

## **SALEM-ECUADOR**

### **Volunteer Information**

The SALEM-Ecuador project strives to take care of disadvantaged children and teenager in Mindo, a small village in the cloud forest of Ecuador. The Child and Youth Centre provides day care for 45 children ranging from 5 to 18 years of age where we work with a holistic educational approach, amongst others, based on Maria Montessori's methodology. They can discover and further develop their skills and creativity as well as implement their ideas. We help with homework and offer further multifaceted possibilities for learning and experiencing, e.g. courses in crafts and sewing, nature education and art. Furthermore we run a community outreach programme for children and their families in situations of vulnerability.

#### **Expected tasks, Prerequisites and rules for volunteers**

Main area will be child care. We expect you to work 8 hours per day.

The minimum age for volunteers is 18.

Professional training/previous experience isn't necessarily required but would be very helpful. Independence and social competence will be expected in a volunteer and should be apparent within the application.

#### **Accommodations**

Simple accommodations will be at the volunteer's disposal. Also, the meals are provided for at the project, sometimes together at collective meal times, others through self organisation.

#### **Costs**

The trip and sojourn must be self financed by the volunteer. Generally we cannot afford any contribution towards a flight or health insurance. We kindly ask for assistance concerning the costs of accommodations and provisions in the amount of 75 US Dollars per month.

Further costs will not arise from our side!

#### **Length of Stay**

The length of stay of a volunteer should be at least six months. Longer periods are preferred.

#### **Trip Preparation**

Travel guides and the internet offer excellent information about the country and the people. Further information is available from the project co-ordinators by



e-mail. If ever possible we organise a preparation meeting in the SALEM headquarters in Germany or with a former volunteer somewhere else.

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### **Basis of the Trip**

Very important! Volunteers travel at their own risk and are solely responsible for what could happen to them during the trip.

### **Health**

To the best of our knowledge there is no Malaria in Mindo and Quito. Rabies, Hepatitis, and Yellow Fever are however prevalent in Ecuador. Health Departments and tropical doctors are able to give further information regarding vaccinations, etc. The personal additional safeguard through vaccinations is at the discretion of the volunteer.

### **International Health Insurance**

We strongly recommend the acquisition of a private international health insurance.

### **Flight**

Quito is the destination airport. A variety of Airlines fly to Quito. There are direct flights from some cities in the US, however only few direct flights from Europe. A typical price for the flight is between 900 and 1,200 € from Europe.

### **Visa**

You will need a passport which is valid for at least 6 months after your planned departure date from Ecuador. For a stay up to 3 months you will automatically receive the visa upon entering Ecuador. For a longer stay you need to apply for a Volunteer Visa at the Ecuadorian embassy or Consulate in your home country (subject to charges). SALEM helps with application formalities.

### **Language**

Because Spanish will exclusively be spoken, we expect at least basic Spanish language skills. We help with advise if you want to visit a language school in Ecuador before coming to SALEM.

### **Retrieval from the airport**

Whenever possible we will pick you up at the airport. If a language school in Quito is to be visited at the beginning of your stay, then the language school will arrange to have you picked up at the airport.



If retrieval is not required or not possible the SALEM Project Co-ordinators will give you the necessary information for the continuing trip to SALEM in Mindo or organise a hostel for you in Quito. The trip is uncomplicated and safe.

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### **What you can expect**

A time with the SALEM children, teenagers, co-workers and environs that will give you pleasure and in which you will gain experience. Additionally, you will also learn a lot about yourself.

### **What is not to be expected**

A luxurious and relaxing vacation.

**Further information** concerning Salem Ecuador Is available on our websites:

[www.saleminternational.org](http://www.saleminternational.org) & [www.salem-ecuador.org](http://www.salem-ecuador.org)

### **Application**

Those with wholehearted and serious interest can please send an application (with a detailed cover letter and extensive résumé) by e-mail to: [volunteers@salem-mail.net](mailto:volunteers@salem-mail.net)

Of course we are also available at anytime for further questions.

Since there are only two volunteer positions available, a punctual application holds precedence for the desired time frame.

### **SALEM-Ecuador's Contact Details:**

SALEM International

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[www.salem-ecuador.org](http://www.salem-ecuador.org)

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