Volunteer Placement Profile
Nursing Volunteer

CENIT
Quito, Ecuador
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Job Description

CENIT helps working children, their families, and other members of the communities. The schools teach educational and life skills to around 100 children per year, many of whom would not otherwise have this opportunity. The street outreach program helps over 70 children and their parents by bringing educational resources to the streets. Their drop-in-tutoring center (CEA) provides tutoring to about 90 children. Their new, "Street Clinic" is working with the government's “sub-centros” to improve the delivery of health services to the people in the Camal community.

The CENIT’s Health Services department strives to provide the, “right to health” for children and their families in the South of Quito through education, health promotion, and relationship building with local health centers.

As a paediatric nurse volunteer, you would serve as an important part of the CENIT team and would be responsible for some of the health services provided at CENIT’s clinics. This is a fantastic opportunity for someone seeking the chance to gain clinical and public health experience while making a real difference in the lives of children and their families. Volunteers must be registered paediatric nurses and know an intermediate level of the Spanish language.

Volunteer Tasks Required

Medical Care

As a paediatric nurse volunteer you would be responsible for providing first aid and basic medical care to children who attend CENIT’s schools and extracurricular programs from Monday to Friday.

Medical Records

As a paediatric nurse volunteer you would be responsible to obtain basic health information of the children, produce a medical chart for each child,(if not already done) and assist families in scheduling medical appointments.
Check-Ups

As a paediatric nurse volunteer you would be responsible to liaison with a gynaecologist to book check-ups for adolescent girls and accompany them to their medical appointments which would be from Monday to Friday.

Conduct Workshops & Teach

As a paediatric nurse volunteer you would be responsible for teaching CENIT staff the fundamentals of first aid, and for delivering health related workshops on various topics to children and their families.
Organization Details

Centro de la Niña Trabajadora (CENIT) is a non-governmental, non-profit organization that is dedicated to providing opportunities for Ecuadorian youth. This organization was started as an attempt to address a number of social issues that were escalating due to events that took place through the 1980's. In the late 1970's to the late 1980's many countries throughout the world entered into a recession, due in part, to a drastic increase in oil prices. As a result, these countries began to need assistance. Ecuador, began to borrow more and more money, however, they were finding it difficult to repay the loans due to high interest rates and little economic surplus.

The debt crisis (as known by many people in Ecuador) occurred throughout many countries in Latin America and as a result countries like Ecuador were so far in debt that they could not pay the loans back. During this period, the social infrastructure in Ecuador began to crumble and many people lost their jobs. There was no money to put into improving educational or medical facilities. As a result, working children became a common sight on the streets of Quito and in most Latin American cities.

Since this phenomenon began, many programs and centers have been formed to assist in supporting males to find employment and aid. In 1989, frustrated by the lack of attention paid to the specific problems confronted by working girls, a group of concerned Ecuadorian citizens founded Centro de la Niña Trabajadora (CENIT).

The founding members of CENIT wanted to create a program that was focused on creating opportunities for young girls who were unable to attend school, who did not have access to safe drinking water and who were not able to access health and medical care. By developing and implementing educational and vocational programs, CENIT is helping working girls and their families overcome barriers and receive essential necessities. They have created many opportunities for young women, such as, a basic education, job training and access to recreational games.

CENIT is run by a group of nuns from the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. These nuns work in conjunction with Ecuadorian paid professionals (including teachers, administrators, social workers and psychologists) and around forty to fifty foreign and national volunteers. They work hard to locate child workers, befriend them and
When the Organization was Founded

This organization was founded in 1989 by concerned Ecuadorian citizens in response to observations that the prevalence of child laborers in Quito had increased greatly due to urban migration, debt crisis, and an increase in poverty. They sought to give these children the necessary skills, talents, and education so that they could find work away from the streets and hopefully break the cycle of child laborers. CENIT is run by a group of nuns from the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. These nuns work in conjunction with Ecuadorian paid professionals (including teachers, administrators, social workers and psychologists) and around forty to fifty foreign and national volunteers.

