

2009 AMIGOS Latin American Projects
For more detailed and updated project descriptions, visit www.amigoslink.org
(Note: All projects are subject to change.)

Overarching Goal for all AMIGOS Projects:

To build leadership and life skills of youth in the Americas through cultural exchange, civic engagement, and collaborative community development

General Objectives for all AMIGOS Projects:

- 1) increase active youth involvement in community service
- 2) increase knowledge and awareness of cultural, environmental, and health issues
- 3) collaborate with community members on Community-Based Initiative (CBI) process

Project Area and Dates	Special Project Theme and Partner Agencies in Latin America	Number of Volunteers	Activities	Special Considerations
MEXICO				
Guanajuato <i>6 weeks</i> <i>June 24 – August 5</i>	Community Health Secretariat of Health of Guanajuato (SSG)	55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate educational activities on community health with children 5-12 years of age in a class room setting 2 to 3 times a week (topics such as nutrition, personal hygiene, fitness, dental care). • Collaborate with outside experts (mainly SSG health workers) to give workshops on various health topics. • Collaborate with community members on the planning and implementation of a CBI. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The food is flavorful and spicy! Be prepared to eat cacti! • The climate is arid, with temperatures fluctuating from the low 60s to the low 90s. • Guanajuato is in the heart of Mexico and is the seat of the Mexican Revolution!
Michoacán <i>7 weeks</i> <i>June 24 – August 12</i>	Environmental Health Desarrollo Integral de la Familia (DIF) Michoacán Secretariat of Health of Michoacan (SSM)	55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate activities on environmental education and preservation (topics such as reforestation and recycling). • Make a presentation at the annual Environmental Fair with local youth. • Some communities will work on a nutrition project, educating local community members about the native grain of amaranth – including planting and cooking demonstrations and the benefits of community/family gardens. • Collaborate with community members on the planning and implementation of a CBI. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be prepared to work with lots of women and children and talk a lot about Mexico/ U.S. relations. • Michoacán has the highest rate of immigration to the United States out of all the states in Mexico. • The climate is arid, with temperatures fluctuating from the low 60s to the low 90s. • The food is delicious, made with lots of flavor and spice!

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Oaxaca <i>8 weeks</i> <i>June 17 – August 12</i>	Community Nutrition Puente a la Salud Comunitaria Un Kilo de Ayuda	45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with women’s groups on nutrition issues: educate community members about the native grain of amaranth – including planting and cooking demonstrations and the benefits of community/family gardens. • Collaborate with youth to conduct workshops about amaranth and general nutrition to younger children. • Collaborate with community members on the planning and implementation of a CBI. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high level of conversational Spanish is required. • Volunteers who are young adults, have more life experience, and an interest in nutrition and women’s groups are preferred for this project. • Complex community structure, with a consensus-based government. • Oaxaca is famous for its delicious mole dishes! • It is hot in the valley, but cooler in the mountainous regions. • We work in a lot of artisan communities that are influenced by the indigenous population.
Oaxaca <i>8 weeks</i> <i>June 17 – August 12</i>	Digital Culture Instituto Estatal de Educación Pública de Oaxaca (IEEPO)	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion and preservation of local culture through the use of digital cameras, video cameras, web sites, blogs, etc. • Train youth on basic computer skills, introduction to the internet and how to operate digital cameras. • Collaborate with community members on the planning and implementation of a CBI. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high level of conversational Spanish is required. • Volunteers who are young adults, have more life experience, and an interest in technology are preferred for this project. • Complex community structure, with a consensus-based government. • Knowledge of basic technologies is required. • Oaxaca is famous for its delicious mole dishes! • It is hot in the valley, but cooler in the mountainous regions. • We work in a lot of artisan communities that are influenced by the indigenous population.
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC				
Azua <i>8 weeks</i> <i>June 17 – August 12</i>	Physical Education Plan – Dominican Republic	55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote leadership skills, team building, and youth empowerment through sports. • In collaboration with older youth, run summer camps for 5 – 12 year old children with a focus on physical education, trash clean-up, children’s rights, and environmental and health education themes. • Collaborate with community members on the planning and implementation of a CBI. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in working with large groups of youth in a camp setting • Enthusiasm about organizing fundraising events for community projects. • Hot and humid climate. • Larger communities that are semi urban. • Dominican volunteers actively work with AMIGOS Volunteers the entire summer. • Dominicans are a lively group of people, and they absolutely love to dance!

