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# Soccer Without Borders

## Guatemala

### Team Leader Information

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# ***Soccer Without Borders Guatemala***

## **Sololá Team Leader Information Packet**

**PURPOSE:** To provide the necessary information to aid your decision to seek an internship with Soccer Without Borders in Guatemala, while providing a platform for thoughtful reflection upon this decision in a larger context.



*“If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.” –Lila Watson*

If you are considering this internship or other work in community development, you are most likely a service-oriented person. While this is undoubtedly needed, we are most interested in working with people that are not only willing to work on behalf of others, but that are also willing to think critically about what it means to ‘help’. Being a person from a relatively wealthy background working with people that are living in material poverty is a complicated endeavor, and one that requires skillful action, patience and openness. As a Team Leader, you must be willing to immerse yourself in the culture of Sololá, as immersion brings understanding, and understanding brings mutual trust. Only with trust and understanding can we work together with the communities in and around Sololá to bring about positive change.

During your time as an SWB Leader you will be a teacher of the game of soccer, and of many other activities large and small, as well as the larger life lessons that arise along the way. For every skill or lesson taught, however, we hope and expect that you will learn one in return. Whether you learn to make a tortilla from scratch, to make a candle the old-fashioned way, or to speak better Spanish, take the time to absorb your surroundings, to get to know your hosts, and to understand this beautiful culture. We expect that you will not look at this community through the lens of poverty and pity, but try to shed your assumptions and build a reciprocal relationship with the people, learning as you teach.

### **CONTENTS:**

- 1) Mission, Vision and Values
- 2) Role of the Intern
- 3) Programming
- 4) Daily life

*Our Mission:*

*“SWB uses soccer as a vehicle for positive change, providing under-served youth with a toolkit to overcome obstacles to growth, inclusion, and personal success.”*

## **VISION and VALUES:**

*Our Vision-* Soccer Without Borders provides all youth program participants the opportunity to realize their inherent potential. It is the goal of every site to create a sustainable life skills curriculum that directly meets the most pressing needs of that community while setting relevant, tangible, and achievable goals for participants. SWB creates safe and supportive team environments through which participants build friendships, community connections, and powerful mentor/mentee relationships.



*Our Values-* Soccer Without Borders understands and embraces **Positive Youth Development** (PYD) theory. PYD concepts are built on the idea that every young person has the potential for successful, healthy development and the belief that all youth possess the capacity for positive development. Toward this end, SWB maintains three core values to guide our work:

**Focus on the Whole Person:** SWB believes in a whole-person approach. Our programs help young people come into a greater understanding of their bodies, minds, and voices, creating avenues toward individual growth, new opportunities, and the achievement of personal goals.

**Authenticity:** Soccer Without Borders gives voice and value to the ideas of local leaders. In addition to imported human, physical, and intellectual resources, SWB mobilizes local expertise, empowering and employing resident experts to educate from within the community. To ensure programming is authentic and responsive to local needs, SWB implements a three-step process. Every SWB program is devoted to this process:



*Engage* youth and their communities through soccer teams.

*Collaborate* with youth, families, schools, and community leaders to identify obstacles facing youth.

*Realize* consistent on and off field programming that supports youth to overcome these obstacles.

**Process-oriented:** SWB believes that the process is often more important than the outcome. SWB leadership, participants and families commit to uphold process-oriented values that create a culture of acceptance, an inclusive environment, and supported progress toward goals. These values are:

The inherent potential and gifts of all young people  
Honesty and authenticity in speech and action  
All learners as teachers and all teachers as learners  
Openness to all perspectives, voices and people  
Project sustainability

## **ROLE OF THE TEAM LEADER:**

Acting as liaisons between SWB USA and the program in Sololá, Team Leaders carry a lot of responsibility for the implementation and success of the year-round programming. In some ways you are equal to and should become friends with Luis and the local staff, while in other ways you are responsible for reporting to and enforcing the rules and decisions of the US Project team. The ability to navigate this balance is a critical part of life as an intern.



### *The ideal Guatemala Coach is:*

- conversational in Spanish
- patient, flexible and open-minded
- self-motivated and able to work with minimal in-person oversight
- passionate about the SWB mission and committed to youth development through sport
- confident in front of groups of all ages, both on the field and off
- understanding of the game of soccer and has a love of coaching
- friendly, outgoing, and low-maintenance

### *Specific responsibilities include:*

- Regular communication with SWB USA
- Planning, designing, and implementation of regular programming, including multiple soccer practices, coaches trainings, and workshops
- Keeping a personal budget of expenses
- Maintenance of local SWB office space
- Monitoring and evaluation of project activities
- Investment in engaging in and understanding of local culture, customs, language, and traditions
- Hosting and training short-term volunteers, and coordinating the logistics of their stay
- Coordination of special events, including a possible June camp
- Other duties as assigned by SWB USA project team

### *Program Coach Time commitment-*

**Jan 28, 2012-** Arrival in Sololá,

**Feb 1-June 1, 2012-** Winter/Spring Season for community teams\*

**June 2-10, 2012-** Potential Camp

**June 15, 2012-** Return to US

\*Break for Semana Santa week (Easter week)



**PROGRAMMING:**

FSF (Fútbol Sin Fronteras) Guatemala aims to provide opportunities for indigenous youth in Sololá to play soccer, meet and interact with peers, and enjoy the benefits associated with team sports. Through on and off field activities within their cohorts, youth develop key skills and a sense of belonging.