How the Organization is Funded

The foundation's main funds are obtained from international organizations, both religious and secular, as well as some government funding from within Ecuador. A small percentage of funding comes from private donations.

Role of Religion Within This Organization

This organization is lead by the Sisters of Good Sheppard and they are dedicated to providing opportunities for all Ecuadorian youth, in need. However, Catholic children are invited to take religious classes. The nuns are very open and they also offer family planning and sex educational classes.
Placement Location Information

Centro de la Niña Trabajadora, (CENIT) provides a variety of support services to working girls and their families to help them rise out of grinding poverty. CENIT works to improve the quality of life in whole communities.

Working children and their families seldom find their way to CENIT on their own. For this reason, the CENIT's Outreach Program goes to them. Each day, staff members and volunteers organize artistic or occupational activities and take them out to children and families working in various sectors.

Activities emphasize fine-motor skills, creativity and group cooperation. The Outreach Program provides a welcome respite for working children, an opportunity for educators to encourage children to return to formal education and hope to families living in extreme poverty.

The Outreach team staff work hard to maintain CENIT's connection with communities and to lead many children and adults to CENIT each year.

City Description

Quito or also called "Luz de America", is the capital of Ecuador; a country located in South America, on the Equator line. Quito is considered one of the most beautiful cities in South America because of its amazing colonial architecture, historical sites, fantastic landscapes and panoramic views all surrounded by incredible mountains, rivers, parks and volcanoes.

Quito was founded in the 16th century by the Incas Tribe and is located at an altitude of 2,850 meters above sea level.

Centro de Quito, (colonial city) is the largest and best conserved colonial city in South America; this is why the UNESCO named it a "World Cultural Heritage Site" in 1978. The city's structure on the 320 hectare compound is an outstanding example of superb architecture from the sixteenth to the twentieth century; surrounded by volcanic stone with very narrow streets within, (built stone by stone), there is much to see.
The historic centre of Quito has ancient colonial homes, priceless churches, chapels, monasteries, convents, as well as plazas, museums and republican buildings with interesting architecture.

Once outside of the historical centre of the city, Quito takes on a completely different personality in the “new town” where many high rise and government buildings are found.

Though Quito is old and historic, the public transportation is fairly efficient and the city is served by a network of buses that travel throughout most of the areas; it is a cheap way of getting around. Since the city is very long and narrow, it is divided into three zones and many buses run in each zone of the city.

Currently, the heart of the capital is full of vigour and culture, such as "Heritage Nights" where citizens and visitors can enjoy the unique attractions in the, "jewel in the crown of Ecuador", through images and videos.

Points of Interest

In the collective memory of Ecuadorians, the founding of Quito refers to legendary times and the first inhabitants Quitumbe Quitus, whom later merged with the Caras. Quito's story does not begin or end with the arrival of the Spanish, who were but one of the important milestones in the course of ancient history lived by Ecuadorian people.

Immediately after the victory over the Inca ruler Atahualpa in 1535 Spanish conquistadors led by Francisco Pizarro and Diego de Almagro settled in Cajamarca.

One member of the expedition was Sebastian Benalcázar appointed Lieutenant Governor of San Miguel who soon formed the famous city of Quito.

There are more than thirty religious structures in the historic centre of Quito and the Jesuit Church is considered the most elaborate structure. The populous in mainly of the Roman Catholic faith and has been since the invasion of the Spanish in the 16th century.

Quito is located very close to the equator and just outside of the city limits there is a monument and museum which marks the equator's location.
Weather in the Area

Because Ecuador is located on the Equator line, Quito's weather is very unique. Due to the Equator, Ecuador has no seasons; there is summer and winter. The year has six months winter and six months summer but the number of months for each changes from time to time.

Because Quito is so high up in the mountains, the sun is very strong and the wind blows really hard; it can get pretty cold at night. Quito always has a temperate climate with temperatures ranging from 10 to 27 °C.

