

# Pescaditos del Salvador

## Volunteer Handbook

### Mission:

1.1 Mission: The mission for the childcare, Pescaditos del Salvador, is to form a solid Bible knowledge through a VBS (Vacation Bible School) type program, while providing for the basic needs of the children.

1.2 Commitment: Provide a safe and inviting environment where children and families are shown love and respect. Help educate the employees and families how to provide for their children in a similar manner, and what that type of organization looks like.

1.3 Responsibility: To design the organization and the programs therein to be simple and reproducible in order to encourage ownership of this type of necessary outreach to the community.

1.4 Support: Through good communication with the parents and care providers utilizing regular weekly meetings our goal is to enable them to maintain the core direction and discipline needed to guide their children in the way God guides us in scripture.

1.5 Future: We hope to be so effective in our direction as to work ourselves out of a job. The community takes the lead in the childcare outreach, and the Migrants are empowered to organize their efforts to better provide for their families.

## Background Information

We formed our organization, recognized as Mission to Costa Rica: to identify our specific intent of serving in ministry in Costa Rica, to the specific needs of a community, to build bridges to ways of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to Biblically demonstrate God's transforming love through our lives in outreach to the lost. Our current outreach focus is on the group of Migrants, or Migrant Nicaraguans, that enter Costa Rica to work, to make enough money to survive for the remaining part of the year in Nicaragua. The ministry (Pescaditos del Salvador) will focus on providing care for the children ages 0-6 years to keep them out of the workforce, and in a safe place. This ministry is unique in the way that it will provide an ideal environment for the children to learn, and an opportunity to build relationships with the families in this demographic. Ultimately this ministry will focus on Biblical teaching, and outreach to the families for the purposes of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and demonstrate His love in our lives.

During the coffee harvest in Costa Rica many thousands of Nicaraguans enter the country to find work. This period of time begins in September and usually ends in February. The Nicaraguans can make four (4) times the amount of money in Costa Rica than they do in their home country. Naturally, money is a strong motivator for migrating each year. This progression reveals a couple problems specifically for families. In the Nicaraguan culture it is very common for extended family

groups to remain together, to pool their resources, protect each other, and provide care and support. This means when the harvest is approaching they bring everyone. The nature of them being outsiders in a foreign country means that they do not have a system of support from a community, rights to human services, access to medical care, or access to child care or children's education. With the social support element missing they will try to make due with whatever resources they can bring and/or provide themselves. These children were brought into the coffee fields in the mountains and: A.) If they were old enough, usually over age 6, they worked in the fields with the others. B.) If they were not old enough, the 6 year olds and under were grouped together and cared for the infants, usually in hammocks.

Through Pescaditos del Salvador, we will implement a program, outlined in the following document, that will address these dangerous situations, organize the community and responsible adult Migrants, and direct educational, and necessary services, to aid them, demonstrate God's love and the hope that lies with Him.

### Objectives:

2.1 Provide a safe, welcoming environment for the children of the Migrants that will provide a location, meals, care, education, and activities. We will base all of these provisions on Biblical teaching.

2.2 Build relationships through care of the children, contact with the parents, and the nature of trust built into, care for loved ones. Quoting our friend, Delynn Hoover, discipleship moves as fast as the relationship. We hope to encourage those in need seeking assistance through this ministry to have a genuine curiosity for the reason we are here, and the reason for this life!

2.3 Work with the community leadership and organizations therein to reinforce this program. The goal being that the home would become sustained by these leaders and they would be the motivating force perpetuating this outreach. Ultimately the community would take ownership of the needs of their own.

In case of Emergency: Contact sponsoring Organization or see below.

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## Policies/Guidelines for Volunteers

Use appropriate language- swearing, degrading or negative comments are not allowed.

Dress comfortable and modestly.

Refrain from smoking or use of alcohol on/near the grounds or in the presence of the children.

Take an hour break for lunch (12-1:00) or as indicated by the schedule of your work assignments.

Communicate with the Program Coordinator/Director concerning the care of children.

Communicate with the director concerning change in work schedule, days of vacation or other concerns.

Maintain appropriate conversations while attending the children keeping them always first priority.