Schools in Sololá are generally half-day, leaving large parts of the day open for local youth. A large majority of families experience underemployment; opportunities for work, full-time employment, and positive civic engagement are rare. As a result, there is a huge need for youth-centered programs to provide positive learning opportunities, and to facilitate useful personal and social skills.

FSF Guatemala is transitioning out of the rainy season, when programming slowed from regular to occasional. The primary goal of the Team Leader is to implement and coordinate, alongside Luis, a system of FSF community teams (boys and girls) in the villages of the Sololá region and the city of Sololá itself.

*A sample schedule is:*

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
10:30am FSF Staff Meeting	11:30am Maria Tecun soccer practice
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
9:30am Skype with SWB USA	10:00am Cooperativa soccer practice
2:30pm Santa Maria soccer practice	<b>Saturday</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	Tournaments/Play Days/Coaches clinics
2:00pm Pana soccer practice	<b>Sunday</b>
2:30pm Santa Maria soccer practice	OFF

In addition to attendance at and preparation for weekly practices and events, other meetings, office hours, and curriculum preparation hours are required throughout the week. For the most part, Sundays and Mondays are free with the exception of special events.

*FSF Staff-* Currently we employ Luis Alberto Palacios Roman as a full time Local Program Director. Luis is bi-lingual and college educated, and he has a lot of great ideas about the program. At this point in time we have no further staff, although this could change by the time you would begin your internship.

*Community Coaches-* Each FSF Community team is required to provide a coach from the community. The range of soccer knowledge and coaching experience will vary, but these coaches are a key link between the central FSF mission in the region and each individual village.



*Luis (bottom right) with camp volunteers, 2011*

## **DAILY LIFE:**

**Location-** Sololá is located 3.5 hours North of Guatemala City and La Aurora International Airport. Sololá is a small city with about 60,000 residents. It is the largest indigenous city in Guatemala and it is the economic and trading center of the Sololá region, which is comprised of many small Mayan communities of about 800-1000 people. Sololá is located near the extremely beautiful Lake Atitlan and the city of Panjachel, both of which are popular with tourists; however, Sololá itself has very little tourism. Culturally, this region is a fascinating place, and is one of the few areas of Central America where many Mayan traditions including traditional dress, religion and language remain in tact.



Indigenous languages Kacchiquel and Quiche are the primary languages in the Sololá region; however, almost everyone speaks Spanish as well. English speakers are rare. Safety is not a huge concern although being aware of your belongings and surroundings is recommended. Walking alone at night is strongly discouraged. Sololá does not have drinkable tap water running water.



*FSF Office and Intern house, Sololá*

**Housing-** Team Leaders will live in SWB's office located in the center of Sololá, two blocks from the central park and just a couple hundred yards from the market. The families of many SWB participants live nearby, making this a welcoming and safe place to live. You'll quickly become familiar to the community.

You will share a bedroom with fellow SWB Team Leader(s). The bathroom includes running water, a toilet, and a shower. You will need to supply your own sheets, towel, pillow, and chosen accessories. You will have full access to a kitchen that includes counter space, a small refrigerator, and two burners.

**Health-** There are no required vaccinations for travel to Guatemala, however, it is important that you check with your doctor before your trip. These websites also provide important information about recommended health precautions: <http://www.who.int/countries/gtm/en/> or [www.mdtravelhealth.com](http://www.mdtravelhealth.com). In particular, if you are planning on traveling outside of Sololá it is important that you take additional precautions. Sololá has several clinics and a local hospital, in addition to regular pharmacies. We recommend that you purchase travel medical insurance as well, depending on the out-of-country coverage that you may have with your US provider.

**Finances-** Sololá is a fairly cheap place to live, with the quetzal exchanged at a rate of about 8:1. Depending on your choices, you can minimize the cost of your trip. Because of the tourist industry, Guatemala does have food, travel, and entertainment options that charge US rates. For the benefit of your experience and for the perception of SWB in Sololá, we recommend and encourage you to live as locally as possible.



*A sample budget for your five-month internship in Guatemala:*

<i>Food</i>	\$50-\$70/week = \$1050-\$1470
<i>Transportation &amp; Visa</i>	\$700
<i>Housing</i>	\$60/month = \$300
<i>Cell phone/phone calls/internet</i>	\$150
<i>Health insurance</i>	\$40/month = \$200
<i>Emergency/Other</i>	\$500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2900 - \$3320</b>

**Some costs cannot be covered by tax-deductible fundraising!** We recommend that you earn or bring additional funds (estimated \$100/month) that you can use for non-SWB travel, entertainment, gifts, and tourist activities.

*Travel/Vacation-* While you are permitted to travel outside of Sololá, it is expected that you will attend all of the programmed events, unless you notify SWB USA with sufficient notice. Sundays and Mondays are generally off days, so a lot of in-country travel can take place on those days without missing any of the weekly events.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN BECOMING A SOCCER WITHOUT BORDERS TEAM LEADER!**