Transportation From BaseCamp

Walk down two blocks to 6 de Diciembre Street. Take the Ecoula at Sauces Station to the south. When you get to Alamedas Park, get off and walk across the park to take the trolebus. You will travel for about 30 minutes and get off at the last stop, across from the Quicentro Sur Mall. Walk from the station two blocks and you will arrive at Huacho Street and the Cenit building.
Accommodation and Meals

All of our volunteers begin their stay in Ecuador at our BaseCamp Center in Quito. Given that this placement is less than a 1 hour and 15 minute commute from BaseCamp, volunteers working here will have the option of living with us at BaseCamp or living with a host family.

The following information outlines a brief description of life at BaseCamp and also what someone can expect living with a host family in Ecuador. Once you have completed our application, you can let our staff know if you would prefer to live with a host family. Otherwise, your application will default to having you live with us at BaseCamp.

If you have any questions about the difference between life at BaseCamp or life with a host family in Ecuador you can always give us a call or send us an email. Our contact details are listed in the footer of every page of the site.
BaseCamp Ecuador

BaseCamp Ecuador is located in the trendy Mariscal district of Quito. Within easy walking distance of banks, restaurants, internet cafes and more; BaseCamp in Quito is perfectly situated for any need. Whether you are taking advantage of the rich and vibrant night life of La Mariscal or visiting a local market, BaseCamp Ecuador is always just a few minutes away.

There are six dormitory style guest rooms and five wash-rooms. Pillows, sheets and blankets are provided. There are two common areas on the main floor, including a small resource centre, containing books, magazines, games and other Ecuadorian publications. As well there is a large selection of local movies and documentaries which are available for guest viewing. In addition to the two common areas, BaseCamp Quito has a rooftop terrace, the perfect spot to watch the street come

BaseCamp Ecuador Address
Juan Rodriguez E8 - 72 Y
6 De Diciembre
Quito, Ecuador

Contact Details
Tel: 593 2-254-7737 (Guest House Jazmines)
Tel: 593-0-998-221-438

www.volunteerbasecamp.com
awake with a morning cup of coffee, or spend an afternoon relaxing in the sun.  

BaseCamp Quito is also the orientation and training centre for international volunteers visiting Ecuador. In addition to accommodation and meals, BaseCamp Quito also provides volunteers with orientation, Spanish Language training (1 - 8 weeks), placement consultation and work plan seminars, as well as follow up and continued support while volunteers are at their placements. All of these services are available to guests who are interested.
Living With a Host Family

Living with a host family in Ecuador is a fantastic way to gain a deep understanding of and appreciation for the people and customs of the country. Each home-stay will provide a bed and three meals per day for our volunteers. The majority of host families offer private rooms with only one or two volunteers living with the family.

In the case of a volunteer lodge or ranger station (which is often the only option for placements within a National Park), volunteers will be living in dormitory type accommodation and meals will be provided in a mess hall or dining area.

Living with a host family can greatly enhance your performance at your placement. For one, it will have a huge influence on the speed with which you gain familiarity with the local language. This, along with your deeper understanding of cultural practices and beliefs that you are likely to gain in this environment, can go a long way to improving or strengthening your relationships with your team mates at work. Furthermore, a significant percentage of our host families are closely affiliated with the organizations with which our volunteers work. As such, even the evening meal or hanging out around the house can become valuable time during which volunteers
can share their ideas and continue their support of their host organization.

All of this being said, living with a host family is not for everyone. It is very important for volunteers to honor the house rules in their host family and to be punctual. Also, depending on how remote your placement location, host families can be very rustic. Our staff in country can give you a better idea of what exactly you can expect from a host family in any particular community. However, in general, if these things sound like they might pose a challenge for you, we strongly suggest that you look at a placement within commuting distance from BaseCamp Ecuador.
How the Program Works

Our program structure and costing is completely flexible which lets our volunteers ensure that they only pay for exactly the degree of support that they want.

**Option 1 - Free Services**

Some volunteers prefer to coordinate their own accommodation, meals and other support while overseas.

Anyone is welcome to use our volunteer placement search tool to help in finding a placement that is well suited to their interests. Once someone finds a placement that they wish to work with, they are welcome to make all the rest of their arrangements on their own.