Engage the children in formal and informal activities and conversations.

Watch/pass child safety and appropriate conduct video.

Pass required background check before interacting with children.

## Training Requirements

### How we can serve our volunteers:

Handbook: Each volunteer will receive a volunteer handbook to read and fill out appropriate papers.

Onsite Tour: Volunteers will participate in an on site orientation.

Your gifts/talents: Discussion of your gifts and talents will help us place you appropriately.

Placement: Dependent upon your gifts and our needs.

Feedback: At any time we are open to constructive feedback, please let us know how we can serve the volunteers in a better manner if needed.

## TIDBITS OF INFORMATION

### Answers to some of the most frequently asked questions/concerns

We are looking forward to your coming, and have been praying for you. You will be involved in a variety of activities, including work projects, time with the children, outreach into the community, church on Sundays and times of sharing and processing.

1. The national language of Costa Rica is Spanish. Don't be timid to use whatever Spanish you know.
2. The Costa Rican currency is colones. The exchange rate changes daily and currently is around 500 colones to one dollar.
3. We travel by bus or car. The roads are not bad, but not straight. If you are prone to carsickness you will want to come prepared with Dramamine.
4. The weather is beautiful. The average temperature runs between 75 and 85. There are two seasons, wet and dry. The dry season is approximately from November to May and can get very dry, dusty and at times very windy. The rains begin around the beginning of May and normally the wettest months are September and October. Atenas is coined the "best climate in the world" because the temperature varies the least.
5. Electricity is 110 watts, which is the same as in the United States. On occasion we do lose electricity. This is usually for a relatively short period of time.
6. Our drinking water is safe in Atenas. We can buy bottled water in town, if needed.
7. Stay hydrated, drink water - if you have not urinated by lunchtime, you are not drinking enough. Dehydration hurts so avoid it by drinking water.
8. Sun is intense – Don't spoil your trip by getting sun burnt, use sun screen and a hat when working in the sun.
9. We have a large variety of bugs, anything from ants to spiders all different sizes. That can be very stretching for some people. Mosquitoes are seasonal, usually around the beginning of the wet season. Flies are also seasonal, usually in July and August.
10. Your tetanus immunization should be up to date. We do not have malaria in our area. There have been some cases of Dengue Fever during mosquito season. We have emergency facilities locally and if needed hospitals less than an hour away in San Jose.
11. You will eat a variety of Costa Rican and American food. The general diet included lots of rice, beans, fresh vegetables and fruits. The large meal is at noon and we eat lighter for suppers. When you finish your meal it is cultural and customary to tell the cook "Gracias, Muy rico" (Thank you, very good).
12. Daybreak is about 5 a.m. and it gets dark about 6. There is very little variation in the whole year. By culture the kids are usually in bed by 7 or so and the adults are close behind them. But the days start early, usually by 5:30 except during school vacation.
13. There may or may not be a washing machine at the house where you will be staying. If not you can always hand wash items as needed. No electrical dryer, we use the sun.
14. There are hot showers (as a general rule). The hot water for the showers comes through an electrical device nicknamed a "widow maker". Don't touch it while in the water or wet. The water is

heated as it goes through the widow maker and therefore the faster the water is running the less time it has to heat.

15. We will try and schedule a day out that involves going to the beach or a national park and shopping for Costa Rican souvenirs.

16. Comfort zone - During your time in Costa Rica you are more than likely out of your comfort zone. Things will be different. Try to appreciate the differences as differences and not right or wrong.

17. Make the most of your time - You will never have this time alone with God again.

18. Limit time with headphones, email, phone calls. Be courageous, be still and know that God is God and He wants to spend time with you.

19. Share your God given gifts – If you have a teaching gift, a gift of music, whatever, let it be known so God can use you to bless the kids, staff and your team.

