

La Esperanza Granada



Volunteer Guide

La Esperanza Granada



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Our Vision: Our students are well educated and successfully navigating life.

Our Mission: To provide a valuable education to disadvantaged children and youth in Granada.

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What are the Learning Centers?

In our four Learning Centers, children aged 6 to 12, receive education to supplement their public-school classes. Each afternoon, we provide classes in math, Spanish, English, art, and computers. We also play games that help spark their interests and develop personal and social skills. Throughout the year, we also present our extensive life skills program.

Our university students lead the teaching along with the help of our international volunteers. If a volunteer has specific artistic skills, such as playing a musical instrument, singing, painting, crafts etc. they are welcome to share their knowledge with the children through these classes, enriching their learning experience and fostering new abilities.



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Sabaneta Learning Center - 20 minutes walk from Central Park



Escudo Learning Center - 20 minutes walk from Central Park



Pantanal Learning Center - 20 minutes walk from Central Park



Pancasan Learning Center - 20 minutes walk from Central Park

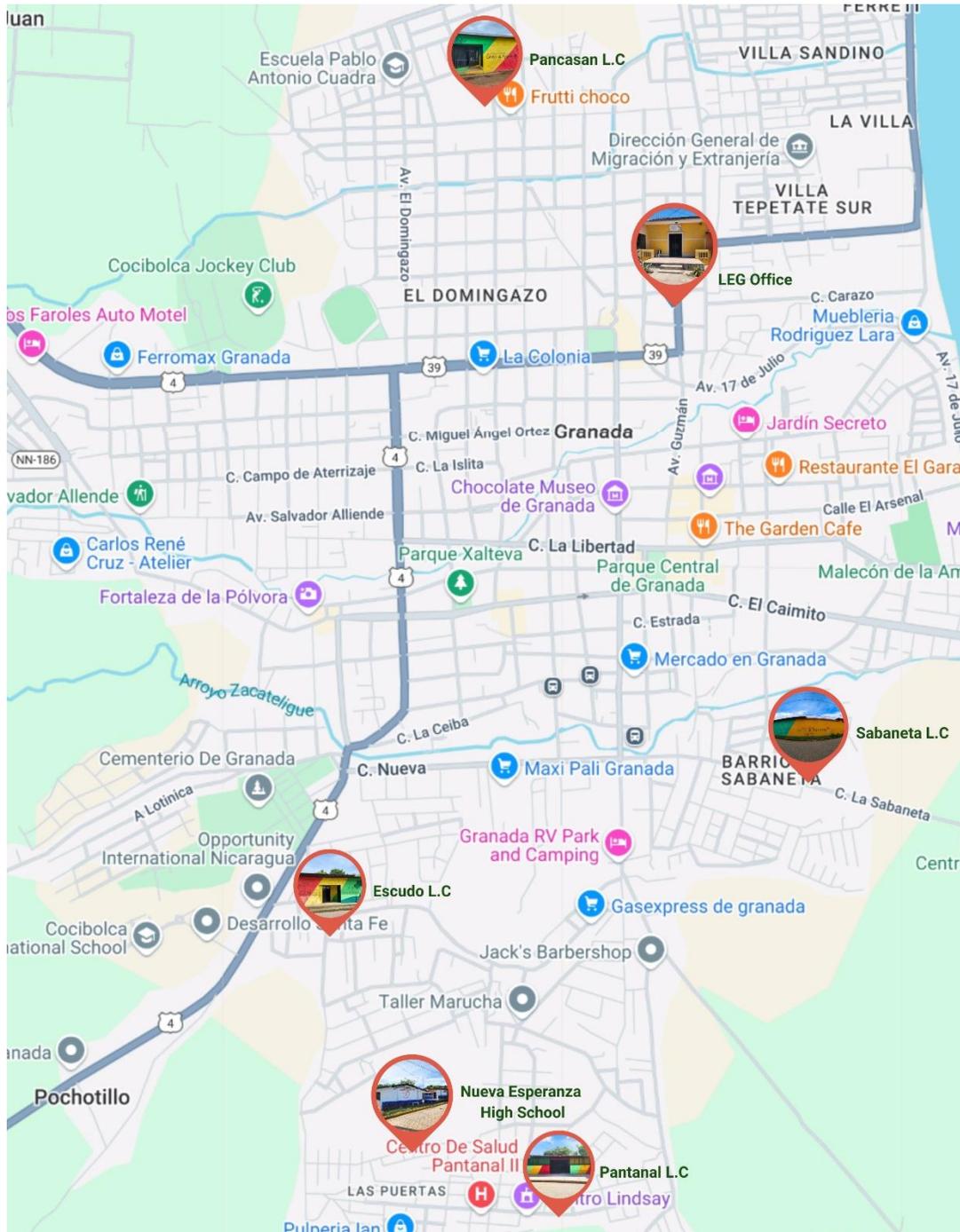
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Where they are?



