

VOLU_TEERI_G PART TIME

2. CPI's English Department, available at CPI Heredia, CPI Monteverde and CPI Flamingo.

What is it?

CPI has English as a foreign language program, offering classes from January to November. Classes are typically scheduled in the afternoons and evenings, and participation is possible while the volunteer is a CPI Spanish student or once they have concluded their Spanish classes. The student population of the English Program averages in age from 16 to 40 years old, and the majority are students and professionals.

What are the requirements to be accepted as a volunteer?

- a. To speak English fluently and correctly.
- b. Well dressed.
- c. Interview with the Coordinator of the English Program.
- d. To follow the instructions of the Coordinator of the English Program during the volunteer time.
- e. Former teaching experience is preferred but not required.

What components make up the volunteer work?

The student can commit to teaching native Spanish-speakers conversational and written English in these different ways:

- Substitute English teacher. There are 9 levels of English offered. Professors follow a pre-determined program organized by the Coordinator of the English department that includes both conversational and written English. Average class size is 3-7 students. Private classes are also offered.
- Assistant to English teachers. Teachers' assistants work closely with students to improve pronunciation, help students with homework, organize games and cultural activities for the class, and act as a tutor to students before or after classes.
- Assistant to the Coordinator. Volunteers help the Coordinator of the English program by answering phone calls and providing information (in Spanish) about the English Program, preparing materials for classes, making photocopies, and helping with other administrative functions.
- Tutorials. Volunteers can conduct one-on-one or small group tutorials Monday through Friday to enhance student learning and assist learners in areas in which they are struggling. Tutorial levels vary from beginner to advanced.
- Discussion Groups. Lead discussions with advanced students seeking additional conversation practice. Facilitate improvement of conversational skills and usage of language while focusing on students' areas of interest for work or home.
- Survival English. Teach adult host family members basic English to help them communicate with Spanish students and volunteers.
- Use your creativity! Create eye-catching material for use in group and private classes.
- Work with kids. Volunteer in one of the local elementary or high schools tutoring English as a Foreign Language or lead a class in your area of expertise.
- Lead a Workshop. Teach a workshop focused on an area of interest to students. Facilitate better understanding and use of English for students who work in particular fields or industries.

Volunteer's Schedule

Normally English classes are held in the afternoons and evenings, Monday through Friday. The average number of hours required is 8 hours per week.

How does one arrive at the volunteer place?

English classes are at the CPI campuses.

3. Mariposa Private Kindergarten and Potrero Elementary Public School, available at CPI Flamingo

What is it?

Both schools are located in the town of Potrero Beach, Guanacaste, about 45 minutes walking distance to CPI Flamingo. Mariposa is a bilingual private kindergarten that teaches children from 3 to 6 years old. The public school of Potrero is an elementary school that teaches children from 6 to 12 years old.

What are the requirements to be accepted as a volunteer?

- a. Must speak and read English.
- b. Teaching experience is preferred but not required.
- c. Need to enjoy working with children and show patience towards the children.
- d. La Mariposa Kindergarten requires volunteers to give a minimum of 4 weeks commitment, where as Potrero public school requires volunteers to give a minimum of 2 weeks commitment and volunteers have to be at an intermediate level of Spanish.

What components make up the volunteer work?

La Mariposa accepts volunteers to assist with classroom activities as well as tutor individual students. The public school of Potrero accepts volunteers to assist the English teachers and help with administrative duties.

Volunteer's Schedule

Classes at La Mariposa Kindergarten are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. On average the volunteer spends 20 hours a week at the school. Classes at the school of Potrero are Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and in the afternoon from 12:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. On average the volunteer spends about 20 hours a week at the school. Most volunteers choose this part-time option in the mornings; therefore, students volunteering while studying at CPI have to take Spanish classes in the afternoon.

_OTE: Availability is subject to the Costa Rican school system's schedule (The public school is closed 2 weeks in July, the month of December and January). La Mariposa is closed from May through August and the two last weeks of December due to vacation periods.

How does one arrive at the volunteer site?

Both schools are located in the town of Potrero Beach. If the volunteer lives in Potrero the schools are about 20 minutes walking distance. If the volunteer lives in Huacas or Brasilito there is a public bus that takes about 30 minutes each way and costs \$1.

4. San Angel Education Center, available at CPI Heredia

What is it?

San Angel Education Center is a private school located in San Joaquín de Flores that teaches preschoolers and primary children. Volunteers are needed to assist in the English classes.

What are the requirements to be accepted as a volunteer?

- a. Anyone can volunteer, but must be presentable.
This is imperative because the children see the volunteers as professors.
- b. Tattoos and shorts are prohibited.
- c. No earrings for males.

What components make up the volunteer work?

- Assist the English professors mainly with improving the children's pronunciation as well as engaging them in conversation.
- The teachers will provide the volunteers beforehand, the class schedule, so they know what to expect. If the volunteer would like to contribute other ideas or games to the class, or bring their own materials, they are more than welcome to.
- Help with preparing materials for the class.