As well, our team of staff overseas are often able to offer a few helpful pointers for volunteers 'doing it on their own'. Just send us an email with your questions and we will put you in touch with our team abroad. We only ask that you keep your requests fairly general, as this type of advice is exactly how our team earn their living. :)

**Option 2 - Placement Support - 250 USD**

Other volunteers would like assistance in selecting and confirming their placement, but they plan to manage their own accommodation and other expenses on their own.

These volunteers have the option of choosing to only have our assistance with selecting and confirming their placement. This option also includes ongoing placement support while abroad, so a volunteer would be able to ask our team for help if things at their placement were not working out.

In providing Placement Support, our team works with each volunteer through email, telephone and either Skype or Google Hangouts, to ensure that each volunteer has a clear understanding of their placement options. Our in-country staff will put together a custom list of placement options for each volunteer that they believe are the most appropriate matches with the volunteer's background, skills and interests.
Then each volunteer can work with our team both in Canada and abroad to go through each of the options and narrow-down their selection.

**Option 3 - Full Program Support**

For most volunteers who are volunteering for less than a year, they are looking for an option that includes their accommodation, meals, airport reception, country and program orientation and placement support. This is what our Program Fees are designed for.

We are proud of how over the years we have ensured that our program fees are amongst the most reasonable of any program in the world while we continue to provide exceptional volunteer support both at home and abroad.

Our Program Fees and listings of what these do and do not include are listed below:
## Program Fees Ecuador

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration Fee</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration Fee</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Week</td>
<td>395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Weeks</td>
<td>620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Weeks</td>
<td>844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Weeks</td>
<td>1,068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Weeks</td>
<td>1,418</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Weeks</td>
<td>1,593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Weeks</td>
<td>1,768</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Additional Weeks   | 175   |

Ecuador wildlife and conservation placements require an additional $7 USD per day fee to cover park fees and accommodation. All program fees are listed in US Dollars.

**This placement has a placement fee!**

In some cases, a placement will have to take on certain expenses in order to host a volunteer. For example, some medical internship placements take time away from paid medical staff to help with educational assistance. This has a cost that is compensated by a placement fee. In other cases, the organization may have to pay for additional equipment, energy consumption or other expense in order to put a volunteer to work.

In such cases, the organization charges a fee. This fee is paid directly to the organization in cash on the ground and IS NOT part of your Program Fees.
One of the reasons that we keep this fee separate is so that volunteers who do not pay us for accommodation, meals etc (Program Fees), will see that they will still have to make this payment directly to the organization upon their arrival.

The placement fee for this organization is: 100 USD
Inclusions & Exclusions

What is Included

- Pre-Departure support
- Placement consultation
- Airport reception & transfer
- 2 Day orientation
- Accommodation (BaseCamp or host family)
- Breakfast and dinner
- Emergency & placement support

What is Not Included

Before Departure

- International flight
- Travel medical insurance
- Visa costs where required
- Work permits where required

While Overseas

- Daily transportation to and from placement
- Transport to airport on departure
- Placement fees if required
Program Dates

Our regularly scheduled program start dates are the first Friday of each month, every month of the year. We strongly recommend beginning your program on one of these dates as this will allow you to go through our orientation alongside other international volunteers.

If you would prefer, our application will also allow you to select a custom start date for your program. Keep in mind that there is an additional fee for a custom start date which ranges from 50 to 75 USD.

| Mar 06, 2020 | Apr 03, 2020 | May 01, 2020 |
| Jun 05, 2020 | Jul 03, 2020 | Aug 07, 2020 |
| Sep 04, 2020 | Oct 02, 2020 | Nov 06, 2020 |
| Dec 04, 2020 | Jan 01, 2021 | Feb 05, 2021 |
| Mar 05, 2021 | Apr 02, 2021 | May 07, 2021 |
| Jun 04, 2021 | Jul 02, 2021 | Aug 06, 2021 |
| Sep 03, 2021 | Oct 01, 2021 | Nov 05, 2021 |
| Dec 03, 2021 | Jan 07, 2022 | Feb 04, 2022 |

PLEASE NOTE:

These dates are the day that volunteers should plan to arrive on the ground in country. We can accommodate arrivals in-country at any time day or night on these dates.