

Group Volunteer Programs



2025

VOLUNTEER. TRAVEL. LEARN.

About Asociación CREAR



Asociación CREAR is a non-profit organization that offers a wide variety of supplemental educational programs to the youth and community members of Playa Sámara, El Torito, and the surrounding communities.

CREAR's mission is to provide free, high-quality, supplementary educational opportunities for the youth of Playa Samara and El Torito while serving as a space for mutual cultural enrichment between its students and volunteers.

Why Partner with Us?

CREAR is reaching out to group volunteer and travel organizations in order to build lasting relationships which will help our association accomplish meaningful community projects. This booklet will give you a brief description of the types of volunteer projects we facilitate with groups, the logistical planning we offer, and the many group activities we can arrange. We have successfully hosted a multitude of groups and have organized and carried out many inspiring projects.

CREAR has a very strong relationship with community institutions in Sámara and we are consistently updated on projects and activities that are going on. We also have a wonderful local advisory board that keeps us in-tune with the community's needs. This will assure your group an authentic and genuinely helpful volunteer experience. One of the distinctive benefits of working with CREAR is the flexibility with project planning combined with unique activities and opportunities.

CREAR maintains a long list of projects and needs within the community. When we initiate a relationship with a volunteer group we are able to work with the group coordinators in determining the best project for their group. By creating projects based on the group's demographics, such as age, size, and expertise, we are able to construct volunteer opportunities that benefit the community as well as the volunteers.

We find it very important that every volunteer receives an orientation chat before they begin working. Our orientation program has been well received by many groups that have worked with us in the past. The orientation contains information about the culture and how to adjust, general safety information, and information about the volunteer project and expectations. It is important to us that volunteers feel comfortable and safe in their new environment. We also like to engage groups in team building activities that will improve their ability to work together in their respective volunteer projects

Volunteer Projects

CREAR has put together countless volunteer projects and itineraries for groups depending on their expertise, group size, and demographics. Projects can range anywhere from one day to one month of volunteering.

Community Beautification: CREAR has been able to contribute many beneficial community spaces to Samara and the surrounding towns. We have built and refurbished parks, recreational fields, beach walkways, schools, and community centers. These activities are great because they incorporate the volunteers and the people of the community, often working side by side.



Working with Children: Depending on the time of year we can plan fun activities for large groups to participate in such as field days, large art projects, sports clinics, or exciting science experiments. CREAR has a very strong relationship with the youth in the community and we invite our volunteers to reap the benefits of such a fulfilling bond.

Athletics: CREAR has hosted lacrosse teams who have volunteered together with youth, adolescents, and adults. This is a very good way for teams to build relationships with one another as well as spread their passion for their sport. Athletics are a wonderful medium for cultural exchange.

Environmental: Many groups have participated in volunteer activities focused on environmental conservation and education. Some of the volunteer activities include tree planting, marine debris cleanup and environmental chats with local youth. CREAR recently contributed to



earning Playa Samara the bandera azul (Blue Flag) which recognizes our town as clean and up to environmental standards set by the Costa Rican government. We also run a special Environmental Education program in the two local public schools.

Activities

Due to our strong relationships with the local people in the community, we are able to offer many unique cultural activities to enhance the overall educational experience for our volunteers. Some of the cultural activities available to our volunteers include:

- Cooking classes
- Spanish classes
- Salsa dance lessons
- Beach bonfires
- Jewelry making
- Local barbeque

We can also arrange group deals for adventure activities such as:

- Surf lessons
- Stand up paddle board tours
- Zip-lining
- Kayak tours
- Eco-Hikes

Just ask and we're happy to try and accommodate your vision.

Logistics

CREAR has hosted many groups with various needs and desires in terms of the logistics of their stay. Here are some aspects of the trip that we can arrange for each group.

Private housing

This includes hotels, apartments, and group houses.

Homestays

These include a room in a local family's house, two meals per day, and laundry once a week.

Airport Shuttles

We can arrange for private pick-up and drop-off at both airports in Costa Rica.

Orientation programs

Our orientation program has been well received by many groups that have worked with us in the past. The orientation contains information about the culture and how to adjust, general safety information, and information about the volunteer project and expectations. It is important to us that volunteers feel comfortable and safe in their new environment.

Rates

Single day project: \$35 per volunteer

Multiple day to one week project: \$100 per volunteer

One month project: \$300 per volunteer

This donation goes directly to funding our free after school program focused on English, Art & the Environment offering an additional 320 hours of high quality education for over 100 children in two communities each year. We also utilize it to pay our local Community Projects Foreman to be on site at the project, increasing the overall quality of our contribution to the community.

*Please note that the cost of adventure activities, materials, transportation, and housing is the responsibility of the group.

To begin planning your group volunteering trip, please either:

- Visit us on the web at www.asociacioncrear.org/volunteer -or-
- Email info@asociacioncrear.org

We look forward to working with you!! Pura Vida