

**Medium and long term
Volunteering Programme
2012**



MEXICO

www.natate.org

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I. MEDIUM AND LONG TERM VOLUNTEERING PROJECTS

Nataté Voluntariado Internacional offers collaboration opportunities in communitarian development in Mexico, specifically in the states of Chiapas and Morelos. It is important to remark, that those states where Nataté works, have a wide history on social movements.

These collaborations can be in both medium and long term, that is from 1 months to 1 year. During this time, participants not only have an opportunity to get involved in the different areas of their project, but also can see Mexico from a more local perspective with individual and collective activities.

It is true that at the moment, there are some violence situations affecting the country, however media has also exaggerated the situation launching a fear campaign. The communities where our projects take place are safe locations.

Nataté Voluntariado Internacional is an organization with a strong interest on social and community development, our work consist on the creation of links between international volunteering and the local communities throughout an space coordinated with the local organizations from the 3 states mentioned before.

Nataté aims to launch personal processes, proposing different fields of action, where volunteers can choose according their interests and needs, reinforcing and/or developing skills and capabilities such as:

- Getting to know the local culture.
- Learn the language (Spanish is the official language in Mexico)
- Share their own culture with other participants.
- Exchange of ideas and experiences
- Make friends
- Promote voluntary service on their home towns

II. TYPES OF ACTIVITIES

- **Environmental activities:** cleaning, construction, recycling, awareness raising, reforestation
- **Education:** Work with children, artistic workshops, protection of the environment, recreational.
- **Health:** Support on the creation of workshops and translation of documents on sexual and reproductive health.
- **Office work:** Translation, promotion of volunteering, presentations, preparation of activities, camp leader, updating the web page, contact with international organizations
- **World heritage:** restoration, renovation, and preservation of cultural and natural heritage.

- **Construction:** Support to low income families in the construction and improvement of their houses.

Depending on the project, volunteers work up to 35 hours per week.

III. HOW TO PARTICIPATE

1. Find a project that suits your interests at www.natate.org
2. Choose several choices in which you would like to participate.
3. Send us your CV and motivation letter.
4. Send your application form to: natate.mexico@gmail.com.
5. Once you have been accepted in a project we will get back to you.
6. Prepare your trip.
7. If there is one of our partners in your country, please contact them to participate in our projects.

IV. PARTICIPATION FEE

The projects proposed by Nataté have a monthly participation fee that has to be covered by volunteers. This fee is: 1,200 Mexican pesos for projects where meals are not prepared by the group as part of the project. In this case, volunteers should buy and prepare their own meals. 2,500 Mexican pesos if meals are included in the project.

IV. ACCOMMODATION & FOOD

- Nataté provides accommodation for the projects that take place in San Cristobal de las Casas. It is a house at the city center, with all facilities (kitchen, 3 toilets, a small patio) and 6 shared bedrooms.
- Volunteers buy their own food at their charge except in projects NAT11, NAT17 and NAT24 where the food is included in the participation fee.
- Volunteers can cook at home. Mexican food is good, and meat represents an important part of the diet. However vegetarians and vegans will not have any trouble finding what they need for their diets.
- In the case of projects outside of San Cristobal de las Casas, the lodging conditions are different. The information is written in each project description.

V. TRANSPORTATION

We recommend to check the cost of the flight ticket with different airlines, since there are a lot of companies traveling to Mexico and prices can change a lot from one to another.

By plane:

- **Chiapas:**

Arrive to Mexico City Airport, from there you can take a bus to San Cristobal de las Casas. The bus ride takes around 14 hours. You can also fly to Tuxtla Gutierrez and from there share a cab or take a bus to San Cristobal de las Casas, that is 1 hr away.

The bus from Tuxtla to SCLC leaves at: 11:30 / 13:00 / 16:00 / 17: 30

- **Morelos:**

Fly to Mexico City, from there you have to take a bus to the city of your project for a 2 hours-ride.

By bus:

OCC and ADO buses, go from Mexico and Tuxtla to San Cristobal de las Casas. Nataté is 10 blocks away from the bus station, you can walk or take a taxi which may cost 25 pesos.

Emergency numbers:

Nataté Office: +52 967 631 69 18

Nataté mobile phone : 0044 967 1025947

V. RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

There are several opportunities for volunteers to get to know the local culture and travel to interesting natural, archaeological and cultural sites close to the cities where projects take place. If you participate in any of the programmes you will get an info sheet with more detailed information of places to visit and things to see and do.


VI. SECURITY

It is very important that when volunteers go on holiday, day trips o weekends they let us know where they are going, how are they getting there and when are they coming back. We strongly recommend giving us a number where we can reach them in case of an emergency.

