

Hospitality Internships – Ecotourism with CRACYP for Progreso Verde (“Green Progress”)



2012

Introduction

This document should be read in conjunction with the Internship Information Pack available at www.progresoverde.org/internship.html.

In order to expand the local economy and help stem rural-urban migration in the region, CRACYP is developing an eco-tourism project. Infrastructure will consist of several cabañas constructed on different farms throughout the little village of Jilimbí, which is a farming community at the edge of forested Andean foothills. Two of the main attractions will be exploring the ecosystem via guided hikes, and experiencing the local culture through visits to sugarcane cultivators who make organic, fair trade alcohol. CRACYP will provide education and job training for members of the local community so that they can eventually assume control of all levels of the business.

Objectives

We need interns with experience in the hospitality industry to create a training program for the project. The intern should create a very basic program for how participants should cater to guests staying in their cabañas, keeping in mind that the vast majority of them have never been tourists themselves; therefore, even the most basic and seemingly intuitive aspects of hospitality should be presented. You should also create workshops that help participants learn about the cultural differences and expectations that they are likely to encounter when hosting guests, so that they know what to expect – this will help enhance the experience for guests and hosts alike. Depending on your time and Spanish speaking ability, you will also ideally implement the training program by hold workshops for community members who are interested in participating in this aspect of the ecotourism business. You may also have the opportunity to hold workshops on other aspects of business management or to work on the interior design of the cabañas, depending on the timing of your internship.

Location

You will be based in the picturesque little village of Jilimbí in Bolívar Province, close to the border with Cotopaxi Province. The nearest town you might find on a map is Moraspungo, about an hour's journey up into the mountains from the main road between Quevedo and Ventanas. Your work will be almost exclusively with community members in Jilimbí.

Requirements

Interns will need to either be fairly independent or else have access to hospitality advice by email from their university or other sources (e.g. former employer), if needed. CRACYP's Volunteer Coordinator can offer support with translation and community contacts. Spanish language skills to at least intermediate level are necessary, and experience with teaching or workshop development and presentation would be useful.

How to Apply

Read the Internship Information Pack for details of how to apply. This post could also be available as a volunteer opportunity rather than an internship, for those not requiring to use the experience as part of their studies – download the Volunteer Information Pack from www.progresoverde.org/volunteer_ecuador.html in this case.

