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Soccer Without Borders

Nicaragua

TEAM Leader Information

T.E.A.M Granada

Soccer Without Borders

Oakland, CA | Boston, MA

+1 510 859-4874

myra@soccerwithoutborders.org

Soccer Without Borders Nicaragua

Granada TEAM Leader Information Packet



PURPOSE: To provide the necessary information to aid your decision to become an SWB TEAM Leader in the developing country of Nicaragua, 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 Granada, as immersion brings understanding, and understanding brings mutual trust. Only with trust and understanding can we work together with the community of Granada to bring about positive change.

During your time abroad 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, 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 TEAM Leader
- 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:

As the primary liaisons between SWB USA and T.E.A.M. Granada, TEAM Leaders carry a lot of responsibility for the implementation and success of the year-round programming. The role of interns within the staff as a whole could be compared to that of a “captain.” In some ways you are equal to and should become friends with 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 Nicaragua TEAM Leader is:

- comfortably conversational in Spanish (minimum)
- 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 a group, both on the field and off
- understanding of the game of soccer and has a basic coaching ability
- friendly, outgoing, and low-maintenance

Specific responsibilities include:

- Regular communication with SWB USA
- Planning, designing, and implementation of regular programming, soccer and non-soccer, including workshops, team-building, and civic engagement activities
- Management of local staff, 5-7 Nicaraguan coaches ages 17-25
- Administration of project finances
- Recruitment and retainment of program youth
- 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 the annual T.E.A.M. camp
- Other duties as assigned by SWB USA project team



Lindsey Whitford, TEAM Leader 2010-2011



Alex Board, TEAM Leader 2011-2012

TEAM Leader Time commitment-

July 10-15, 2012- Team Leader Training in Boston, MA

July 15-Dec 15, 2012- Fall season in Granada*

Dec 15, 2012-Return to US for holiday break

Jan 3, 2013 -Return to Granada

Jan 5-12, 2013- 6th Annual T.E.A.M. Camp

Jan 13-June 22, 2013- Spring season in Granada*

June 22, 2013- Return to US

*1 week break each season plus Semana Santa week (Easter week)

PROGRAMMING:

The overarching goal of our work in Nicaragua is to catalyze positive change through a cultural exchange using the medium of soccer. In Nicaragua, the target population is girls, particularly girls aged 7-20, although our membership has some girls as old as 26. Participants play soccer, engage in TEAM meetings around a variety of topics, learning and growing interpersonally all within the context of a safe environment supported by caring TEAM leaders and a structured weekly schedule. Programming also includes three camps throughout the year that provide girls with unique opportunities to meet and interact with a larger group of international volunteers who bring new ideas, enthusiasm, and support to TEAM Granada.



We currently have three teams in Granada: Las Mariposas (ages 8-11), Las Estrellas (ages 12-15), and Las Nicoyas (ages 16 and up). Though the schedule has changed over time, this is the current weekly schedule:

Monday	
6:00pm Coaches Meeting	Friday
Tuesday	9:00am Office hours
3:00pm Office hours	3:30pm Practice
5:45pm TEAM meetings	Saturday
Wednesday	9:00am Practice
3:00pm Practice	11:30am Point exchanges
Thursday	Sunday
1:00pm Skype with SWB USA	Game day (seasonal)
5:45pm TEAM meetings	



Las Mariposas- arguably the cutest team in all of SWB

Program Activities and Team Management= ~25 hours

In addition to these activities, coaches are responsible for ensuring that the members of their team are well-supported to attend events. Home visits and school visits have proven invaluable in this effort, and will often take up several hours of your week. Preparation time, ensuring that the office is in order, and managing the staff are the other parts of your job that will take up the most time. In general, the remaining hours of your week will generally break down like this:

Administration= ~10 hours

This includes finances/budgets, payroll, facility and equipment upkeep, and all paperwork including attendance and participant profiles.

Recruitment and Retention= ~10 hours

This will take the form of texting/calling families and participants, school visits and gym classes, individual meetings, home visits.

Community Connections = ~5 hours

This includes identifying and inviting community members to participate in workshops, attending meetings concerning field space and special events, speaking on radio shows, and being conscious on a daily basis of how community members you come into contact with could contribute to the growth of SWB.



DAILY LIFE:

Location- Granada is located an hour south of Nicaragua's capital, Managua, and Managua International Airport (MGA). A former Spanish colony, Granada is a small city with a central square and Cathedral, and burgeoning tourist industry. Locals are used to interacting with foreigners, especially in the area surrounding the central square. Spanish is the primary language and proficient 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. Granada has drinkable tap water and your housing will have running water and indoor plumbing.

Health- There are no required vaccinations for travel to Nicaragua, 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/nic/en/>
www.mdtravelhealth.com



In particular, if you are planning on traveling outside of Granada it is important that you take additional precautions. Granada 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.

Housing- SWB interns live in our Granada office, which was formerly a hostel. Each intern will have a private room and bathroom with a shower, and access to common spaces such as kitchen, living space, and storage. In addition, the office is equipped with computers and internet (very unreliable). Because the house doubles as our office, visitors are common, particularly girls from the program, many of whom live nearby. Overall, the space is very large and requires that interns make a concerted effort at cleanliness, which is not always easy with frequent visitors and events. It is located about a 20 minute walk from the field, 7 minutes from the center of town, and about 10 minutes from the neighborhood where most of our staff live.

In general, the quality of the office is above the average home, as your room has a ceiling, a fan, and is set back from the noise of the street. However, it is important to be aware that mice, cockroaches, ticks, and mosquitoes are common in Granada and while it is not common to encounter them in your room, it is possible!





Finances- Granada is a fairly cheap place to live, with the cordoba exchanged at a rate of about 21:1. Depending on your choices, you can minimize the cost of your trip. Because of the heavy tourist industry, Granada does have food, travel, and entertainment options that charge US rates. For the benefit of your experience and for the perception of SWB in Granada, we recommend and encourage you to live as locally as possible.

A sample budget for your year abroad not including personal travel is:

<i>Food</i>	\$50-\$70/week = \$2,350-\$3,390
<i>Transportation and visa</i>	\$1600
<i>Housing</i>	\$60/month = \$660
<i>Cell phone/phone calls (subsidized by SWB)</i>	\$120
<i>Travel health insurance</i>	\$40/month = \$440
<i>Spanish classes (if necessary)</i>	\$500
<i>Emergency/Other</i>	\$100/month = \$1100
Total	\$6,270-\$7,710

You will need to fundraise or pay your first flight and housing costs, a minimum of \$1500, by July 1, 2012 .

Please note that 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 Granada, 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 A BECOMING A SOCCER WITHOUT BORDERS TEAM LEADER!