PROJECTS 2011

Code	Name	Location	Number of volunteers
NAT/LTV05	Pequeño Sol 1 - Acciones Ambientales	San Cristóbal, Chiapas	2
NAT/LTV06	Pequeño Sol 2 – Acciones Pedagógicas	San Cristóbal, Chiapas	2
NAT/LTV10	Parque Educativo San José	San Cristóbal, Chiapas	4
NAT/LTV11	Tzajalá	Ocosingo, Chiapas	5
NAT/LTV12	Jardín Botánico San Cristóbal de las Casas	San Cristóbal, Chiapas	3
NAT/LTV13	NATATÉ - Gestión y apoyo a una ONG	San Cristóbal, Chiapas	3
NAT/LTV17	Tsomanotik	Comitán, Chiapas	2
NAT/LTV18	Alianza Cívica	San Cristóbal, Chiapas	3
NAT/LTV19	Talentos y Vida	Yecapixtla, Morelos	2
NAT/LTV20	Jaguar de Madera	San Cristóbal, Chiapas	3
NAT/LTV24	La Albarrada – Centro de Desarrollo Comunitario	San Cristóbal, Chiapas	4
NAT/LTV26	Maderas del Pueblo	San Cristóbal, Chiapas	2
NAT/LTV27	HABITAT	San Cristóbal, Chiapas	2
NAT/LTV28	Ángeles de Amor	San Cristóbal, Chiapas	3
NAT/LTV29	Voces Mesoamericanas	San Cristóbal, Chiapas	2
NAT/LTV30	SYJAC	San Cristóbal, Chiapas	2
NAT/LTV31	Casa Gandhi	San Cristóbal, Chiapas	2

LIST OF PROJECTS

<p style="text-align: center;">NAT/LTV05 Pequeño Sol 1 – Environmental Actions</p>	
<p>Project: The educative center “Pequeño Sol” (little sun) was founded in 1984 by a group of parents that were looking for an educational alternative, where all boys and girls, no matter their culture and/or social class could be together respecting their identities, this is a school for the community. Since then, a civil association was created focusing all their efforts on building a school that could offer a balanced education between the academic programmes and the integral human development. Pequeño Sol aims to form responsible, committed and independent people. Since 1994 they are part of PEA, Plan of schools associated to UNESCO, since then they have included the following areas in our academic programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global issues and a search for solutions • Understanding and appreciating cultures • Human rights and democracy • Environmental education. <p>They are a team of 54 people including teachers, administrative and cleaning staff, working with 334 boys and girls aged between 2 and 15 years old.</p>	
<p>Work: Volunteers will participate in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · maintenance of the collection center of materials for reuse. · awareness raising among parents on the functioning of the center and the importance of separating waste to create a environmentally friendly culture. · activities to promote an environmental culture, both with students and parents: reforestation, cleaning of the river, and campaigns on the topic. · taking care of a greenhouse at the school and the organic compost. · follow up the construction of paths, green houses and gardens in the school. 	
<p>Accommodation:</p>	<p>Volunteers will stay at a house in San Cristóbal de las Casas, it is a shared house and there are up to 4 volunteers per room.</p>
<p>Location:</p>	<p>San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas</p>
<p>Duration:</p>	<p>6 months or 1 year, following the school calendar.</p>
<p>Remarks:</p>	<p>Good level of Spanish to communicate with staff and children. Volunteers need to send a motivation letter and CV. Previous experience on education is a plus. An international work camp will take place for two weeks during the summer.</p>
<p>Number of volunteers.</p>	<p>2 volunteers.</p>
<p>Starting time:</p>	<p>At the beginning of the school year September/January.</p>
<p>Participation fee:</p>	<p>1,200 Mexican pesos monthly. Fee does not include meals.</p>

NAT/LTV06 Pequeño Sol 2 –

Pedagogical Actions



Project:

The educative center “Pequeño Sol” (little sun) was founded in 1984 by a group of parents that were looking for an educational alternative, where all boys and girls, no matter their culture and/or social class could be together respecting their identities, this is a school for the community. Since then, a civil association was created focusing all their efforts on building a school that could offer a balanced education between the academic programmes and the integral human development. Pequeño Sol aims to form responsible, committed and independent people. Since 1994 they are part of PEA, Plan of schools associated to UNESCO, since then they have included the following areas in our academic programme:

- Global issues and a search for solutions
- Understanding and appreciating cultures
- Human rights and democracy
- Environmental education.

They are a team of 54 people including teachers, administrative and cleaning staff, working with 334 boys and girls aged between 2 and 15 years old.

Work:

Volunteers will participate in:

Various events: We are willing to organize events to celebrate special dates that agree with our ideas regarding academic, social and affective development of our students. For example: family day, childhood day, environmental related celebrations, also those celebrations that promote democracy and the UNESCO values. Volunteers will help with the organization and promotion of these events.

Teaching: Volunteers will help teachers or be substitute teachers for classes and recreational activities.

Support on the administrative area: In case a member of the staff can't come to work, volunteers can substitute them and help with administrative works, such as the process of inscription for students.

Care and maintenance of the school: Volunteers will help with cleaning, gardening and other maintenance activities at school.

Accommodation:

Volunteers will stay at a house in San Cristóbal de las Casas, it is a shared house and there are up to 4 volunteers per room.

