORTANT THAT VOLUNTEERS HAVE INSURANCE ARRANGED IN THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN SO THAT IT COVERS AN EMERGENCY THAT MIGHT OCCUR DURING THEIR VOLUNTEER WORK.**

WE ALSO NEED A CV FOR ALL KINDS OF VOLUNTEER WORK EXCEPT VOLUNTEER WORK IN NATIONAL PARKS. FOR VOLUNTEER WORK IN NATIONAL PARKS WE NEED AN APPLICATION FORM FILLED OUT PRIOR TO THE PARTICIPANT'S ARRIVAL.

****For Habitat for humanity, the volunteers do not work just building houses, they also make administrative working some times. Volunteers have to make a \$300 minimum donation to Habitat Costa Rica.**

Volunteer placement fee is \$120 if you take Spanish classes; if you participate only in volunteer work, the placement fee is \$220.

***** For National Parks the Volunteer has to pay an inscription of \$35 and \$174 per week, this includes the accommodations (very rustic) at the Park and the meals.**

****** For CEPPA volunteers have to pay an inscription \$40**

*******For ANDAR volunteers have to pay \$27.50 per day. This includes the accommodations in homestay and the three meals.**

Accommodations with host family in San José: 1 week: \$155; 2 weeks: \$270; 3 weeks: \$410; 4 weeks: \$535; additional: \$130.



VISAS TO ENTER AND TO STAY IN COSTA RICA

Students from most European countries, the USA, Canada & Japan receive a tourist visa for 90 days when they arrive in Costa Rica. For some countries the visa is for 30 days.

For updated information about visas go to the web site of the Costa Rican immigration office: <http://www.migracion.go.cr>

If students want to stay longer they need to get a delinquency certification (from their country of origin) stating that they have not had any police record. That certification must be certified by the consulate of CR in the country of origin and applicants must pay \$40 for that (price might change without previous notice).

Once in the country foreigners can apply for a Visa. It costs \$300 (for three months, price might change without previous notice) to get the paper work done. This includes a fee for a lawyer.

They will also need a contract from the organization which is providing the volunteer opportunity or the internship. COSI helps with this.

In order to avoid that process some students (who stay longer than the provided visa) leave to another country and when they come back they get another visa for the same length of time they got the visa the first time.