

# Group Volunteer Programs



ASOCIACIÓN  
CREAR

CREATIVIDAD | ARTE | RESPONSABILIDAD SOCIAL

Asociación CREAR

2018

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 San Fernando.



## 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 the community and we are consistently updated on projects and activities going on within the community. 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.

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.



Also consider how you want to print your booklet. You can print it on a desktop printer, at a copy shop, or at a commercial printing service. In addition to your budget, the complexity of the publication—including whether you print it as a black and white or a color publication—will help determine the best method for printing your publication.

Before you print your booklet, consider how you will bind its pages. The method you choose depends upon your booklet's page count, its intended use, and your budget. For example, if your booklet contains just a few pages, you might choose the most cost-effective option: folding and stapling. If it contains more than a few pages, consider comb or coil binding, which use a continuous, spring-shaped piece of plastic that enables your booklet to lie flat and fold back on itself for easy reading. For thick booklets, you might use a more permanent (and expensive) method called “perfect binding,” used for paperback books

## **Volunteer Projects**

CREAR has put together many individualized volunteer regimens for groups depending on their expertise, group size, and demographics.

Projects in any of these areas can range anywhere from one day to one month of volunteering.

**Working with Children:** CREAR's daily programs are aimed at benefiting the youth in the community from ages 5-18. We offer a variety of educational after school programs and can always use volunteers to help in planning and facilitating activities. We can also 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, making a community garden, beach clean-ups and turtle conservation efforts. 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.

**Healthcare:** Our association has developed a working relationship with the health clinic in the community. We have had volunteers helping to refurbish the clinic as well as hold health fairs in which they provide information on nutrition, diabetes, general hygiene, and much more. We are able to set up specific projects through the health clinic based on a group's area of expertise.

**Teaching English:** CREAR has consistently offered English courses through our after school programs as well as additional English intensive learning initiatives. Learning English is very important in this community, due to the large economic reliance on tourism. Teaching English is a great way for groups to interact and leave a lasting impact on the youth in this community.

**In-School Assemblies:** CREAR participates in "charlas" or in-school assemblies, where we put together a presentation on a given topic and deliver to schools in the surrounding areas. Some topics we present on include nutrition, energy, recycling, personal hygiene, and the personal values. These presentations are a ton of fun and groups can contribute in many different stages of the process including planning, research, and delivery.

**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. We also operate a public library. These activities are great because they incorporate the volunteers and the people of the community, often working side by side.



## 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 in a local home

Salsa dance lessons

Jewelry making

Spanish classes

Beach bonfires

Local barbeque

We can also arrange group deals for activities such as:

Surf lessons

Stand up paddle board tours

Zip-lining

Kayak tours

Eco-Hikes



## 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

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To begin planning your group volunteering trip, please either:

- Visit us on the web at [www.asociacioncrear.org](http://www.asociacioncrear.org)
- Email [info@asociacioncrear.org](mailto:info@asociacioncrear.org)