Location:

San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas

Duration:

6 months or 1 year, following the school calendar.

Remarks:

Good level of Spanish to communicate with staff and children. Volunteers need to send a motivation letter and CV. Previous experience on education is a plus. An international work camp will take place for two weeks during the summer.

Number of volunteers.

2 volunteers.


Starting time:

At the beginning of the school year September/January.

Participation fee:

1,200 Mexican pesos monthly. Fee does not include meals.

<p>NAT/LTV09 San José</p> <p>Educational Park</p>	
<p>Project: The Educational Eco-park San José is a natural reserve of mild forest (oak and pine trees forest) and an educational park; it is part of the Natural History Institute in Chiapas. Its mission is to protect, conserve, and exhibit the flora and fauna from the region Los Altos de Chiapas. The total area of the park occupies 16 hectares, however at the moment only 2 are being used. The new administration is willing to reorganize the park and its facilities following their sustainable and ecological philosophy. The development of services for nature lovers and responsible tourist is among the plans (facilities for bird watching, bike paths, ecological refuges for animals, etc)</p>	
<p>Work: Volunteers will work on three different activities: 1.-Environmental culture and international volunteering: guide groups, renovation of the infrastructure, make material for workshops and the park, design and construction of cages for animals. 2.-Environmental education: Guided tours for school groups, creation of demonstrative places, elaborate programmes for activities with kids 3.-Wildlife: renovation of the infrastructure used by biologist to study animals, create information panels.</p>	
<p>Accommodation:</p>	<p>Volunteers will stay at the park facilities, on a shared space.</p>
<p>Location:</p>	<p>Zinacantán, Chiapas , 15 minutes from San Cristòbal de las Casas.</p>
<p>Duration:</p>	<p>From 2 months to 1 year</p>
<p>Remarks:</p>	<p>Good level of Spanish to communicate with staff and children. Volunteers need to send a motivation letter and CV. Previous experience on education is a plus. An international work camp will take place for two weeks during the summer.</p>
<p>Number of volunteers.</p>	<p>3 volunteers.</p>
<p>Starting time:</p>	<p>At any time.</p>
<p>Participation fee:</p>	<p>1,200 Mexican pesos monthly. Fee does not include meals.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">NAT/LTV10 Tzajalá</p>	
<p>Project: The COTZALSELCH cooperative, is a sustainable project for the Tzajalà, village. With it's traditional jewelry workshops, experimental agro-ecological farm (horticulture, coffee, medicinal plants, compost,etc) the cooperative develops sustainable developing projects in total agreement with nature.</p>	
<p>Work: Volunteers will participate on agriculture activities, such as preparing the land for harvesting. They will also do construction tasks and will restore various cabins a the Ha O Mek Ka center.</p> <p>Volunteers will have an opportunity to learn how to make jams, work with traditional and local crafts, textiles, produce honey and use regional medicinal plants. Occasionally, volunteers will support on diverse workshops for some local women.</p>	
<p>Accommodation:</p>	<p>Volunteers will stay at the center facilities, on a shared space. Volunteers will stay on shared cabins at the Ha O Mek Ka center.</p>
<p>Location:</p>	<p>Tzajalá, is located on the municipality of Ocosingo, an hour away from San Cristóbal de las Casas</p>
<p>Duration:</p>	<p>From 2 month up to 1 year.</p>
<p>Remarks:</p>	<p>Interest on environmental issues. 3 international workcamps will take place during the year. Meals are prepared at the center and volunteers are welcome to help.</p>
<p>Number of volunteers.</p>	<p>5 volunteers.</p>
<p>Starting time:</p>	<p>At any time.</p>
<p>Participation fee:</p>	<p>2500 Mexican pesos per month. Fee includes lodging and meals.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">NAT/LTV11 San Cristóbal de las Casas Botanical Garden</p>	
<p>Project: The local organization “Jardín de Epífitas” is working on the creation of a botanical garden, at the San Cristóbal hill. The aim is to promote a environmental culture through the organization of workshops in the city, where examples of sustainable development such as: recycling, production of clean energy, responsible use of natural resources,etc, are shown. This organization is also promoting the reproduction of local species in order to include local flora in reforestation, conservation and restoration projects in the urban and suburban areas of the city.</p>	
<p>Work: Volunteers will participate on different tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rescue of various vegetable plants. • Care, cultivation and exhibition of the recovered plants for educational purposes. • Training on vegetable growing and educative projects. • Development of artistic activities in the garden. • Research projects on sustainable development. • Work on the creation of the Botanical Garden at the San Cristobal Hill. 	
<p>Accommodation:</p>	<p>Volunteers will stay at a house in San Cristobal, sharing a room with up to 4 volunteers.</p>
<p>Location:</p>	<p>San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas</p>
<p>Duration:</p>	<p>3 months minimum</p>
<p>Remarks:</p>	<p>Basic level of Spanish to communicate with staff and locals.</p>
<p>Number of volunteers.</p>	<p>3 volunteers.</p>
<p>Starting time:</p>	<p>At any time.</p>
<p>Participation fee:</p>	<p>1200 Mexican pesos per month. Meals are not included.</p>

NAT/LTV13 Nateté – NGO management and support



Project:

Nataté Voluntariado Internacional A.C., is an association that works for the local communitarian development through voluntary service, and with local actions for global effects within a national and international context. The associations main areas of work are:

1. Co-organization of local development projects, where the national and international volunteering service is integrated.
2. Sending Mexican volunteers abroad to projects organized by our partner organizations in 70 countries.