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Nueva Esperanza Public School: This public high school was built by international volunteers working with La Esperanza Granada. It is now administered by the Ministry of Education. La Esperanza continues its involvement through a scholarship program for students at the school. This program not only covers school supplies but also offers academic reinforcement in the afternoon and complementary activities for the students' holistic development. These include topics such as effective communication, leadership, sexual and reproductive health, and other life skills aimed at preparing students to be successful adults.



How we operate

The Learning Centers and the secondary school operate in the afternoons. Children and teens attend a series of one-hour classes, rotating through different subjects throughout the afternoon. Each subject is led by a specific university student or international volunteer. Because our university students are also the educators, we call them “Educadores”.

Subjects are distributed as follows:

In the Learning Centers:

- **I Cycle (Grades 1 to 3):** Spanish, Math, Reading, and Tablet.
- **II Cycle (Grades 4 to 6):** Spanish, Math, English, and Computer Skills.

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In the High School:

- **8th and 9th Grade Students:** Spanish, Math, English, Computer Skills, and Storytelling.
- **10th and 11th Grade Students:** Spanish, Math, English, Computer Skills, and Theater.

Role of International Volunteers

It's important to remember that you are not a traditional teacher. The goal is to support children/teenagers in the key curriculum content taught at school. As part of the educator team at your assigned center or school, you will receive guidance from the center coordinator, who will support your integration.

From the beginning, the volunteer can request to collaborate in the subject or area that best matches their experience and knowledge. You will be accompanied by an educator, who will ultimately guide how the class is planned and delivered. Initially, you may assist the educator, and later on, you may lead the class independently.

You also have the opportunity to propose activities that complement the learning process. These initiatives not only bring variety to classroom dynamics but also enrich the way children/teenagers reinforce their knowledge.

Recommendation: If you have ideas or specific skills that could be useful for classes, don't hesitate to share them with the educator in charge. Your creativity and enthusiasm are always welcome!

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Structure of Classes in the Learning Center / Secondary School:

- Before the class begins, volunteers collaborate with educators to prepare the Learning Center or classroom. This includes organizing and cleaning the space to ensure it is in optimal condition to welcome the children/teenagers.
- Afterward, volunteers and educators prepare the necessary materials for the class.
- Once everything is ready, volunteers and educators welcome the children/teenagers and begin the class following the structured lesson plan.

Activities may include group games and dynamics, reading, using computers or tablets, crafts, interactive worksheets, and notebook exercises.

- After completing all class activities with the different groups, volunteers and educators are responsible for organizing and cleaning the Learning Center/classroom.

This process is essential to maintain a clean, organized, and functional space for the following day's activities, ensuring that children/teenagers always have an appropriate learning environment.

How to Help Children/Teenagers Learn:

- **Master the subject and pedagogical fundamentals:** Have a solid understanding of the subject.
- **Establish clear rules and routines:** Involve students in creating rules and habits, promoting responsibility and active participation.
- **Understand your students:** Know their interests and needs to create a respectful learning environment.
- **Show enthusiasm:** A positive attitude boosts student motivation and engagement.
- **Plan structured lessons:** Define clear objectives, organize the lesson, prepare materials, and relate the content to real-life situations.
- **Practice patience and good humor:** These qualities are essential to create a welcoming and positive classroom.

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- **Acknowledge students' efforts:** Thank and praise their contributions to boost their confidence and motivation.
- **Celebrate their achievements:** Congratulate them when they make progress and encourage them to overcome challenges to strengthen their self-esteem.
- **Focus on their strengths:** Identify and nurture their skills, valuing what they enjoy and do well.
- **Encourage active participation:** Ask questions and promote dialogue to keep students engaged.
- **Adapt teaching methods:** Use diverse strategies according to learning styles (visual, auditory) to optimize comprehension.
- **Use educational technology:** Integrate tools such as tablets and computers to enrich the learning experience.
- **Provide individual support:** Offer personalized assistance to students who need more attention to ensure their academic and personal progress.

Children's / Teenagers' Behavior

To help students improve their behavior, you can:

1. **Set clear boundaries:** Define consistent and fair rules. Enforce them firmly and fairly when violated.
2. **Foster a positive environment:** Promote values such as respect, responsibility, and cooperation, creating a space where students feel safe and motivated.
3. **Teach teamwork:** Design collaborative activities and projects that help students develop communication, empathy, and problem-solving skills.
4. **Promote mutual respect:** Encourage students to listen and value others' opinions, fostering tolerance and diversity of thought.
5. **Manage disruptive behaviors:** Identify triggers that may cause problems and prevent them by implementing strategies for a harmonious classroom.
6. **Boost student self-esteem:**
 - Accept them as they are and avoid comparisons.
 - Encourage self-awareness and help them discover their strengths.

