

PURA VIDA, COSTA RICA

The official Newsletter from Costa Rica



Editor's Letter

Hello Everybody!

This is our July edition of the Costa Rica newsletter, and I am so proud to share with all of you the important information about the activities that we have had and been involved with during the month. I invite you to get in touch with us and be part of our experience. See you soon!

Laura Estrada

Social Manager

The Porslade School Group at the Care and Conservation Project Costa Rica.

As part of their projects since June 20th until July 10th, the Porslade school volunteers could visit the beach and perform many different activities during their experience in Costa Rica.

The first project was Conservation in which they were volunteers for one week at Diria National Park, located in Santa Cruz, Guanacaste. They were involved with all the projects such as: night walks, forest reforestation, monkey and bird projects, walks to amazing waterfalls, and more.



After the Conservation Project, they travelled to Heredia, one of the provinces of Costa Rica located in the Central Valley. Here, they could share many different activities, like a coffee tour, a dinner with the staff, dance lessons, and more.

Their work was divided on mornings at the Care Project at one placement called "Obras Del Espiritu Santo", where they were able to make games, take care of the kids in different activities, and play with them. In the afternoons they moved to another placement called "Luz Divina", in which they painted a beauty mural for the place.

This was an excellent experience for them, which will be remembered for all.



1st Group of Two Weeks Special at Care and Conservation Projects.

I have the pleasure to share with you all many special moments that our 20 Two Week Special volunteers have had during their time in Costa Rica. From July 6th until July 12th they had their first project which was care at three different placements: Day Care Semillitas de Vida, Hogar Comunitario Miraflores and the last one the Day Care Little People, all of them located in Heredia city, Central Valley.

At all of these placements they had the opportunity to play with the kids, take care of them, make different fun activities, and have a small party together with cake, candies, drinks and more. In the afternoons their work was different, because the activity was to paint some murals for the kids. As part of the programme, they had the privilege to visit many places around the city in which they had the possibility to learn about Costa Rica. They visited INBIO PARQUE, one of the most important places to visit, because people can learn about nature, variety of animals, plants and more. Then a coffee tour, the movies, bowling and the last activity was a special dinner with the staff members.



Special Projects in Liberia city as part of Mid-Year Holiday Program, July 2013

✓ **Painting Project at the Soccer / Basketball Court.**

On July 1st our volunteers in Liberia started with some special projects as part of the July holidays. One of them was painting the soccer court, which consisted on help the college court at one of the placements that Projects Abroad works within the city; the name of this college is “Colegio Tecnico Profesional de Liberia”.

This project was very helpful, because thanks to them, this high school has now a very nice soccer court to use during their sports lessons. That's why is very important to say thanks for the effort and the enthusiasm.



English Lessons for local Children, in Liberia city.

The classes were given from Monday to Friday at “Antiguo Colegio Santa Ana”, which is located in Liberia downtown. Our volunteers in program were teaching the English language to the kids with many great activities in order to have a nice time with them. As part of the activities they used flash cards, group games, dialogues and more.

Children from seven to 12-years-old were chosen to be part of this experience.

I would like to thank the volunteers who made this possible, the effort that they all put into the project, and also with Projects Abroad Costa Rica, for giving the volunteers the opportunity to do such great work.



Painting Mural at the Day Care Kidztown

The last project was painting the mural at one of the placements here in Liberia. In this project some female volunteers were the first ones who started with this. They worked as a group in every moment trying to beautify as much as possible. After some days of work, the rest of the volunteers joined the group and finished together the project.

Finally I would like to say thanks to all of the volunteers who helped in every project during this Mid-Year vacation, people around will always be very grateful for all the help.



Conservation Article

Mushroom inventory (NEW PROJECT)

About this project, I have to talk about the new staff, Evelyn Solano, she study Management of natural resources at the UNED, Evelyn like be in the nature, she like spend her day inside of the jungle and also she like work with mushrooms, she is the head of this project. Because Barra Honda don't have a mushroom inventory, so the volunteers go the forest with Evelyn for the inventory with mushroom

About the mushrooms: Fungi are a group of living things different from plants and animals, why are classified into a separate kingdom called Fungi. The science that studies them is called Mycology (Mykes = Fungus and logos = study). They have great adaptability and can grow on any medium or surface, both in forests and in cities. They reproduce by means of spores, which are spread mainly by wind and water.

Environmental education: a month for talk about the animals in captivity with the kids.

Every month we change the topic for this project. The topic for this month will be "animals in captivity", first the volunteers work in the camp is prepare all the materials for the school, in the first visit to one of the school the volunteers prepared mask for the kids. While, the staff talk with to kids about the problems with the animals in captivity. At the end, we have environmental games where the volunteers play with the kids about the topic of the day.

Bat Project: a new project is coming, end parasites in bat:

The Bat project is one of the oldest projects in Barra Honda, Eduardo (staff) has been working with Bat since 2009, and he is one of the most important people in Guanacaste with this knowledge. However, we try to improve the projects month by month, for that reason we are going to start working with endoparasite that mean that, we will collect the endotoparasite in the bath, and we can talk about sickness of the bat.

Bird Project

The day start at 5 am, staff and a group in transects volunteers and staff has to watch birds in all the directions, first of all we are working with relative abundance. Then we are going to work with behaviors of the birds and finally we are going to choose some species for the research.