These actions are complemented with awareness raising campaigns on: The importance of protecting the environment and strengthening sustainable life styles; the preservation of cultural and natural heritage; Work with people living on less favored situations. To achieve this goals, Nataté s main tools are: International work camps and medium and long term volunteering.

Work:

Volunteers will participate in various tasks of the partnership and support in different sectors in communication and the organization, leadership and monitoring of various projects. The tasks will:

1. Participation in monitoring volunteers involved in various projects (projects, finance, etc).
2. Support in updating promotional documents, details of each project, writing the volunteer program in the medium and long term, infosheets, etc.
3. Support at different stages of the volunteers: preparation for the arrival before departure, preparation, evaluations, etc.
4. Contacts with international organizations and cooperation with developing new partnerships
5. Website update
6. Promotion of volunteerism in various universities in the region and country.
7. Participation in workshops and seminars at local, regional and national level, writing international articles for the monthly newsletter of the association, translation and proofreading of the partnerships and projects
8. International leadership camps are organized at various times of the year.

Accommodation:	Volunteers will stay at a house in San Cristobal, sharing a room with up to 4 volunteers.
Location:	San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas
Duration:	3 months minimum
Remarks:	Basic level of Spanish to communicate with staff and locals.
Number of volunteers.	3 volunteers.
Starting time:	At any time.
Participation fee:	1200 Mexican pesos per month. Meals are not included.

NAT/LTV17 Tsomanotik



Project:

Tsomanotik is an educative agro-ecological center for the sustainable development that works in two areas: Inter cultural project with youngsters from different places and Projects that contribute to the local communitary development.

Tsomanotik allows participants to see different realities leading to reflection and motivation to take solidary local and global actions.

The vision of this association is to awaken a solidary consciousness in the youth, so that from being aware of the causes of injustice and poverty, they can act for a more fair and solidary world, and accompany marginalized groups from Chiapas on their development process.

The work team at the center is conformed by 8 people: 5 farmers, 1 engineer, 1 coordinator and 1 promoter. The center hosts groups and families willing visit it and they propose workshops on agro-ecological techniques.

The association also works in 2 schools at the village of Tzimol, and with youngsters aged 12 to 18, in matters of environmental culture. It also participates with a orphanage in Comitán, allowing the children to experience new educational and recreational activities.

Work:

Volunteers will take care and maintain the agriculture areas: garden, vegetables, organic compost, mushrooms. They will also take care of the animals: rabbits and chicken help with the maintenance of the center (cleaning dry latrines, recycling of waste, etc). They will collaborate with the design and creation of the demonstration area and with environmental awareness raising activities with the local population.

Accommodation:	Volunteers stay at the Tsomanotik center, on a shared room.
Location:	Tzimol, community located 10 minutes away from the city of Comitán, Chiapas
Duration:	From 3 months to 1 year.
Remarks:	A good level of Spanish. 20+ yrs old.
Number of volunteers.	2 volunteers.
Starting time:	At any time.
Participation fee:	2900 Mexican pesos per month. Meals are included.

NAT/LTV18 Alianza Cívica	
<p>Project: Alianza Cívica Chiapas is a non-governmental organization formed in 1994 by the initiative of a group of citizens and other civic organizations interested in active participation in the construction of a collective consciousness of participation through civic education, civic activities and actions that promote citizen participation in public affairs. Their aim was to enable the full respect of human rights in its various aspects (Civil Rights, Political, Economic, Social, Cultural, Environmental).</p>	
<p>Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the reading habit in 400 children from East Alliance Zone in a district La Garita in San Cristobal de Las Casas, Chiapas, through the installation of a mobile library, which allows the formation of cultural identity, to promote Human Rights and children's rights, as well as the values for healthy community living. • Generate meeting spaces that encourage youth organization to express concerns, to express their creative ideas, active participation, dissemination and exchange of proposals and projects for the recognition of this sector the creation of public and youth policies and building a better society. 	
Accommodation:	Volunteers will stay at a house in San Cristobal, sharing a room with up to 4 volunteers.
Location:	San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas
Duration:	3 months minimum
Remarks:	Basic level of Spanish to communicate with staff and locals and a lot of self-initiative.
Number of volunteers.	3 volunteers.
Starting time:	At any time
Participation fee:	1200 Mexican pesos per month. Meals are not included.