Volunteer's Schedule

Classes at the San Angel Education Center are Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and in the afternoon from 12:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. The volunteer can choose to work in the morning schedule or afternoon after classes. If the morning schedule is selected, your CPI classes will need to be organized in the afternoon with advanced time.

How does one arrive at the volunteer place?

The center is located 800 meters north of the school of the United States of America, above the Santa Barbara highway, in front of the Hostel La Dehesa. From CPI, it's about a 20 minute walk.

_OTE: This option is offered only from February through June, and from the second week of July through November, due to the school system's vacation periods. Also, participation depends on availability of space and a prior interview with the program's director.

5. Niño con Cariño, available at CPI Heredia

What is it?

It is a private entity, supported by the government through the P.A.N.I. (National Children's Bureau). It functions as a home for girls between the ages of 5 - 12 years old and adolescents. During the week the girls reside at the group home and each Friday they leave and enjoy the weekend in their houses with their mothers.

The girls live on a very low economic level and many of the girls live in impoverished as well as precarious conditions. The girls' mothers bring them back to the group home "Niño con Cariño" on Sunday during the afternoon so that the girls may spend another week under a peaceful roof and be cared for by catholic sisters.

What are the requirements to be accepted as a volunteer?

- a. Volunteers must be female.
- b. The volunteer must be well dressed and have an excellent personal presentation.
- c. Additionally, the volunteers must be able to speak at a level of Spanish necessary to understand the girls.
- d. If a volunteer meets these requirements, CPI must provide a letter detailing all the information regarding the volunteer work to the home. Once this is received by Niño con Cariño, an interview is scheduled for the volunteer with the head sister. After the interview, the sister will decide if the volunteer can be accepted to work there.

What components make up the volunteer work?

Women that desire to volunteer may contribute to the work of the institution in various ways:

- In the English classes, they may give support and help the girls with their homework by explaining the different themes that the girls are learning.
- During the hour recreation time they can participate by talking with the girls, sharing experiences with them, and enjoying the enthusiasm the girls have in being with their new "friend".
- When it is time to eat, they may also help the little ones eat their food, encouraging them to eat well. Chatting with the girls and sharing in these moments is very rewarding.
- Please realize that those who volunteer should spend time with all of the girls. Even though some may want to monopolize all of their attention, volunteers should be fair because all of these girls need attention, love and care.

Volunteer's Schedule

Only in the afternoon after 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

How does one arrive at the volunteer place?

To arrive at "Niño con Cariño," volunteers must take the Alajuela bus (red and black) and get off at the Agonia Church in Alajuela. Once they are at the church they can walk, or they can take a taxi (A taxi is recommended for the first visit, in order to learn the way).

The address is: De la iglesia La Agonía 1 kilómetro al este, hasta el puente "del Brasil," y luego 300 metros al Norte, a mano derecha.

_OTE: This option is offered only from February through the third week of June, and from the second week of July through November, due to the school system's vacation periods. Also, participation depends on availability of space and a prior interview with the program's director.

6. Flores Arroyo Foundation, available at CPI Heredia

What is it?

This non-profit organization, registered since January 13th, 1995, helps adults with special needs learn a craft, skill or occupation. The foundation's mission is to facilitate their access to the workforce through pertinent work training suited to the individual's abilities, skills and also serves for personal and social adjustment. There is a large population of people with different disabilities who don't have access to any other labor integration educational program and the reality is that after graduation from the educational system, at about the age of 20 years, due to the lack of support for their conditions, the majority remain at home and most likely live a sedentary life with very few opportunities for financial contribution or a personal, recreational, and social life.

What are the requirements to be accepted as a volunteer?

- a. Anyone can volunteer, but must be presentable. This is imperative because the people see the volunteers as professionals.
- b. The CPI Student Coordinator needs to make an appointment with the director of the center beforehand to discuss what may be the volunteer's participation.
- c. CPI must provide a letter detailing the date when the volunteer will attend an interview, the schedule and day the volunteer work would begin.
- d. Additionally, the volunteer must speak the level of Spanish necessary to understand these special people.
- e. A minimum commitment of 2 weeks is required.

***This option is often suggested for medical professionals.

What components make up the volunteer work?

Assist and supervise the students during workshops with the crafts and other activities that are designed by the center's director. The students learn skills for such things as keeping a home, jewelry making, woodwork, and gardening. The responsibility of the volunteer is to help them with their tasks, improve their Spanish pronunciation with those that have speech difficulties, organize activities for the class and/or assist with their medical needs (if necessary). The volunteer is informed of and should follow the rules and policies provided by the director of the center.

Volunteer's Schedule

This is a part-time option, classes in the Flores Arroyo Foundation are typically scheduled from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Participation is possible while the volunteer is a CPI student, taking Spanish classes during the afternoon or once s/he has concluded Spanish classes. If a CPI student wants to volunteer in the morning at the center, their Spanish classes may be scheduled for the afternoon, however this would need to be specially requested.

**The volunteer may receive a participation certificate upon the request of the director.

How does one arrive at the volunteer place?

