

Volunteer network

AMIGOS is a volunteer-driven organization. Every dollar donated is strongly leveraged by countless hours of adult volunteer support through AMIGOS chapters. Each AMIGOS chapter functions as a separate non-profit corporation with an independent board of directors. Chapters train, support and prepare volunteers for community service in their home communities and in Latin America. The International Office operates a Correspondent Volunteer Program for young people who do not live in a city with an AMIGOS chapter.

AMIGOS chapters are located or forming in the following areas. Contact information is available on the AMIGOS website or by calling the International Office.

Arizona Tucson	Florida Miami	Ohio Kent
California East Bay Los Angeles Marin Peninsula San Diego Santa Clara	Illinois Chicago Central Chicago North Kansas/Missouri Greater Kansas City Massachusetts Boston	Oregon Portland Texas Austin Houston Utah Salt Lake City
Colorado Denver	Minnesota Minneapolis/St. Paul	Washington Seattle
Costa Rica San José	New Mexico Albuquerque	Wisconsin Madison
District of Columbia Washington, D.C.	New York New York City	

The change we saw in our children after their AMIGOS experience was impressive. They gained a new understanding of world affairs and confidence in who they are and what they can accomplish in life.

~ Parent of three AMIGOS volunteers



Amigos de las Américas (AMIGOS) is an international, volunteer-driven, nonprofit organization that builds partnerships to empower young leaders, advance community development and strengthen multi-cultural understanding in the Americas.

Since its founding in 1965, AMIGOS has created opportunities for more than 20,000 high school and college-age students to explore their potential through rigorous training programs and community service opportunities in Latin America. AMIGOS volunteers gain skills that enable them to effectively engage in global affairs and to be community leaders throughout their lifetimes.



When we began our partnership with AMIGOS in 1997, many of our staff were doubtful that AMIGOS' young volunteers could be effective. Each year we have seen the AMIGOS volunteers positively contribute to rural health and education and develop strong bonds with our staff and communities.

~ MARIANO PLANELL
Director, Save the Children Honduras

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AMIGOS
Amigos de las Américas

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AMIGOS
Amigos de las Américas



Empower. Connect. Build. Inspire.
Support Our Future Leaders.



AMIGOS volunteers and project staff are highly regarded for their work ethics, respect for other cultures, and efforts to improve the health, education and environment of communities. Their caring spirit and effectiveness have led to AMIGOS' decades of work in many host countries and communities throughout Latin America.

Partnerships throughout the Americas

AMIGOS unites people from diverse cultures and backgrounds to address community health and development needs. We maintain long-standing and effective partnerships with international development agencies such as Save the Children and Plan; local nonprofit organizations; government agencies; schools and host communities. These partnerships ensure projects address community priorities and continue after AMIGOS volunteers leave.

Community service

AMIGOS trains young people to meet the challenges of conducting community service with confidence and cultural sensitivity. These skills have proven to be life changing and life long.

Volunteers gain skills such as:

- Designing education programs and service projects
- Assessing community resources and opportunities
- Working with people of diverse backgrounds
- Staying safe and healthy in new surroundings
- Fluency in Spanish or Portuguese
- Problem solving and conflict resolution
- Creating effective teams.

AMIGOS encourages volunteers to conduct service work in their home communities as part of their training. For example, volunteers repair homes in low-income neighborhoods, tutor school children and build community gardens.

Teams of two to three volunteers are assigned to host communities in Latin America for up to eight weeks. Volunteers work closely with community members and partner agencies on projects such as:

Community health: AMIGOS volunteers promote healthy homes and behaviors. They help to build latrines and water-storage tanks, and educate children and families about nutrition, dental hygiene and disease prevention.

Community service: AMIGOS volunteers foster civic engagement among children and adolescents. They inspire local youth to identify, organize and conduct service projects, such as improving local playgrounds and parks.

Environmental health: AMIGOS volunteers promote the importance of environmental conservation and its effect on community health. They work with local youth and families to plant trees and build community gardens.

Personal skill-building: AMIGOS volunteers encourage leadership among children and adolescents. They help local youth gain effective problem-solving, decision-making and conflict resolution skills. Additionally, volunteers teach basic computer skills and English.

Creative expression: AMIGOS volunteers nurture children's personal creativity and self-expression. Through arts and crafts, creative writing and theater, they help to promote self-esteem among youth.

Youth leadership in action

AMIGOS believes that with proper training young people can successfully manage great responsibility, work independently and make mature decisions. AMIGOS empowers youth to take leadership roles in planning and evaluating programs, facilitating community involvement and inspiring local youth to be active in community service. A unique feature of AMIGOS is our "leadership ladder" in which outstanding volunteers receive additional training and management experience as project staff in Latin America.

Diversity

AMIGOS actively promotes diversity and welcomes all ethnic groups, cultures, national origins and religions. AMIGOS has a long history of providing young women equal opportunities for leadership roles and offering financial support to low-income volunteers.



Affiliations

AMIGOS is accredited by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel and maintains partnerships with numerous university programs, such as the Morehead Scholars Program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Since 1977, AMIGOS has had a close alliance with the Pan American Health Organization.

Funding

Participation fees cover basic volunteer expenses such as international airfare, training, project supplies, short-term supplementary international health insurance, and emergency communications while volunteers are in Latin America. Charitable contributions cover other AMIGOS operating expenses and enable participation fees to be reduced for volunteers.

Our organization is recognized as a charitable/educational organization under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service Code. Donations to AMIGOS are tax deductible as allowed by law. Audited financial statements and annual reports are available upon request.



AMIGOS has not only dramatically influenced my life path, it also has provided me with the skills I need to pursue my dreams.

~ Medical school student