NAT/LTV19 Talentos y Vida



Project:

The cultural center Talentos y Vida A.C (Talents and Life) was founded on October 2007, to open a space for the community and offer a cultural alternative for the people of Yecapixtla. The aim was to promote an integral development for all people, focusing on children and youngsters, throughout workshops, conferences, cinema, field trips, promotion of cultural heritage and environment. The center works on 5 basic dimensions of human development: Physical, psychological, cognitive, artistic and spiritual.

Talentos y Vida's aim is to encourage the local and universal cultural development, starting from the basic training, moving through different artistic expressions until the transcendental dimension and achieving a personal integral development for the local community.

Work:

The association organizes and participates on cultural festivals and workshops during the year: ecological festival (march), childhood day (April), Mother's day (may), Father's day (June), summer camps (July), independence day celebrations (September), local fair (October), day of the death (November), festival to promote the Yecapixtla ex-convent a cultural world heritage site (December);

Hosting from 150 to 300 people that participate on each event.

The activities are co-organized between the locals, the city hall and the church, working for all those actions that favor the cultural growth at the community.

Accommodation:

Volunteers will stay at the cultural center on a shared space.

Location:

Yecapixtla, is located 20 minutes from Cuautla, Morelos.

Duration:

From 3 months to 1 year.

Remarks:

Basic level of Spanish and a great sense of initiative.

Number of volunteers.

2 volunteers.

Starting time:

At any time

Participation fee:

1200 Mexican pesos per month. Meals are not included.

NAT/LTV20 Jaguar de Madera	
<p>Project: Jaguar de Madera (wooden jaguar) is a reference center on Eco-technologies, it was created on 2008, as a response to a series of processes of bio-construction, where some of its members participated. Since 2009, thanks to the collaboration of various organizations, Jaguar de Madera has been functioning as a training center. The mission is to teach and promote the use of adequate technologies, as an alternative to the conventional models that affect the quality of life of the population from the Usumasinta-Grijalva river.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the moment, the center is working on different proposals and workshops on: sustainable construction; • environmental education; • bike-machines (bike-blender, bike-washing machines, etc); • vegetable growing; • integral farming; • bio-fertilizers; • water caption systems; • dry latrines; • digestors for water treatment and carpentry; <p>These activities take place in and outside the center.</p>	
<p>Work: Volunteers will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help with the maintenance of the workshop and agro-ecological practices areas. • Collaborate with the design and creation of the demonstrative area. • Help with the farm and compost area. • Continue with the construction of gardens, greenhouses and ecological paths in the center. • Help during the implementation process of adequate technologies that will be structured during the first weeks. • Search and contact local producers and cooperatives that need the products from the center (organic fertilizers, compost, animals, vegetables, mushrooms, etc) • Construction of demonstrative houses at the center and in various communities in the surrounding areas of San Cristobal de las Casas. • An awareness raising campaign on the use of sustainable practices will be taking place permanently. 	
Accommodation:	Volunteers will stay at a house in San Cristòbal de las Casas, sharing room with up to 4 volunteers.
Location:	San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas
Duration:	From 3 months to 1 year.
Remarks:	Interest on environmental construction. Good level of Spanish Motivation, capabilities of proposing solutions and actions for the center. Interest and capabilities for team work, to encourage the local commerce, learn and exchange knowledge with others.
Number of volunteers.	3 volunteers.
Starting time:	At any time
Participation fee:	1200 Mexican pesos per month. Meals are not included.

NAT/LTV24 La Albarrada Centro de Desarrollo Comunitario	
<p>Project: La Albarrada was founded on 1987, and since its creation it offered a farm-school for the training of men and women from the communities around San Cristóbal de las Casas. The number of training workshops for work and social formation was increased in five main areas: agriculture, artistic, technical, services and social work.</p> <p>Nowadays, with its training and formation actions, the Albarrada helps in the consolidation of social nets for sustainable development and improves life quality for people, families and communities.</p> <p>Albarrada goals are to develop activities for the social development of communities, offering education, training, technical assistance, production and services for social organizations, civil societies, groups and people from rural and indigenous areas, as well as for marginalized urban populations. Providing capabilities, values and knowledge that allows them to improve their life quality.</p>	
<p>Work: Volunteers will help the staff in the different areas of work. They will have the opportunity to participate and support Human Development workshops (Identity, self esteem, limits, assertivity, creative conflict resolution, violence, gender equality, human relationships, communication, sexuality, environmental education, culture and peace). Health (family planning, STD, prevention of addictions and HIV, prevention of maternal death. Technical assistance for the construction of houses, smoke free wooden stoves and ovens, solar water purifiers, latrines; as well as in the areas of gardening, flower cultivation, agriculture and design of integral farming.</p> <p>Volunteers can also learn from the other areas at the center and can integrate them according to their interests.</p>	
Accommodation:	Volunteers will stay at the center, on a shared room.
Location:	San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas
Duration:	From 2 months to 1 year.
Remarks:	Interest in the work areas of the center and social work.
Number of volunteers.	4 volunteers
Starting time:	Any time from February to November.
Participation fee:	1200 Mexican pesos per month. Meals are covered by the project.