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HONDURAS				
La Paz <i>6 weeks</i> <i>July 1 – August 12</i>	Environmental Health Plan-Honduras	55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate educational activities 3 times a week with youth counterparts for 5 – 12 year old children. • Educational activities will involve different presentation methods such as physical education, art, and leadership and team building activities, with an emphasis placed on environmental health. • Work will be both in schools and through <i>campamentos</i> (summer camps). • Plan and implement a CBI in collaboration with Plan-Honduras youth group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountainous geography (thus may be strenuous walking around some communities). • Communities are rural and less likely to have electricity or indoor plumbing. • Climate is often warm during the day, but cold at night. • It often rains in the afternoons. • Prepare to eat rice, beans, corn tortillas and eggs.
Lempira <i>6 weeks</i> <i>July 1 – August 12</i>	Cultural Expression Plan-Honduras	55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with Plan-Honduras community youth counterparts to prepare presentation for large youth fair, with themes selected by youth at beginning of project (past themes include recycling and local culture). • Facilitate educational activities 3 times a week with youth counterparts for 5 – 12 year old children. (themes include environment, physical education, art, dental hygiene, leadership and team building). • Plan and implement a CBI with Plan-Honduras youth group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountainous geography (thus may be strenuous walking around some communities). • Communities are rural and less likely to have electricity or indoor plumbing. • Climate is often warm during the day, but cold at night. • It often rains in the afternoons. • Prepare to eat rice, beans, corn tortillas and eggs.
NICARAGUA				
Chontales/Boaco <i>6 weeks</i> <i>June 17 – July 29</i>	Communication and Creative Expression Plan-Nicaragua	55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build communication skills with youth by working with art and media (e.g. radio, video, murals) and on social action projects (e.g. fundraising, child rights, student governments). • Facilitate educational workshops for 5 – 12 year old children using creative expression to cover topics related to health (e.g. hygiene, dental health, disease cycle) and the environment (e.g. deforestation, trash collection, gardening). • Partner with Plan’s volunteer collaborators and community development committees to facilitate the CBI process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed large/semi-urban communities with more rural communities. • Communities are located in the foothills of mountains. • Climate is hot, humid and rainy. • Chontales is known for its cattle ranches and dairy production – prepare to eat a lot of cheese!

