



*Thank you for your interest in volunteering at the Soccer Without Borders January TEAM camp in Granada, Nicaragua! This document is meant to answer some of the questions you may have. We hope that you will find it useful and that it will allow you to make a more informed decision about whether volunteering with us is the right choice for you. Feel free to contact us if you have questions or concerns after reading this document.*

Anna Barrett- T.E.A.M. Camp Coordinator, [anna.p.barrett@gmail.com](mailto:anna.p.barrett@gmail.com)  
T.E.A.M. Granada- [granada@soccerwithoutborders.org](mailto:granada@soccerwithoutborders.org)

### **MISSION and VISION:**

Soccer Without Borders provides programming to socially, politically, and economically marginalized youth who are systematically excluded from sports-based and extracurricular activities. Currently, our project sites target three populations: indigenous people, refugees, and girls. In the areas where we work, these populations are socially isolated, economically disadvantaged, face great challenges of integration and inclusion in the workforce, and are often not encouraged to set high goals for their futures. Soccer provides an avenue for positive engagement, a platform for personal growth, and a toolkit for a brighter future.

Specifically, Soccer Without Borders' **mission** is to use soccer as a vehicle for positive change, providing under-served youth a toolkit to overcome obstacles to growth, inclusion, and personal success. Our **vision** is to provide all youth program participants the opportunity to realize their inherent potential and experience personal success through soccer opportunities, team building activities, off-field workshops and lessons, civic engagement and cultural exchange. In all aspects of programming our values are:

*Focus on the Whole Person:* Help young people come into a greater understanding of their bodies, minds, and voices.

*Authenticity:* Soccer Without Borders gives voice and value to the ideas of local leaders. SWB mobilizes local expertise, empowering and employing resident experts.

*Process-Oriented:* Believing that the process is often more important than the outcome, SWB leadership, participants, and families commit to uphold values that create a culture of acceptance.



### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

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 local English speakers are not common. Schools in Granada are generally half-day, with a majority of youth dropping out prior to graduation from secondary school. 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 another positive learning opportunity during their day, and to facilitate useful personal and social skills.

T.E.A.M. (Trabajando en Equipo Aprendemos Más) Granada aims to provide opportunities for girls to play soccer, meet and interact with peers, and enjoy the benefits associated with team sports. Through activity nights at the office, soccer practices, special workshops, and an annual camp, girls develop key skills and a sense of belonging in a community that does not always offer them that opportunity. The identity of Fútbol Sin Fronteras has formed around these activities, the office, and the FSF groups, and is growing stronger still in the community. In a place where safety nets, support systems, membership and inclusively are rare, FSF has become a safe and welcoming space for the girls.

Currently there are three teams in the Granada program arranged by age, the Mariposas 7-10 year olds, the Estrellas 11-15 year olds and the Nicoyas 16-22 year olds. Each team has a unique group of coaches that lead them in on and off field activities throughout their seasons. Among all teams, the values of commitment, cooperation, care of self, compassion and communication are encouraged and reinforced in all activities and events.

Your orientation will include a much more extensive description of the work and themes. The T.E.A.M. camp joins coaches, student-athletes, and young professionals from the United States with coaches and youth players from Granada. The camp runs from January 7-15th but you are welcome to travel before or after that time.

Please see the sample one-week itinerary for more information on day-to-day activities.

### **EXPENSES/EXPECTATIONS:**

Unlike many organizations, SWB does not have a direct administrative fee associated with volunteering. However, in order to make our activities during these



weeks most effective, and provide volunteers with the best experience possible, we ask that each volunteer contribute **\$400** toward the cost of their stay and the week's events, as well as **50 lbs** of new or gently used equipment.

*Financial Contribution:* Your \$400 is tax-deductible and can be achieved through fundraising. If you are a current NCAA student-athlete, you will need to get permission to fundraise from your NCAA compliance officer. In the past, compliance decisions on fundraising have been varied, and it is your responsibility to ensure that your decision is compliant with your school/conference rules. An easy way to fundraise is by setting up a Razoo page: [www.razoo.com](http://www.razoo.com) describing your trip and send it to your friends and family. Note that even if you decide not to fundraise online, you may privately solicit donations from friends and family for your trip, but these will not be tax-deductible and cannot be administered by SWB.

During your stay in Granada, your \$400 contribution will be used to cover your housing, local transportation, and food costs:

- Housing will be a homestay with a local family associated with Soccer Without Borders. Your house will have running water and a private room for volunteers, but please note that Granada suffers from great poverty so your accommodations will not be hotel-like! Come prepared with good walking shoes as the fields are about 1 mile from our office.
- Nicaraguan food is tasty and we will be eating like locals.
- Your breakfasts and dinners will be organized by SWB in addition to daily snacks in the office, purified water for your water bottles, and morning coffee. For lunch, you will receive a per diem that reflects local prices. Any food or treats beyond these are your responsibility.
- You will also receive a Soccer Without Borders Granada t-shirt.

