



COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

CEDESCRI

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Outline

CEDESCRI (Center for Christian Services) and FUNCEDESCRI (Center for Christian Services Foundation), are Guatemalan, ecumenical, non-profit and non Governmental organizations. They provide skills and projects for self-sufficiency in impoverished Mayan communities, in organic agriculture, appropriate technology, natural medicine, community income generation and integrated development. They offer technical, administrative and organizational training.

- It is expected that the participant will have initiative
- Responsibility is a must.
- Cultural understanding and open minded are extremely important.



The Organization:

CEDESCRI reinforces traditional Mayan values of community, mutual assistance and ecological balance. CEDESCRI, incorporated in 1990, grew out of service projects conducted by religious workers during the worst of Guatemala's civil War. Now a Rural Training Center is operated under the auspices of CEDESCRI, while the Foundation, incorporated in 1994, conducts village-based projects in two provinces of the highlands.



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The Organization and the Participant:

What will the CS participant do:

The participant will live at the project. Work in organic agriculture and botanical garden. Work with natural medicine. Provide technical, administrative and organizational training to different groups of persons from different communities. Support projects for self sufficiency in different communities, like teaching to use different machines. To help in the gardens. To support the activities of center. According to the activity, the participant will have to travel to far away communities to teach the local people the new techniques in order to improve their way of working the land. The participant will need to be patient because the local people does not trust the new techniques immediately and it takes a while for them to learn. The participant will need a translator considering that local people only speak their native language. They are trying to implement a new system of computers so the participant will have to teach them the basics. The participant might work with volunteers of other organizations.

How will I get to work

The participants will live at the project.

General requirements

It is expected that the participant will have initiative. Responsibility is a must. Cultural understanding and open minded are extremely important.

General recommendations specific to this project

The weather in San Lucas is mild to cold most of the time. November to February is cold and temperatures can drop to 40° C or less, mainly during nighttime and early in the morning. During daytime temperatures can be 20° C. There are no heater conditions. March till May is the warmest time of the year, there is no rain and temperatures vary from 18° C to 28° C. May to October is the rainy season. It rains during the afternoons and nights. It is humid and warm during daytime. Working hours are from Monday through Friday and sometimes during the weekends the participants are expected to work in the communities.

Special opportunities at this project



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The participant will have the opportunity to learn about the production of natural goods using organic agriculture, as well as some of the principles of natural medicine.

Number of Participant Work Opportunities at Project

Two or three participants each semester.