The Center is located 300 meters north of the Hampton Inn Hotel nearby the Juan Santamaria airport in Alajuela. It's a green building on the right side. Volunteers can take the public bus to Alajuela from the main street in San Joaquín de Flores.

_OTE: This option is offered from February through June, and from the third week of July through the second week of December.

Also, participation depends on availability of space and a prior interview with the program's director.

7. The Hidden Valley Trail, available at CPI Monteverde

What is it?

In 1979, Davis Savage acquired 11 hectares of land. At this time the land was dedicated to farming. He decided to protect it, converting it into what is today Hidden Valley Trail. This ecotourism project allows visitors to enjoy day and night hikes, while taking in the diversity of flora and fauna found within the forests.

The mission is to understand and protect this marvelous ecosystem.

What are the requirements to be accepted as a volunteer?

Previous interview to place the volunteer in the program.

What components make up the volunteer work?

Volunteers are needed for trail maintenance and clearing of the trails and various other tasks in the forest. They might also help out in the office, create information materials and signs.

Volunteer's Schedule

The Hidden Valley Trail is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., from Monday through Sunday.

8. CEPIA, available at CPI Flamingo

What is it?

CEPIA (Culture, Education and Psychology for Infants and Adolescents) is a non-profit organization, in Costa Rica, aimed to aid children and adolescents from low economical backgrounds.

Many children in the villages in Guanacaste have no access to cultural and recreational activities; schools are poorly equipped and have little staff. The children often live in poor and difficult family situations and need psychological support. Association CEPIA wants to help these children through a centre that offers free cultural and educational activities as well as psychological support through collaborations with local schools and many organizations.

What are the requirements to be accepted as a volunteer?

a. Minimum age 18

b. An introduction letter explaining the reasons for choosing this volunteer work (interests, experiences, personal abilities, personal information/CV)

c. Admission to the program will be granted after a successful interview with a member of the staff of CEPIA. (They recommend to know a little about their vision, mission, and programs (see www.asociacioncepia.org) before the interview)

d. Sign the CEPIA volunteer contract before volunteering

e. Basic conversational level of Spanish

f. Minimum stay at CEPIA of 2-4 months

g. Abilities at computer use and provide a copy of your passport/ID

h. Students are required to sign a contract with CEPIA to agree and accept the weekly working hours (example from 2 pm to 5pm)

What components make up the volunteer work?

Volunteers participate by helping in the children's activities on Saturdays. Most of the activities are done in public schools (Potrero, Brasilito, Villareal) as well as at CEPIA in Huacas.

During the week, the work is in the CEPIA office helping with administrative duties and the weekly activities. Examples of the activities for the children are such things as, football, volleyball, English classes, computers, swimming, yoga, art and personal defense. A volunteer may direct a particular activity as a teacher, depending on their personal experience and abilities.

Volunteer's Schedule

The volunteers choose this part-time option in the afternoon; therefore, students volunteering while studying at CPI have to take Spanish classes in the morning. Saturday is full-time. The work schedule is arranged between the volunteer and CEPIA according to what suits both parties.

How does one arrive at the volunteer place?

CEPIA is situated in Huacas, Guanacaste about 20 minutes from CPI Flamingo. The public bus schedule is provided in the office at CPI however, CEPIA provides a bus service for the volunteers during the activities. The public bus from Potrero or Brasilito takes about 1 hour each way and costs \$1.

CEPIA pays the volunteer transportation during activities and materials needed for activities.

9. Volunteer at The Monkey Park, available at CPI Flamingo

What is it?

The Monkey Park is an environmental refuge and rescue of wild animals confiscated by governmental institutions, in which they receive attention specialized for their recovery and subsequent integration to their natural habitat. For many different reasons, animals cannot be freed and in the Monkey Park they receive the best possible living conditions.

The Monkey Park is situated in the town of Portegolpe of the canton of Holy Cross of Guanacaste, in a humid inlet favorable to high biological diversity. The region is characterized for the presence of trees of great beauty that creates the habitat for a distinct variety of animals known to the tropical dry forests of Costa Rica.

What are the requirements to be accepted as a volunteer?

Monkey Park requires volunteers to give a minimum of 2 weeks commitment and volunteers have to be at an intermediate level of Spanish.

What components make up the volunteer work?

The voluntary work is important because it contributes and creates a consciences of safeguards for the natural resources for future generations.

Some of the work that a volunteer should comply in is: to veneer, clean the cages, feed the animals, lend help to the veterinary staff when it is required, build and clean the paths, guide and offer information to visitors of the Park, etc.

Volunteer's Schedule

The volunteers choose this part-time option in the mornings. The Park opens at 7:00 a.m. and a volunteer can arrange the morning schedule they desire with the Monkey Park staff. Students volunteering while studying at CPI have to take Spanish classes in the afternoon.

How does one arrive at the volunteer site?

Volunteers living in Potrero or Brasilito take the public bus. The trip takes about 30 minutes each way and costs \$1.