*Equipment:* Your 50 lbs of equipment can be collected in your local community or picked up from one of our SWB equipment storage locations. We usually have a large supply of donated equipment in San Francisco, CA, Watertown, MA, West Chester, PA, and State College, PA. Colleges, high schools, and local clubs are also great resources for gently used equipment. Often times our SWB interns in your location will send specific requests for equipment that they need for special events in Granada. For example, for T.E.A.M. camp in January 2011, the volunteer group collected notebooks, pencils, erasers, and other school supplies that were later distributed in a back-to-school event.

*Flight and other costs:* The cost of your flight is not included in your \$400 contribution. Typical airfare costs to Managua, Nicaragua are between \$500 - \$700. New York City, Boston, Miami, and Washington DC tend to have the cheapest flights.



*Other expenses:* The cost of gifts, touristy extras, and snacks not included in your contribution will depend on the volunteer. Some volunteers have spent as little as \$20 additional, and others as much as \$100, depending on how many gifts you buy. Some typical gifts and prices: Personalized maracas (\$5), Hammocks (\$15), Vases (\$7), Bracelets (\$1-3), T-shirts (\$8). Phone and internet to communicate with friends and family is cheap (5 cents/minute phone, 1 dollar/hour internet).

*Language:* Familiarity with Spanish is encouraged but not required. The group will reflect a range of Spanish, and we will be sure to have enough competent speakers to ensure the camp's success.

### **CLIMATE:**

It's hot and humid! Come prepared to be in the sun for prolonged periods. It cools off some at night but not much. A water bottle, sunblock, and bug spray are essential.

### **INSURANCE:**

Soccer Without Borders has a general liability insurance plan. All volunteers must sign a waiver indicating that they understand the risks associated with international work and will not hold Soccer Without Borders accountable for any injuries, accidents or loss of property that occurs while working internationally. If your personal medical insurance does not cover international travel, we recommend that you get some kind of inexpensive short-term travel medical insurance for your trip. Here are a few links to organizations that provide this type of coverage:

<http://www.imglobal.com/coverage/patriot/>

<http://www.medexassist.com/>

<http://www.allaboardbenefits.com/>

### **HEALTH:**

No vaccinations are required but we recommend that you visit these websites to see what is recommended and then speak with your doctor before going to Nicaragua.

<http://www.who.int/ith/countries/nic/en/> [www.mdtravelhealth.com](http://www.mdtravelhealth.com)

Bring any necessary medication with you but if necessary, there are doctors, pharmacies, and hospitals available in Granada.

### **PASSPORT/VISA:**

If you have a valid US passport, you do not need to apply for any kind of visa before you go. Rather, you will purchase a tourist card (\$10.00) upon arrival. If you have a passport from a country other than the US, visit this website to check on your requirements: <http://nicaragua.visahq.com>



**Sample One-Week Itinerary:**

**Sat, Jan 7<sup>th</sup>:**

Arrivals at Managua, Nicaragua (MGA), SWB will arrange transportation from MGA.  
*If you plan to arrive on another day for personal travel reasons, SWB will arrange your shuttle from the airport, but may not be able to personally meet you.*  
 Meet host family and explore Granada

**Sun, Jan 8<sup>th</sup>:**

9:00am- Breakfast, Orientation and Training with SWB staff  
 10:00am- Full Camp staff meeting: Nicaraguan staff and volunteers  
 Lunch  
 1:00pm- Fiesta, celebration of 2011, Kick-off 2012  
 6:00pm- Group dinner with local staff

**Mon, Jan 9<sup>th</sup>:**

7:00am-Breakfast, Group meeting  
 8:00am-Staff team-building at field  
 9:30am- Morning camp session at field  
 12:00pm- Lunch at the Mercado- food shopping if necessary  
 2:00pm- Afternoon camp session at office  
 4:00pm- Optional pick-up game  
 7:00pm- Fritos in the office

**Tues, Jan 10<sup>th</sup>:**

8:00am-Breakfast, Group meeting in office  
 9:30am- Morning camp session at field  
 12:00pm- Lunch  
 2:00pm- Afternoon camp session at office  
 7:00pm- Dinner with host families

9:30 am- Camp session & wrap-up  
 Free time- Masaya Mercado

**Wed, Jan 11<sup>th</sup>:**

8:00am- Breakfast, Group meetings in office  
 9:30am- Morning camp session at field  
 12:00pm- Lunch  
 2:00pm- Afternoon camp session at office  
 4:00pm- Bracelet or chocolate-making  
 6:00pm- Dinner on own

**Thurs, Jan 12<sup>th</sup>:**

8:00am- Breakfast, Group meetings in office  
 9:30 am- Morning camp session at field  
 12:00pm- Lunch  
 2:00pm- Afternoon camp session at office  
 4:00pm- Cook potluck dinner at coaches houses  
 7:00pm- Potluck dinner at office

**Sat, Jan 14<sup>th</sup>:**

Laguna de Apoyo Trip  
 7:00 pm- Closing Dinner at Claudia's

**Fri, Jan 13<sup>th</sup>:**

8:00 am- Breakfast, Group meetings in office

**Sun, Jan 15<sup>th</sup>:**

Departures