

NATATÉ MEXICO A. C.



The Workcamp season principles of work

-Nataté will do its best to apply the CCIVS and the Alliance Guidelines standard formats, procedures and principles of work in its communication and project organisation. We thank you in advance for helping us organize better quality projects by sending us your comments and those of your volunteers.

-All the activities presented in this brochure are international projects. We try to reach a maximum cultural and gender balance in the composition of the groups, but you might find more than 2 volunteers from the same country in the same project.

-All our projects are opened to volunteers who are at least 18 years old when the workcamp starts. We have no maximum limit and we encourage the participation of “grown up” volunteers in order to increase the inter-generational dimension of our projects and e changes.

-The first and last days of the projects are arrival and departure days. We will systematically host the volunteers two days (generally Saturday and Sunday) in San Cristobal for an on-arrival training.

-The basic timetable on our camps is about 30-35 working hours per week, generally from Monday to Friday. The needs of the project may bring the volunteers to work some more than this (rarely less).

-The volunteers are expected to attend the whole duration of the project and any delays in the arrival or departure **MUST** be officially justified and announced in advance. The incoming officer and the camp leader maintain the right to cancel the inscription of a volunteer or to deny her/his participation in the camp for any unjustified or unannounced delay superior to 24 hours after the arrival day. Late arrivals may complicate the travel arrangement to the project site from the meeting point, being systematically our office in San Cristobal de las Casas. Please inform

your participants that personal plans (touristic visits) should be planned for before or after the workcamp only.

-The common languages of the workcamps will be English and Spanish. We encourage volunteers to learn a bit of Spanish before arrival (please refer to our info sheets and info pack for more information and basic lexicon) and we can arrange intensive language courses before the workcamp upon request. The workcamp description will specify when the volunteers need to speak an intermediate level of Spanish to fully enjoy the activities.

-In most of the projects, daily timetable, tasks, free time, etc. will be decided by the group and the coordinator following the needs of the project. In all our workcamps, we expect to create a unified and strong team of volunteers, for the benefit of the project and the local community.

-There will always be at least one experienced english and spanish speaking coordinator per camp on call for the whole duration of the project. The volunteers will have an emergency contact number active 24/24 -7/7 in the case of major problems. The elected facilitator will receive an allowance for her or his work and will be often supported by a co-camp leader and/or a technical coordinator – generally a local professional in charge of supervising the work, teaching the volunteers technical aspects of the work and facilitating contact with the local community.

-Nataté will do its best to support the volunteers and to facilitate constructive and educational experiences. However, our projects are organized according to Mexican culture and basic standards of living and the volunteers will need to adapt to simple living conditions and local food.

-Volunteers will be required to show the highest level of respect for the local population and culture. When in isolated communities and working with children, all volunteers are encouraged to dress in a modest way.

-Any disrespect from the volunteers to the Mexican laws in general and especially on drugs and traffic will drive to the immediate exclusion of the participant from the workcamp and a notification to the legal forces.

-We recommend holding pre –departure training and expose the volunteer to the following themes: cultural diversity and inter-cultural learning, cultural shock, inter-cultural and constructive communication, conflict management and problem solving, voluntary service and active participation. Volunteers should be prepared to analyse their own experience and to manage their feelings during the entire project. If you do not (or can't) provide pre –departure trainings for your volunteer, please inform our placement officer.

-We expect the sending organizations to systematically provide the volunteers with our documentation (workcamp program, workcamp info sheet and info pack) and at least to introduce International Voluntary Service fundamental principles. We recommend holding pre-departure trainings for your participants and introducing the basis of inter-cultural learning and cultural diversity, non violent communication, conflict management, and active participation to a voluntary service project. The philosophy of Voluntarism is the base of our work here and we expect your

volunteers to understand, share and participate in it actively. Volunteers should be informed by their sending organization before departure and are requested to read our documents to find out more about the “dos and don'ts ” of the local culture they will live in.

-All the volunteers are required to individually apply for a private insurance for the entire duration of the project, covering third party liability, health care, hospitalisation and repatriation. A proof of payment and the description of subscribed services will be systematically required at the beginning of the camp. Because of legal reasons, no exception will be made.

-We are very open to host physically challenged volunteers but all our projects might not be accessible for individuals in wheelchairs or those facing major mobility difficulties. Please contact us far in advance if such of your members is interested in joining us and we will discuss compatible options. For mentally challenged participants, the continuous presence and assistance of a dedicated professional tutor is required, with the same conditions, rights and duties of all other participants. The tutor must be selected, appointed and supervised by the sending organization.

-So far, the only way for us to organise quality based workcamps is to require a direct contribution of the participants, to cover the expenses of their projects and the overall running costs of the organisation. Each project have different participation fees, adapted to the real costs we have to cover for the project and the volunteers. Conscious of the burden it represents for your volunteers, we do our best to keep it as low as possible and aim at self-financed projects at mid-term level. At the moment we can not count on any sufficient support generated by donations from local, regional or national institutions or ethical private funding. But, we are working on it! Please clearly inform your volunteers about this fact before they leave for Mexico, including the reason why we require their help to keep organising quality programmes all year long. Also make clear that the inscription fee you require as sending organisation is not given to the host organisation, as we know how much conflict this topic can create in a workcamp. All the extra fees are to be paid in Mexican Pesos at the beginning of the project. Out of exceptional events or cancellation from Nataté's side, the fee isn't refundable.

The extra fee covers:

- Transportation to/from the meeting point (in San Cristobal de las Casas in 2008) to/from the project site.
- Orientation meeting and cultural introduction on arrival (2 days in general)
- Accommodation and food during the project
- Activities for the group as scheduled during the project
- Access to the material required for your project, except when clearly mentioned.
- Mid term and final evaluation meeting
- English and Spanish speaking Workcamp coordinator(s) for the whole duration of the project
- Administration fee
- Emergency number 24/24 –7/7

The extra fee does not cover:

- Travel (medical) and cancellation insurance, Visas and expenses related to the travel
(transportation to/from the meeting point, airport taxes etc. . .

- Extra leisure activities outside the program
- Changes in the project, once the placement has been confirmed (unless in very special cases)
- Alcoholic beverages of any kind

