



Manna Project International

Communities Serving Communities

2018-2019 Short-Term Trip Information

Manna Project International

Manna Project International (MPI) is a U.S.-based 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that fosters communities of talented young leaders to become the next generation of social change agents by engaging in collaborative, on-the-ground service with international communities in need. Operating international sites in Nicaragua and Ecuador, MPI implements a variety of community development programs focused on improving health, education and livelihoods.

Communities Serving Communities

With the vision of Communities Serving Communities, MPI connects college students, recent graduates and young professionals with international opportunities where they can apply their passions, experience, and education through service to communities in need. MPI's model is a collaborative community-based approach to development stressing three organizational pillars: holistic approach, community focus and leadership development.

As part of our mission, we offer short-term trips to our two international sites.

The purpose of these short-term trips is to provide service opportunities to groups of college-aged students who desire to spend a week volunteering internationally. Through service trips, MPI's goal is to expand world perspectives, raise awareness of international issues, and instill a desire to serve on a deeper level.

Two Locations

- **Ecuador:** MPI operates in the semi-rural Chillos Valley, which is located to the southeast of the capital city of Quito, Ecuador.
- **Nicaragua:** MPI works in Managua, both in Villa Guadalupe and the southwest outskirts of the capital city. (Note: MPI's Nicaragua site is currently closed to volunteers due to political unrest.)

Trip Overview

MPI's short-term service trips include a mix of cultural, educational, and service opportunities while also giving a taste of who we are at MPI and what we do. Short-term volunteers can expect opportunities to engage the developing world in the following ways:

1. **Service Outreach:** Get active and get your hands dirty. Build something, teach classes, lead a sports clinic or run a kids' camp.



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2. **Higher Education:** Learn about a specific area of interest in a real-world, international setting. Get first-hand experience in fields such as micro-finance and public health education.
3. **Cultural Focus:** Immerse yourself in another culture and learn more about its history, economy, family dynamics, etc. Spend time in the community building personal relationships.
4. **MPI Overview:** Attend MPI's programs, have discussions with current Program Directors regarding their experience abroad with MPI and how their perspectives have changed.

Excursions

A debriefing excursion at the end of the week serves as a time of reflection and cultural immersion at the group's destination of choice. Potential trip options include:

Ecuador:

- The hot springs of Papallacta
- The hiking trails of crater lake Quilotoa
- The markets of Otavalo

Nicaragua:

- The beaches of San Juan del Sur
- The island of Ometepe
- The crater lake of Laguna de Apoyo, Granada or León
- The hiking trails of the Cerro Negro volcano

Make Your Mark!

We recognize the importance of each group 'making their mark' by focusing on a specific field of interest during their stay. Groups select their area of focus when applying, and once accepted, further define a specific program or project based on the current opportunities at the given site. Focus areas include:

Education	Health
Sports & Recreation	Business & Microfinance
Construction	Agriculture & Environment

Trip Coordination

Groups are organized at their respective universities. The group leader(s) communicate with MPI to plan the trip and determine programmatic focus area.

Collaboration with MPI's Program Directors in Ecuador and Nicaragua ensures for an experience that will make a lasting impact for both the volunteers and the community.



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Group Size

Minimum 6 and a maximum of 12 people.

Dates

All trips are Sunday to Sunday, coinciding with a university's vacation time, such as fall or spring break.

Individual Costs

\$750 per person, per week (Sunday – Sunday). This price includes all meals, lodging, in-country transportation, project costs, activities, a debriefing trip, a background check, and travel insurance. Airfare is not included. Groups are encouraged to work together to fundraise in order to meet these costs. MPI can provide resources to assist with your group fundraising efforts.

Background Checks

To protect the safety and security of our volunteers and the communities we serve, MPI requires all volunteers to complete a criminal background check (paid for by MPI) prior to serving with the organization. An arrest or criminal conviction will not automatically prohibit an individual from volunteering with MPI, but will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

How to Apply

Applications can be found on our website at: <http://www.mannaproject.org/short-term>. Please submit completed applications to shortterm@mannaproject.org. Groups from MPI Campus Chapters as well as unaffiliated universities may apply. Interested individuals who are not part of a group are encouraged to apply for MPI's Summer Internship Program.

Trip Leader Incentives

- Universities sending a short-term team to an MPI site for the first time can send their trip leader for free if they put together a full team (12 participants). Half price will be given to the leader for a team of 9-11 participants.
- Universities that have previously sent a team to an MPI site will receive a \$100 discount for their trip leader, if the team's money is received in full by the stated deadline.
- Only one person per team can qualify for the "trip leader" incentive.

Questions?

Email shortterm@mannaproject.org or call (615) 290-5746.