



PARTNERS *of the* AMERICAS



Oregon-Costa Rica High School 4 Week Exchange Program

This is a request for permission for a Costa Rican exchange student of the Partners of the Americas Oregon/Costa Rica High School Exchange Program to take part as an auditing student, shadowing their host student in classes for 4 weeks. Each winter, 25 Costa Rican high school students, who have been carefully and competitively selected to represent their communities and country, come to Oregon to live with host families and **attend high school with their host brothers/sisters. The student DOES NOT ENROLL** for the purpose of transferring credits. Instead, the **student audits classes** by shadowing their host brother or sister for the four week hosting block.

Costa Rican students on the Partners program travel with valid passports and visas, health insurance, and comply with State of Oregon Health Department immunization requirements. They are accompanied by two English-speaking chaperones who remain in Oregon for the duration of the 8-week program. The Partners of the Americas Exchange Committee and the Costa Rican chaperones work together to ensure that families, schools and students have a mutually beneficial experience.

Who are we?

Partners was founded in 1964 as the "people-to-people" component of the John F. Kennedy Administration's Alliance for Progress. Today, it is a private, **nonprofit organization**, enjoying the support of countless individuals, international corporations and foundations. Oregon and Costa Rica are partnered in this program, and the High School Exchange between Oregon and Costa Rica has operated successfully for over **50** years.

How will this benefit your school?

- ★ Promotes international understanding and friendship between the people of Oregon and Costa Rica
- ★ Provides students from both countries the broadening educational experience of other cultures
- ★ Serves as resource for schools as exchange students come prepared to share a presentation about Costa Rica to any pertinent classes and offer support to Spanish language classes as a native speaker.

Participating High Schools

- Canby High School
- Salem School District
- Neah-Kah-Nie High School

Please feel free to reach out to the Hosting Coordinators listed below, or the other schools listed above, with any questions or concerns regarding the program. Thank you in advance for the opportunity to share the culture and history of Costa Rica with your high school students.

Sincerely,

Jani VanPelt 971-212-7506
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POA - Hosting Coordinators

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