



Costa Rica Orphanages

The orphanages that are available for volunteers to assist at are spread throughout this beautiful country. The locations include, Ciudad Quesada, San Francisco, Centros and Guapiles. Lying about an hour north of the capital city, San Jose, the orphanage at Ciudad Quesada lies in the lush Central Valley of Alajuela. Untouched by tourism, this small city lies on a fertile plain that provides a rustic and natural environment for the children to live and learn in. A bastion of natural parks and reserves, Cartago is home to the Central Volcanic Range and many rivers on which visitors and locals alike enjoy rafting on. The orphanage is located in the city itself, providing a more urban setting just minutes away from nature. The central city of San Francisco is also an available location for potential participants. All of these places will provide a wonderful opportunity to mentor Costa Rica's children in need.

Volunteer responsibilities are similar at all locations. The basic expectations are that the participant will assist in playing with, feeding, watching and taking care of the children at the orphanage. Some basic education (colors, shapes, numbers, etc) is appreciated as well. Volunteers at the San Francisco orphanage will have the opportunity to tutor the children in conversational English, grammar, science and mathematics after school. Additionally, volunteers with musical and computer skills are needed to help instruct the children in these areas. Coming up with creative projects and techniques to help educate children with special needs is another task where assistance is needed.

Each orphanage holds around 15-20 children at a time and provides them with a place to sleep and meals. Volunteers will supervise day to day tasks as well as occasionally take the children on trips to the park and other places in the area for recreation.

The ideal volunteer has a patient and nurturing attitude towards children. It is always recommended that a volunteer be a self-starter who is comfortable with a flexible schedule and can work with minimal supervision. Above all, a volunteer should be a responsible and caring individual with a desire to help educate and mentor children. Volunteers should be eighteen and older, and while a working knowledge of Spanish is not mandatory, it is helpful for all parties.

Volunteers will live with host families specially selected for this program nearby the orphanage. Participants will share common areas and possibly rooms depending on the season and family. The bathroom is shared, and all homes have running water and hot showers. Families will provide all linen, however volunteers have to take care of their own laundry (washing machines are available). You will also be responsible for cleaning up after yourself and assisting during meal times.

Included

- Transportation service from airport to home
- Housing
- Meals (except at the hostel)
- Two nights at a local hostel in San Jose upon arrival
- Orientation and information
- 24/7 assistance
- Medical Insurance

Not Included

- Internet
- Phone Calls
- Money for personal expenses
- Meals outside of regular 3 meals per day while at the homestay
- Local transportation

Items to Bring

- First Aid Kit
- Mosquito repellent
- Polar Jacket
- Long and short sleeve shirts
- Sunblock
- Cotton pants
- Hat
- Toiletries
- Camera