

SchoolBOX VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE in NICARAGUA

Reading Week Group – February 18-27, 2010

Program Goals provide participants with an opportunity:

1. To volunteer on a SchoolBOX school-building project
2. To make education possible for children, youth, and families in Nicaragua
3. To meet inspiring individuals who are positive role models and leaders in their communities
4. To enrich their personal faith lives and stimulate academic and career prospects
5. To become goodwill ambassadors and fundraisers for SchoolBOX in Canada

Number of participants 8 to 16 young adults and adults

Requirements Ability to contribute hands-on volunteer service to a SchoolBOX school-building project. Interest in making education possible for children, youth, and families. Willingness to meet community leaders and learn about political, economic, and social issues related to children and education. Positive attitude toward trip preparation, fundraising, cross-cultural challenge, and group dynamics. Spanish is helpful, but not expected. Accompaniment and translation provided.

Preparation Participation in preparation meetings and events and pre-departure reading is essential. What to bring, health and safety advice, group expectations, cross-cultural adaptation, country background info, Spanish phrases, travel logistics, and other details are comprehensively covered.

Transportation American, Continental, Delta, and TACA Airlines offer flights from Canada through the USA to Nicaragua. Groups assume responsibility for purchasing their own airfare and insurance. Booking assistance can be provided upon request. Ground transport is by chartered micro-bus.

Accommodation and Food Clean, safe, and comfortable at selected guesthouses and hotels in central Managua and Leon. Participants share a bathroom and a bedroom with one to three other participants. Breakfasts and dinners are eaten out at nice cafés and restaurants; lunch at the service project is prepared locally. Bottled water is constantly available.

Recreational Excursions Are arranged to a beach, a volcano, a market and other fun places.

Service Project SchoolBOX is a registered Canadian charity. Reg. No. 83870 1324 RR0001

The mandate of SchoolBOX is to support the right of every child to a basic education. It is an organization driven by a sense of responsibility and love towards the children, teachers and schools that it serves and operates on the premise that education is the best weapon against poverty. Its Board of Directors and supporters come from different economic and faith backgrounds and are united in their desire to make a difference.

Through programs such as Big Smiles, Supplies for Success, Tools for Schools, and Soccer Dreams, SchoolBOX works in 30 communities involving almost 7000 students in efforts that empower teachers parents, and students to function and reach their true potential. Through its Coordinator of Operations and in cooperation with the Ministry of Education in Managua, SchoolBOX upgrades and builds schools in Managua, Leon, Ometepe, Las Quemadas, and Corn Islands.

Your group's solidarity, presence and ongoing fundraising support are essential to the success of SchoolBOX and the people it serves. Please visit www.schoolbox.ca

Organizer & Facilitator Gonzalo Duarte, B.Ed., is the founder and president of Compañeros Inc. Since 1993 he has organized and facilitated 40 service learning experiences and volunteer vacations for over 500 hundred young and adult participants in 8 countries. His work as an educator and social entrepreneur inspires and achieves beneficial volunteer service and cross-cultural learning experiences for North and Central Americans. A Canadian now living in Managua, Gonzalo and his in-country staff will accompany your group through a safe and beneficial SchoolBOX Volunteer Experience.

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PRICING PRINCIPLES

Professionals with knowledge, skills, in-country networks, and years of experience coordinate your safe, enjoyable, and meaningful Volunteer Experience with SchoolBOX Program pricing, therefore, fairly balances affordability for Canadian participants and financial sustainability for staff in Nicaragua.

A significant portion of revenue from participants goes toward employing people, purchasing materials, and favouring small enterprises in Nicaragua. Since 2001 Compañeros Inc has infused over US\$250,000 into local economies via coordinators, translators, guest speakers, hotels, host families, service projects, donations, tourist sites, shops, restaurants, drivers, cooks, housekeepers, and equipment rentals.

Compañeros Inc is a travel education coordination company focused on bridging Canadians and Nicaraguans. Driven by best practices and socially responsible entrepreneurship, Compañeros is proud of its association and committed to your successful volunteer experience with SchoolBox.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

CA\$400 per person payable by/refundable until **November 30, 2009** includes:

- \$200 contribution to SchoolBox for volunteer service project (charitable tax receipt available)
- Coordination and organization of all pre-trip aspects (40+ hours approx)
- 24/7 on-trip leadership and facilitation of all in-country aspects (120+ hours approx)
- Comprehensive preparation resources and unlimited consultation
- Reservation assistance for flight and travel insurance details
- Office and travel expenses
- GST (Registration # 86337-4310)

US\$800 per person payable by/refundable until **January 30, 2010** includes:

- All ground transportation, driver, fuel, and parking from airport arrival to departure
- 10 nights of shared accommodation in carefully selected hotels
- 9 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 9 dinners, and supplies of bottled water
- 24/7 on-trip translation and logistical assistance (120+ hours approx)
- Donations of funds and/or goods to local non-profit organizations
- Excursions to SchoolBOX projects and to a beach, a volcano, a market, and local sites.

The following is not included:

- Airfare and travel insurance = approx CA\$1000 - early booking recommended
- Passport - no visa or immunizations are mandatory for Canadian passport holders
- Arbitrary fluctuations in rates outside of our control that result in unforeseen additional charges

Participants are required to submit a complete and accurate **registration form** with emergency contact, health, and food restriction information; insurance, passport, photo, and reference awareness consent initializations; personal profile information; and, a signed liability waiver form.

Participants must carry a valid **passport** with an expiry date 6 months beyond the date of return. The name in their passport must match their plane ticket and registration. Participants are responsible for ensuring proper documentation for entry/exit via countries of transit and destination.

Participants are responsible for determining their own for trip cancellation, interruption, health, and baggage **insurance** coverage needs and demonstrating proof of coverage before departure.

The organizers reserve the right at any time before or during the trip to **cancel and revoke registrations** and refund participants in part or in full should they perceive correctly or incorrectly the participant constitutes a threat to the well-being and security of the program, other participants, and/or partner organizations. Should Compañeros Inc not be able to deliver the stated program it will endeavour to provide comparable alternatives and/or refund amounts remaining after existing liabilities are paid. Refunds for voluntary participant withdrawal are made entirely at the discretion of Compañeros Inc.