## Vocabulario útil:

Apron - delantal

baby bottle - chupón

Blender - la liquidadora

bottle nipple – chupete

Bowl - el tazón

baking dish – molde

Jar – taro

broom – escoba

baking pot – olla

pitcher – pichel

cookie sheet - molde de galletas

drawer – gaveta

cup – taza

strainer – colander

cupboard - mueble de la cocina

frying pan – sartén

cutting board - tabla de picar

glass – vaso

cloth/towel – limpión

garbage pail – basurero

knife – cuchillo

spoon – cuchara

lid – tapa

sharp knife - cuchillo filoso

tablecloth – mantel

oven - horno

# MISSIONS APPLICATION: Long term - INTERNSHIP

Completed application and pastor's recommendation must be received no later than 30 days prior to desired date of arrival.

PART 1: Applicant Information:

NAME (as it appears on your passport)

Last

First

Middle

I am applying for: 1 month    3 months    6 months    9 months

Other:

Desired dates of Outreach:

## I. Contact information

Home: \_\_\_\_\_

School: (college) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address (If student, please list both school and permanent home address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## II. Personal Information

All applicants must be at least 18 years old or accompanied by an adult responsible for their care and supervision.

Name / nickname

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Age

Male Female

Marital Status \_\_\_\_\_

III. Personal Identification information

Passport Number Date of Issuance Date of Expiration

\_\_\_\_\_  
(mm/dd/yyyy)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(mm/dd/yyyy)

Place of Birth Birth / Date Citizenship

\_\_\_\_\_  
(mm/dd/yyyy)

IV. Emergency Information

Name of emergency contact

Relationship to you

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address/ P.O. Box/ City/ State/ Zip

Day Time Telephone (Area Code) \_\_\_\_\_

Evening \_\_\_\_\_

V. Medical Information

Describe your health, including any allergies, physical or dietary limitations

Are you on any regular medications or currently under a doctor's care? No

Yes

If yes, please explain:

List any medications you will be taking on this outreach, including reason:

VI. Christian Service

Home Church \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Pastor \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address/City/State/Zip

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

How often do you attend church?

How long have you been actively involved in your church?

Describe your present and past areas of ministry involvement in your church and Christian service.



Describe:

1. When and how you came into a personal relationship with Jesus (In approximately 150 words each)

2. Current relationship with God, including how you are seeking to share Christ with others now?

VII. Life Experience and Cross Cultural/Mission Training

Employment:    Part-time        Full-time        Retired        Student

Level of education you have completed:

Describe your present employment or declared major or emphasis in school:

Describe any experience and training you have had related to child care and child development:

Describe any experience and training you have had related to at-risk children or children with special needs:

Describe your experience working with other cultures?

Describe any cross cultural or mission training your have completed:

What level of Spanish do you speak?

None            beginning            intermediate    advanced

Have you ever traveled overseas?    No                      Yes

If yes, please describe your experience(s):

Have you ever been on a mission trip before?    No                      Yes

If yes, please describe your experience(s):

How are you preparing for this mission outreach:

What do you desire to gain from participating in a missions outreach:

What do you expect will be your contribution to those you serve on this outreach?

What challenges do you envision for yourself on this outreach:

Describe three strengths of your personality:

Describe three weaknesses of your personality:

# Day Volunteer Data

Volunteer Program: Pescaditos del Salvador

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Passport # \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print legibly)

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth (dd/mm/yy) \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Nationality \_\_\_\_\_ Marital status \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print legibly)

\_\_\_\_\_

Permanent address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print legibly)

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Host family \_\_\_\_\_ Host family phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation / University studies:

Level of education completed \_\_\_\_\_ Level of Spanish: \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you desire to volunteer with the Pescaditos del Salvador:

What gifts, talents and abilities do you have to offer?

Are you a part of a local church in your home town/city?

Do you wish to receive updates / newsletters (email and/or snail mail) from Pescaditos del Salvador?

Requirements of Volunteers

Volunteers are required to:

- use appropriate vocabulary
- dress comfortably and decent
- bring their own meal/food
- refrain from smoking on or near the property and in the presence of the children
- be willing to work in all areas
- be willing to do whatever needs to be done
- communicate with the head of household for job duties and responsibilities for the day
- work under the authority of the head of the household they are assigned to for the day
- comply with the beliefs, standards and guidelines of the Bible

I have read and agree to abide by the above requirements of Volunteers at Pescaditos del Salvador.

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Signature

Date