NAT/LTV26 Maderas del Pueblo	
<p>Project: Maderas del Pueblo del Sureste A.C. is an environmental NGO that supports indigenous and peasant communities, contributing to their sustainable development, socially fairness and equitable in harmony with nature. They promote technical strengthening of these communities and their processes of self-organization and management as well as the defense and management of its territory and its natural assets, all through research, communication, discussion, dissemination, general support, trainings, technical and legal assistance.</p>	
<p>Work: Volunteers will help with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation of documents • Update website and blogs • networking (Facebook, twitter) • Maintaining the rural Demonstration Center in Environmental Technologies • Support in conducting fortnightly videodebate and weekly radio programs • Those specific activities which are related to the professional development and skills of the volunteer . 	
<p>Accommodation:</p>	<p>Volunteers will stay at a house in San Cristóbal de las Casas, sharing room with up to 4 volunteers.</p>
<p>Location:</p>	<p>San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas</p>
<p>Duration:</p>	<p>From 6 months up to 1 year</p>
<p>Remarks:</p>	<p>Interest in agricultural activities, craft, technical and social work services.</p>
<p>Number of volunteers.</p>	<p>2 volunteers</p>
<p>Starting time:</p>	<p>Any time</p>
<p>Participation fee:</p>	<p>1200 Mexican pesos per month. Meals are not included.</p>

NAT/LTV27 HABITAT**Project:**

To help improve the quality of life in Mexico, satisfying housing needs and working with committed people and community.

Working towards developing a social conscience and uphold housing as a fundamental right.

Work:

Volunteers will help with:

- Attend planning meetings at the office.
- Develop proposals.
- Investigate possible contacts for market research.
- Support up surveys.
- Participate in meetings with representatives.
- Capture information (minutes of agreement, etc.).
- Fieldwork

Accommodation:

Volunteers will stay at a house in San Cristóbal de las Casas, sharing room with up to 4 volunteers.

Location:

San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas

Duration:

From 3 months to 6 months

Remarks:

Willingness to communicate in a systematic way with the program coordinator to plan, adapt and evaluate activities.
Willingness to interact with communities.
Ability to communicate and share knowledge and experiences.
Availability to participate in physical construction work to support families.
Respect for cultural diversity.
Be prepared (a) to carry out maintenance activities and ecological infrastructure.
Having your own laptop for work related to volunteer work.
Provide copy of personal identification
Availability and openness to cultural exchange.

Number of volunteers.

2 volunteers

Starting time:

Any time

Participation fee:

1200 Mexican pesos per month. Meals are not included.

NAT/LTV28 Ángeles de Amor	
<p>Project: Angels of Love Association was created in 2005 to support youth and adults with disabilities. The activities of the organization are to promote coexistence, integrate the adult with disabilities into society, enabling them to develop skills that integrated them into formal employment, develop their skills through workshops and classes to expand their educational horizons.</p>	
<p>Work: Volunteers will help with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support workshops • Support in the farm, poultry care, planting and harvesting vegetables. • Support in physical therapies. • Recreation and sports. • Organize go out to parks, museums, zoos and so on. • Support for dissemination and communication (development of websites, blogs, videos) 	
<p>Accommodation:</p>	<p>Volunteers will stay at a house in San Cristóbal de las Casas, sharing room with up to 4 volunteers.</p>
<p>Location:</p>	<p>San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas</p>
<p>Duration:</p>	<p>From 3 months to 6 months</p>
<p>Remarks:</p>	<p>Patience Interest in supporting people with disabilities Availability and openness to cultural exchange.</p>
<p>Number of volunteers.</p>	<p>2 volunteers</p>
<p>Starting time:</p>	<p>Any time</p>
<p>Participation fee:</p>	<p>1200 Mexican pesos per month. Meals are not included.</p>

**NAT/LTV29 VOCES MESOAMERICANAS,
ACCIÓN CON PUEBLOS MIGRANTES,
A.C.**

Project:

Voices is a civilian organization that works with migrant people (families, groups and communities organized) in Chiapas and calls for dialogue and strategic thinking to civil society organizations Mesoamerican and North America. The project seek to increase civic participation of migrants, their families and those returning to their home communities in Chiapas, through the formation of community committees and the promotion of transnational economic and productive initiatives.

Work:

Volunteers will help with:

Support to develop projects and direct care services to migrant people, binational communication, training workshops on the development and transnational citizenship. It also promotes the right to require non-migrating through educational projects and the creation of rural employment options.

Accommodation:

Volunteers will stay at a house in San Cristóbal de las Casas, sharing room with up to 4 volunteers.

Location:

San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas

Duration:

From 2 to 4 months

Remarks:

High level of spanish

Number of volunteers.

