

How do I get involved?

AMIGOS actively promotes diversity and welcomes everyone to apply. Volunteers must: (1) be at least 16 years old, (2) have completed the sophomore year of high school before beginning the project in Latin America and (3) have completed at least two years of high school Spanish or Portuguese, or have an equivalent level of fluency.

For more information, check out the AMIGOS website. If there is a chapter near you, contact them to learn about local application deadlines, fees and training schedules.

If you do not live near a chapter, call the Correspondent Volunteer Program at the International Office, 800-231-7796.



Join AMIGOS and build a better world while building your future.

*Learn by collaborating with people from other cultures. Increase your skills, confidence and independence. Promote leadership and service among youth. Explore career paths, improve your foreign language and communication skills, and **make a positive difference in the world!***



Knowing that I planned, organized and carried out projects in another language has given me a lot of self confidence.

~ Paraguay volunteer

I felt that I was truly part of a family and that everyone I met and worked with each day became another treasured friend.

~ Mexico volunteer

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*Teach. Create. Explore. Lead.
Make a difference.*



What is AMIGOS?

Amigos de las Américas is an international, nonprofit organization that was founded in 1965. We train and provide opportunities for high school and college students to conduct service projects in Latin America and their home communities.

Students get involved in AMIGOS either through their local chapter or the Correspondent Volunteer Program that is operated by the International Office. AMIGOS chapters are located throughout the United States and are now forming in Latin America.



What makes AMIGOS so great?

AMIGOS fosters personal growth. We give young people an opportunity to develop new skills and independence, discover diverse cultures, explore interests, and work with others to promote community health and education.

AMIGOS is youth-oriented and youth-led. Our programs in Latin America are managed by young adults who have demonstrated outstanding leadership potential as AMIGOS volunteers.

AMIGOS unites volunteers, local agencies and communities to address health and education priorities. We partner with international development agencies such as CARE, Save the Children and Plan, as well as with local government agencies, nonprofit organizations, schools and clinics. These partnerships help ensure projects continue after AMIGOS volunteers leave.

AMIGOS is people-oriented. Volunteers live in host communities, actively participate in daily community life and learn to appreciate local customs as few travelers do. Volunteers develop life-long bonds with their host families and communities.



AMIGOS encourages youth to conduct community service projects with confidence and cultural sensitivity. AMIGOS volunteers inspire other youth to actively contribute to the well-being of their communities.

What will I be doing in Latin America?

AMIGOS volunteers spend up to eight weeks in Latin America in a host community with one or two other volunteers. Volunteers work closely with community members and partner agency representatives on projects that address needs identified by their host communities. Projects focus on issues such as:

Community health: AMIGOS volunteers promote healthy homes and daily practices that reduce disease and contribute to the overall health of community members. They help to build latrines, water-storage tanks and fuel-efficient stoves. They also educate children and families about nutrition, dental hygiene and disease prevention.

Community service: AMIGOS volunteers foster civic engagement and community improvement among children and adolescents.

They inspire local youth to identify, organize and conduct service projects, such as improving 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 and group problem-solving among children and adolescents. Through team-building activities, they help local youth increase their skills related to effective problem-solving, decision-making and conflict resolution. 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 young people.

What's involved with the training?

AMIGOS believes that with proper training young people can successfully manage great responsibility, work independently and make mature decisions.

Our training programs use experiential learning approaches that require active engagement of volunteers. Training introduces volunteers to a wide range of information and skills they will need to effectively handle their responsibilities in Latin America. Volunteers gain skills such as:

- Designing education programs and service projects
- Communicating with people of diverse backgrounds
- Staying safe and healthy in new surroundings
- Speaking Spanish or Portuguese
- Assessing community resources and opportunities
- Creating effective teams



Are there health and safety risks?

Maintaining the health and safety of volunteers is our top priority. AMIGOS has a long history of ensuring the well-being of volunteers and provides comprehensive training, safety plans, medical consultation and communication systems to minimize risk in Latin America.

How much does it cost to participate?

The participation fee covers: round-trip international airfare from the gateway city; food, lodging and transportation in Latin America; training materials and workshops; supplementary short-term international medical insurance; project supplies and supervision; year-round professional staff support; and emergency communications while in Latin America. Additional expenses include immunizations, medical examinations, passport/visa fees and airfare to the gateway city. Current fee information is available from the AMIGOS International Office or from your local chapter.

AMIGOS encourages fundraising to help pay the participation fee because it promotes beneficial communication and networking skills among volunteers. Some financial assistance is available through the International Office and local chapters.



I could not help but lose myself in the beauty of the country, in the richness of the experience, and in the kindness of the people.

~ Dominican Republic volunteer