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- Suggest challenges that stimulate learning and personal growth.
- Talk openly about difficulties, teaching them they can overcome them.
- Avoid labels and promote acceptance of diversity.
- Be a positive behavior model, showing respect and confidence.

Schedule for International Volunteers at the Learning Centers / Secondary School

Volunteer hours at the Learning Centers / Secondary School are Monday to Friday, from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

International Volunteer as Office Assistant

La Esperanza Granada has a team of five full-time Nicaraguan staff members. As an Office Assistant, you'll work closely with this team. Your tasks may vary depending on the organization's needs at the time, and may include:

- Improving our online presence
- Translating documents
- Writing and editing newsletters
- Assisting in the recruitment of international volunteers
- Reviewing and editing photographic material
- Reviewing documents online to provide feedback

Schedule for International Volunteers as Office Assistants

You may collaborate from Monday to Friday, choosing either the morning shift (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) or the afternoon shift (1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

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Rules for International Volunteers

- Always arrive on time.
- Always wear the La Esperanza t-shirt.
- Clean the space before and after learning activities.
- Store all used materials in the cabinets after activities.
- Wear appropriate clothing to attend the Learning Centers / Secondary School.
- Do not smoke or consume alcoholic beverages during class hours at the Learning Centers / Secondary School.
- Always store your backpacks and valuables in the locked cabinet at the Learning Centers.

Additional Information

- As volunteers, you can count on a strong support structure from La Esperanza Granada. The first point of contact is the center coordinator. In addition, many educators have been active in the centers for a long time and are familiar with the environment. You are also encouraged to develop a support network with volunteers who arrived before you.
- We seek your feedback and contributions to make the learning and growth experience for the children as positive and successful as possible. We deeply appreciate your effort and commitment, and we also want your experience to be a positive one, with a strong focus on adding value to the marginalized children of Granada.
- In any situation involving the educators, it is important to respect the chain of command and communicate directly with the communications Coordinator, who will work with the team to find the best possible solution to the issue.
- Each volunteer will receive two free T-shirts. If you'd like additional shirts, they will be available for purchase at orientation for US\$10.00 each, also payable in cash.

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- A one-time \$50 administration fee must be paid in cash during orientation. This helps cover the basic costs of running our volunteer program.

You might be asking, “Why is there a fee to volunteer?” It’s important to understand that this isn’t a payment for volunteering, but rather a small contribution that supports the ongoing work of our organization. By helping us cover administrative costs, you’re not only a volunteer, you’re also a donor contributing to breaking the cycle of poverty in our community. Thank you for being part of the impact!

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Frequently used Spanish words/phrases

School Materials

| English | Spanish | English | Spanish |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Pencil | Lápiz | Glue | Pega |
| Pen | Lapicero | Markers | Marcadores |
| Paper | Papel | Whiteboard | Pizarra |
| Eraser/rubber | Borrador | Sheet | Hoja |
| Sharpener | Tajador | Page | Pagina |
| Notebook | Cuaderno | Book | Libro |
| Chair | Silla | Crayons | Crayones |
| Scissors | Tijeras | Computer | Computadora |

Center Instructions and Phrases:

| English | Spanish | English | Spanish |
|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| What is the answer? | ¿Cuál es la respuesta? | Stand up | Levántense/de pie |
| Well done | Muy bien | Sit down | Siéntense |
| very good | excelente | Raise your hand | Levanten la mano |
| Great job | perfecto | Share | Comparte |
| Correct | Correcto | Quiet | Silencio |
| Almost | Casi | Listen | Escucha (S)/ Escuchen (P) |
| Try again | Otra vez | Pay attention | Pongan atención |
| Try your best | Intentenlo | Don't shout | No griten/tranquilos |
| It's his/hers | Le toca a él/ella | Don't interrupt | No interrumpen |

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| | | | |
|---------------|------------------|-------|-----------------------------|
| Turn the page | Cambia la página | Write | Escribe (S) Escriban (P) |
|---------------|------------------|-------|-----------------------------|

Playtime instructions and phrases

| English | Spanish | English | Spanish |
|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Run | Corre (S)/Corran (P) | Be careful | Cuidado |
| Don't run | No corras (S)/ No corran (P) | Don't hit/Don't fight | No peles (S)/No peleen (P) |
| Get down | Bajate (S)/Bajense (P) | Come here | Ven (S)/Vengan (P) |

Other Phrases

| English | Spanish |
|----------------|----------------|
| I can't | No puedo |
| Yes, you can | Si, tu puedes |

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