2 volunteers

Starting time:

From January to March

Participation fee:

1200 Mexican pesos per month. Meals are not included.

NAT/LTV30 SYJAC



Project:

SYJAC was created in 1993 by Don Samuel Ruiz García (then Bishop of the Diocese of San Cristobal de Las Casas, Chiapas), as a response to the problem of violent evictions of indigenous communities from their places of origin. SYJAC from the start works as a social development program and ecumenical perspective.

Work:

Volunteers will work with:

- Support the activities of the center
- Assist in the care of children
- Recreation activities
- Make workshops
- Paperwork

Accommodation:

Volunteers will stay at a house in San Cristóbal de las Casas, sharing room with up to 4 volunteers.

Location:

San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas

Duration:

From 3 to 6 months

Remarks:

Interest in kids

Number of volunteers.

2 volunteers

Starting time:

At any time

Participation fee:

1200 Mexican pesos per month. Meals are not included.

NAT/LTV31 Casa Gandhi	
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Project:

Gandhi House is a project that aims at a comprehensive education for kids. In this space the children live and learn about planting in the garden, caring for farm animals, and alternative energy. The objective of this project is the awareness of children, parents and relatives about respecting Mother Earth and the generation of ideas and initiatives to encourage participation. As an integral education project also teach reading and writing workshops, languages, mathematics, recycling, crafts, painting and everything related to creative development of children.

Work:

Volunteers will help with:

- Support workshops with children of all kinds
- Support in the classes of languages, mathematics, painting, etc..
- Support the development of garden
- Preparation of compost
- Seeding
- Transplantation of vegetables and fruit trees.

Accommodation:

Volunteers will stay at a house in San Cristóbal de las Casas, sharing room with up to 4 volunteers.

Location:

San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas

Duration:

From 3 to 6 months

Remarks:

Good level of spanish

Number of volunteers.

2 volunteers

Starting time:

At any time

Participation fee:

1200 Mexican pesos per month. Meals are not included.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Founded in 2006, Natate –the House in the Tree in Tzotzil, one of the Mayan dialects, is an independent civil association which works in the promotion of the international volunteering, for the solidarity and the comprehensive education for everybody, without a profitable objective, nongovernmental, non religious.

Aims:

- To develop the volunteering service and promote the international solidarity under an intercultural and peaceful spirit.
- To promote and develop the comprehensive education for young people.
- To promote programs for the development of sustainable lifestyles.
- To back and support groups of marginalized people and vulnerable minorities.
- To promote the respect to human rights and dignity

Programmes:

International Camping	Training Courses and Seminars
Information and Awareness Campaigns	National and International
Volunteering	

Natate is a member of the Coordinating Committee for the International Volunteer Service (CCSVI) and this lets it having access to programs and collaboration with more than 200 organizations in more than 80 countries. For more information visit www.unesco.org/ccivs

Through projects organized jointly with civil organizations, municipalities, groups and international and local organizations, Natate encourages the participation of young people in the preservation of the cultural and natural heritage, the protection of the environment, the construction of houses for the poorest, the improvement of social-educational structures, the utilization of alternative techniques of construction and sustainable technologies in several communities of the region of Chiapas.

Volunteering:

Natate considers the volunteering as a mutual exchange between a person or a group that offers his/her time, work and energy for the benefit of a project of common interest and a community which offers to the volunteers a learning, experimentation, personal and collective development opportunity. The volunteering is also considered as a social tool which collaborates to the promotion of the inter-cultural dialogue and to the Peace, and creates a relationship between the local action and the global reflection.

Volunteering is not an activity, is a way of life, a way of acting!

In all the projects proposed by Natate, the citizen participation and specially that one of the young people is really important.

The trip:

The volunteers are responsible for the organization of their trip, to look for the best prices, to deal with the visa, if it is necessary. These procedures can be done once you are accepted in a project. We suggest looking up the costs of the trip before the registration, to avoid the cancellation of your participation for economical reasons. We suggest to the volunteers coming from other continents, arriving one or several days before the beginning of the project, so they can adapt to their new schedules.

To travel to Mexico, it is advisable to verify the prices of the flights, since it can be really expensive. A lot of airlines fly to Mexico, including: Aeromexico, Lufthansa, Air France, Air Canada, United Airlines, KLM, Alitalia, among others.

Cultural and recreation activities:

There are a lot of opportunities for the volunteers to enjoy and discover this part of the country. In San Cristobal de las Casas and in the rest of the state there are a lot of possibilities to discover the Mexican and Chiapas culture. Guatemala is also near and the volunteers can take advantage of this geographical situation. During the workcamp, the recreational activities will be limited to the surrounding area where the project is located. These activities will be organized jointly with the camps leaders and with the hosting community.

Language:

It is not necessary for the volunteers to speak Spanish, but it is highly recommended to make an effort to facilitate the communication during the Project. There is NOT an official language in the camping. The Spanish is the language in Mexico, so it is expected from the volunteers to be interested in learning and practicing it.

