**LC VOLUNTEER WORK DESCRIPTION 2016**

**Cuenca-Ecuador**

The volunteer activities of the Lewis and Clark program promote cultural exchange between the students and their host country. Apart from learning about the reality of life in different parts of Ecuador, students practice and polish their Spanish through daily conversations in their volunteer activities. Their work can be incredibly gratifying, stimulating, hard, fun and motivational, and for this we have worked hard to design a diverse and flexible program that suits each student’s interests.

Institutions where the students develop their community service include:

1. Amaru Zoológico y Bioparque de Cuenca

2. Fundación El Arenal

3. Grupo de mujeres de Chilcatotora

4. Centro de Salud de San Joaquín

5. Orfanatorio Tadeo Torres

6. Red Pakariñan

7. Aula de Derechos Humanos “Fundación Somos Familia”

8. Instituto San José de Calazans

**1. Amaru Zoológico y Bioparque de Cuenca**

Flora & fauna at the biopark

http//www.zoologicodecuenca.com

Focus: Plant and animal life

The Amaru Zoo in Cuenca is a center for the protection and investigation of the plant and animal life in Ecuador. It began its pro-conservation activities in 2002, and was inaugurated as a natural park serving as a refuge for native life on December of 2012. Today, Amaru Zoo manages around seventy animal species and three hundred native exotic plant species of Ecuador. Educational and research activities include exhibits of natural habitat, a quarantine center, replacement of native species, and a reproduction and in-captivity research program for the conservation of critically threatened species within the country. Amaru Zoo is recognized internationally for its conservation efforts and research activities related to the amphibians of Ecuador.

**2. Fundación El Arenal**

Education

<http://www.fundacionelarenal.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/FundacionElArenal>

Focus: Education

This non-profit organization offers services to at-risk children and young adults whose families work at the huge Arenal Market in Cuenca. The foundation promotes educational continuity, family integration and the individual growth. Areas of social support include family, health, human development, homework assistance, academic monitoring and work placement.

Volunteer activities may include assisting children with homework using teaching materials, library resources and the Internet; recreational workshops focused on art, logic-math games, and experimental sciences; facilitating meetings run by youth to encourage individual initiative; accompanying cultural outings to festivals, restaurants, video arcades, etc., and facilitating workshops to provide basic training on human rights, democracy, sexuality, etc.

**3. Las Mujeres de Chilcatotoras**

Community Development

The Women of Chilcatotoras is an organized group of eight women looking to improve the economy and future of their families with their daily work. Activities include promoting community tourism by maintaining trails and creeks where the *totora* reed the *chilco* grows, two plants that give this place its name. The women also construct roads with stones, cultivate medicinal plants and fruit trees, and are planning to make informational signs for tourists.

Volunteers may help with all these activities.

**4. Centro de Salud de San Joaquín**

**Health**

The San Joaquin Health Center, part of the Ministry of the Public Health of Ecuador, provides primary comprehensive health care along with education promoting health and prevention. The Centro serves various vulnerable groups such as adolescents, pregnant women, young, older adults and the disabled. Intervention at family and community levels is aimed at promoting changes in individual, family and collective lifestyles to promote health and prevent illness.

**5.** **Tadeo Torres Orphanage**

**Child care**

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a Catholic charity dedicated to care for the poor and disadvantaged. It was established in Cuenca in 1868 as the Conference of St. Vincent de Paul, and in 1913 the Tadeo Torres Orphanage was founded as a private, non-profit, social organization. Its purpose is to provide institutional protection and comprehensive care to approximately twenty-five orphaned boys and girls who are at risk by having been abandoned, allegedly abandoned, orphaned or abused.

The children range from birth to age six, and remain in the care of the institution until reunited with the family, adopted, or transferred to another institution.

**6. Red Pakariñan**

Community service

It is an organization that brings together Ecuadorian communities and people seeking the improvement of their living conditions by defending their territories and valuing their assets, through tourism in villages of indigenous people, cholos, montubios, and afro-descendants to generate a complementary income to their daily economic activities.

Proposed activities for volunteers

-Visit communities in the South of Ecuador

-Translation of information: tourist packages, website, social networks

-Carry out photographic records of the communities and the city of Cuenca

**7. Fundación Somos Familia**

Human Rights

The Somos Familia (We Are Family) foundation works in areas of vulnerability, as it is the case with the prison for women, teenagers in a semi formal school. Also, educational reinforcement is done with children of people who are deprived of freedom.

A social integration, labor and educational project is developing for teens that have access to freedom.

**8. Instituto San José de Calasanz**

[www.institutocalasanz.org](http://www.institutocalasanz.org/)

Special Education

The Special School and Craft Training Center St Joseph Calasanz, located in Cuenca - Ecuador, is a center that provides craft workshops and basic education to children and young people with special educational needs.

* Education workshop in Media
* Bakery Workshop
* School for parents
* School for teachers
* Music Education
* Workshop of Decorations for Home
* Sewing workshop
* Ceramic workshop
* Marquetry Workshop
* Crafts workshop
* Painting workshop
* Videos about diversity and disability

Voluntary Work Description: Volunteers will support in the bakery, marquetry and decorations for the home workshops, in that last one we have: painting, pottery and sewing.