

2 weeks Summer Community Service in the Dominican Republic

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

TITLE:

Latin American Studies (subjecto to change)

OBJECTIVE:

The Latin American Studies program establishes and offers excellent opportunities to the participants to learn and share first hand all aspects of Dominican culture by living with host families and meeting many new friends throughout the week, Monday through Friday. On weekends, the students will be traveling throughout the Spanish part of the island, which is shared with the Republic of Haiti. In this manner, they will not only study, but experience real Dominican life. The program is based out of Santo Domingo, the capital city.

Arrival:

When the students arrive, all the Dominican staff will gather to welcome them. They will be taken to a city hotel or to the beach, where they will begin their orientation to the island, its culture and customs, as well as learn important information about urban transportation, food and water precautions, safety precautions, etc.. We take these steps in order to avoid the frustrations of Culture Shock and to keep the students healthy and safe. After being received and welcomed by our staff, conducted to a hotel, and participating in the orientation, each student will be introduced to his or her host family.

Host families:

We have visited the families one by one and evaluated them as appropriate for being host families for our visiting students. The evaluation covers the physical accommodations as well as the family members themselves. We have confidence that these families will be excellent temporary hosts, who will help make each student's experience warm and memorable.

Lodging:

The students will live with Dominican host families, where they will have the opportunity to practice their Spanish. The host families provide 2 meals per day, breakfast and lunch. The students' rooms will be equipped with the following: Double bed, ceiling fan, desk and chair, closet, and access to both a telephone and a television. While comfortable and safe, please note that Dominicans at all social levels live with unavoidable water and electrical shortages, which will be touched upon during orientation.

Voluntary services available:

All students will be able to participate in various kinds of volunteer services, which are offered to the program through SAS.

Professors:

Our professors are well known academics who teach classes in Dominican universities; they are bilingual, with past experience teaching foreign exchange students.

Staff:

The program will provide staff who are available 24 hours a day to assist in all aspects of the students' stay and to respond to any and all needs that may arise. They will attend to all the students' needs and will participate in the welcoming activities, excursions, tours, student exchanges, voluntary service work, etc.

Security:

The students's security is one of our most essential concerns. We use the safest sites and services in Santo Domingo so that the program functions at its best and for the wellbeing of the students and other participants.

We will be using principally urban zones, with good facilities and easy transportation access, good communication services, and with nearby supermarkets, stores, Internet cafes, and restaurants/bars. These sites were selected because they are in the safest zones, where the students can interact without worry. These sites offer all the required facilities and guarantee that the students will have free and easy access and, also important, these are sites that offer students another dimension of the authentic Dominican cultural experience.

STRUCTURE:

The Latin American Studies program is coordinated through 3 fundamental institutions

1) Student Services C x A. is the base institution. Its function is to organize, provide and take charge of logistics, student training, academic policies, and to provide and coordinate the professors and any materials that will be used in the teaching process.

2) SAS Travel is in charge of providing lodging in hotels and host family homes, coordinating all transportation services, tours, excursions, and meals throughout the students' stay. SAS will also work with the host families to insure the smooth functioning of this aspect of the program.

3) CCTUR Guanín, Inc. is a non-profit institution composed of a General Assembly that is subject to a "constitution" called Guanín Statutes. Its job is to support and coordinate the cultural and educational interchanges with universities, schools, organizations, etc. Also it is CCTUR Guanín's responsibility to introduce the program to the U.S. Embassy and Centro Franklin, and to provide them with all information pertinent to the program and its general activities.

ACADEMIC PATTERN:

The program's professors will provide both live classes and information presented via Powerpoint shows.

Classes will take place in classrooms at the Universidad Inter-América or Centro Cultural de Italia, among other sites. All sites have rooms with fans. The talks by invited guest specialists will take place at various different locations.

For example: The talk about the African influence on daily Dominican life and music will take place in the Museum of Dominican Man.

The talk about the introduction of sugar cane, slavery, and the first African slave rebellion on the island will take place in the ruins of the sugar cane plantation called Boca de Nigua, where the island's largest African slave rebellion took place.

REQUIREMENTS:

The program will be administered by the 3 institutions mentioned above under STRUCTURE.

Beginning date:

The program will begin in Santo Domingo de Guzmán, capital of the Dominican Republic, in mid 2008 or 2009.

Goals:

Through the Centro Cultural Turístico Guanín, Inc., we will provide both national and international exchanges, where Dominican students with few financial resources will be able to participate in educational/cultural activities with foreign students.

We will seek additional financial assistance so that CCTUR Guanín, Inc. can continue working in its programs that teach English to students in the public schools. For 2006, we will expand our program of voluntary services to 20 technical-professional study centers which, in return, will offer grants and fellowships to our student members.

Observations:

CCTUR Guanín is planning to have more activities aimed at integrating more institutions into the program that provides mutually beneficial services, as previously established.

Facilitators will be sent to various provinces to introduce the program in regional study centers.

A commission from CCTUR Guanín, Inc., will be in charge of organizing the sites of the technical-professional institutions that will be approached as associates.

The work will be done through a commission that includes members and collaborators of the CCTUR Guanín, which will make the contacts.

A diverse variety of activities will take place to help nurture this team of indispensable members who will help to make viable this essential part of the overall program and its goals.

Indicators:

More than 5% of Dominican students with scarce resources will be able to benefit from this plan.

The Dominican advanced education system will be strengthened by the admission of new students, injecting new resources into this important sector of the national economy.

This would increase the student graduation statistics in the advanced education system.

It would improve the overall quality of the production of goods and services, increase students' desire to graduate from secondary schools, and elevate the overall quality of Dominican life.

Proposals:

Offer wider opportunity to Dominican youth and promote education and the integration of technical-professional programs. Reduce the percentage of youth who are not able to develop their abilities, thus cannot contribute to national development.

Awaken our youths to the opportunities that await them in technical-professional certification.

Prepare them for a more prosperous and fulfilled future.

End Goal:

To improve the life condition of the Dominican populace through acquired knowledge, which will permit them to maximize the employment opportunities that are available in the country.

GENERAL STRUCTURE