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Granada/Rivas <i>8 weeks</i> <i>June 10 – August 5</i>	Community Health Ministry of Health Ministry of Education	55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support local health center activities 2-3 days a week by providing health information to patients (kids and adults) or assisting nurses with administrative duties. • Facilitate educational activities for 5 – 12 year old children, 2-3 days a week at schools, focusing on preventive health (e.g. personal hygiene, dental hygiene, malaria) and environmental issues (water cycle, trash pick-up, deforestation). • Collaborate with youth counterparts or health volunteers (<i>brigadistas</i>) to implement CBIs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primarily rural communities with flat landscape • Climate is hot, humid and rainy. • Local diet consists of rice and beans. • Nicaragua, particularly this region of the country, is known for its lakes and volcanoes. Both the departments of Granada and Rivas border Lake Nicaragua.
PANAMÁ				
Coclé <i>6 weeks</i> <i>June 17 – July 29</i>	Environmental Health Ministry of Health Panama Verde	55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate extracurricular classes for 5 – 12 year old children, 3-5 times a week, focusing on health (e.g. dental hygiene, nutrition) and the environment (e.g. trash, pollution, nature appreciation). • Collaborate with youth leaders to organize a presentation for the project-wide Youth Festival. • Work with youth leaders and/or other community groups to plan and implement a CBI. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities tend to be rural and mountainous. • Hot, humid and rainy climate during the day. • Communities in the mountains may be cooler at night (60s). • Local diet consists of rice, lentils, and the typical dish <i>sancocho</i> (chicken and vegetable stew). • The department of Coclé is known for its <i>artesanía</i>, and many AMIGOS communities make and sell artisan goods.
Herrera/Los Santos <i>8 weeks</i> <i>June 10 – August 5</i>	Physical Education Ministry of Social Development (MIDES) Panama Verde	55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote leadership skills, team building, and youth empowerment through sports. • Facilitate extracurricular classes for 5 – 12 year old children, 3-5 times a week, focusing on health (e.g. nutrition, physical education) and the environment (e.g. conservation, pollution). • Work alongside MIDES volunteers to promote civic engagement and volunteerism in the community. • Work with youth leaders and/or other community groups to plan and implement a CBI. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mix of rural and semi-urban communities. • Geography is a mix of hilly and flat land. • Hot, humid, and rainy climate. • Local diet consists of rice, lentils, and the typical dish <i>sancocho</i> (chicken and vegetable stew).

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PARAGUAY				
Paraguari <i>8 weeks</i> <i>June 17 – August 12</i>	Household Sanitation Ministry of Health (SENASA)	28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build 15-20 family latrines in each community. • Facilitate educational activities on latrine maintenance with families using curriculum developed by SENASA. • Facilitate educational activities with youth counterparts for 5 – 12 year old children (topics include nutrition, cultural exchange, recycling, and dental hygiene). • Plan and implement CBI with youth counterparts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's wintertime and climate can be cold (ranges from 30s to 90s). • Communities are rural and require a great deal of walking. • Meat and yucca are big parts of the daily diet, along with yerba maté (a traditional herbal tea). • Volunteers will be working with communities where the native language is Guaraní, though Spanish is also spoken to varying degrees. • Some Volunteers may be partnered for 10 days with youth from the Junior Achievement program in Paraguay.
Paraguari <i>8 weeks</i> <i>June 17 – August 12</i>	Environmental Health Plan-Paraguay	27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate educational activities 3 times a week with youth counterparts for 5 – 12 year old children (topics include nutrition, cultural exchange, physical education, and dental hygiene). Special emphasis will be placed on environmental health issues. • Run 2-week long day camp for children during the Paraguayan winter break. • Plan and implement a CBI with Plan-Paraguay youth groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's wintertime and climate can be cold (ranges from 30s to 90s). • Communities are rural and require a great deal of walking. • Meat and yucca are big parts of the daily diet, along with yerba maté (a traditional herbal tea). • Volunteers will be working with communities where the native language is Guaraní, though Spanish is also spoken to varying degrees. • Some Volunteers may be partnered for 10 days with youth from the Junior Achievement program in Paraguay.

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San Pedro <i>6 weeks</i> <i>July 1 – August 12</i>	Reforestation and Nutrition Plan-Paraguay	55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build 8-10 fuel-efficient stoves in each community. • Facilitate educational activities with youth counterparts on nutrition, reforestation, and benefits of stoves. • Participate in reforestation initiatives, including both tree-planting and educational activities. • Plan and implement smaller CBI with youth counterparts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's wintertime and climate can be cold (ranges from 30s to 90s). • Communities are rural and require a great deal of walking. • Meat and yucca are big parts of the daily diet, along with yerba maté (a traditional herbal tea). • Volunteers will be working with communities where the native language is Guaraní, though Spanish is also spoken to varying degrees. • Some Volunteers may be partnered for 10 days with youth from the Junior Achievement program in Paraguay.
TO BE ANNOUNCED				
TBA <i>5 weeks</i> <i>July 1 – August 5</i>	Community Health	40		