Insurance:

At the moment, Natate cannot propose a responsibility civil insurance, so we request the volunteers to have an accident and civil responsibility insurance and a trip insurance eventually.

Drug use:

The drug situation in Mexico is complicated. Even though the most part of the violence exists between the cartels and the dealers, the volunteers must be aware of the risks implied in the drugs' use. Anyway, the drugs' consume is strictly forbidden in the house where Natate accommodates its volunteers or in any of its projects. Natate will not tolerate to anyone the drugs' use in the volunteers' accommodation or in the projects. Breaking this rule will be enough reason for the volunteer to be asked to quit the project.

More information about Mexico and Chiapas.

Nataté performs projects in the state of Chiapas, located in the Southeast of Mexico; it is known for its touristic sites, which include natural attractive areas, pre-hispanic archaeological sites, colonial cities and the direct contact with different cultural groups that cohabit in this state. It has the highest native population in the country and has natural marvels which cannot be compared like the archaeological zone of Palenque and the Agua Azul waterfalls. It adjoins to the East with Guatemala, to the West with

Oaxaca, to the North with Tabasco, to the South with the Ocean Pacifica and to the Northwest with Veracruz. The dominating and official language is Spanish. The mayan dialects spoken in Chiapas are: chol, tojolabal, tzeltal, tzotzil, mam y lacandon, which are related to Mayan origin dialects from the Peninsula of Yucatan and Central America.

San Cristobal de las Casas is the largest city in terms of tourism. It is a city where people of different ethnics, races and cultures coexist. It is located in the Chiapas highlands.

Nowadays, San Cristobal de las Casas is one of the most beautiful and original cities from the region of the Altos of Chiapas (and America), and also it must be added the evocative colonial image that it has conserved along the centuries. Because besides that, it has also an everyday life that could be almost called traditional, with its market, its people and a lot of natives with their colorful dressings, coming from several communities and who arrive to the place to sell or exchange their products.

TEXT OF REFERENCE ON VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Voluntary service is an exchange between an individual, or a group of individuals, and a local community. The volunteer or group of volunteers offers time, energy and effort to a project of benefit to a community, and via this project the community offers to the volunteer or group of volunteers an opportunity for experimentation, learning and personal and collective development.

Voluntary service implies a commitment:

- which is reciprocal and formalized
- of limited duration, but which is, within that period, a full-time commitment
- freely chosen by both the volunteer and the local community
- without motive of financial gain
- to an initiative of a group of persons, organised by a non-profit making structure to whose values the volunteer freely adheres.
- for the benefit of a community.

The act of volunteering extends beyond the boundaries of the period of voluntary service. To be a volunteer is to enter into a process that Nataté and its partners accompany before, during, and after the voluntary project through the following actions:

A period of preparation and orientation before the project begins.

Supervision during the voluntary project.

Follow-up meetings upon the return from the voluntary project, with the aim of exchanging experiences and examining their value, and putting these experiences into perspective by drawing parallels between them and other forms of active citizenship in, for example, daily life, associations, trade unions and political or social movements.

Voluntary service is not an activity, but an approach, a process

- **An approach to the individual, open to all at any moment of their life, regardless of age, origins, nationality, skills. It is one of the means by which any person, regardless of his or her status, can exercise their free will, make and affirm their choices, discover new domains of life, new activities and express his or her investment in society.**

- **An approach to community education wherein two objectives are intimately mingled: that of the personal growth of the individual and that of the collective transformation of society. The volunteer is not the target of an educational product, but the key player in an associative and/or political project. That a group of volunteers live and work together in a short or long-term international volunteer project creates an unique environment whose evolution is particularly advantageous for the realization of this dual objective: a 'mini-society' formed of people of different social, geographical and cultural origins.**

- **An approach to cultural understanding and learning from the other. Rather than a division into those who help and those who are helped, between those who possess**

knowledge and those who do not, there are instead individuals or communities, partner associations, who are ready to examine their own thoughts and methods in the light of that which the other person brings to them. International voluntary service cannot be defined without the concept of exchange.

- **Voluntary service** is neither a programme, nor a vocational training course, nor a means to replace paid labour or utilize volunteers as a form of cheap labour. Voluntary service is not a means to financial gain, either for the volunteer or for the host organisation. The relations between the volunteer, the project, and all those involved in the project are free of economic implications. The traces that the volunteer will leave in a local project in which he has taken part are as much immaterial and they are material. In the same way, the benefit that a volunteer acquires from his or her experience is not of a financial or material nature.

- **Voluntary service** is undertaken on behalf of a project which benefits a community and is supported by that community. Be it in France or abroad, the project in question is conceived by a group such as a town or district council, an association or a group of inhabitants. They have full control over the choice of project and the methods of implementing it. Whilst the projects have a long-term impact, Nataté must be to them only transient partner. Thus, in other countries, it is local organizations, partners of Nataté, who conceive, organize and supervise these activities. Partnerships and international relations are built on regular meetings and common projects and are reinforced through reciprocity, the basis for mutual trust.

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