



PARTNERS *of the* AMERICAS



Oregon-Costa Rica High School 6 Week Immersion Program

This is a request for permission for a Costa Rican student of the Partners of the Americas Program to take part as an auditing student, shadowing their host student in classes for 6 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 sibling. The student DOES NOT ENROLL** in the school. Instead, the **student audits classes** by shadowing their host sibling for approximately four weeks.

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 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 a 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.

Historically Participating Schools

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ● Canby High School | ● Hillsboro School District | ● Neah-Kah-Nie High School |
| ● Salem-Keizer Public Schools | ● Corvallis High School | ● Portland Public Schools |
| ● Eugene School District 4 J | ● Clackamas High School | ● Hidden Valley 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,

Jennifer Gingerich 530-201-5331
Jani VanPelt 971-212-7506
POA - Hosting Coordinators

Website: <https://www.partnersorcr.com/>
Email: hostatico@gmail.com

SCHOOL PERMISSION FORM

Partners of the Americas

Oregon-Costa Rica High School 6 Week Immersion Program

PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM WITH HOST FAMILY APPLICATION

On behalf of this student, and the student's host family, we request your signature on this form to indicate your agreement to have the Costa Rican student shadow his/her host sibling for four weeks at your school and to waive any tuition payments for said student. This student will be shadowing during school days between **Dec 10, 2022 – Jan 21, 2023**.

_____/_____/_____
High School Name High School Address School District

_____/_____/_____
Host Brother/Sister Name Host Brother/Sister Address Telephone # of Host Family

_____/_____
Signature of School Official Date

_____/_____
Printed Name Title

Important Information Provided to the School:

Please make a copy of this permission for your records.

Prior to the exchange, the host sibling who attends your school will notify each of their teachers with a letter from Partners of the Americas regarding the Costa Rican student who will be shadowing. This letter makes clear that **teachers do not need to do any additional work or grading for the student**. Additional letters will be provided for Spanish teachers so that they are aware of the opportunity to use the Costa Rican student as a resource in their classrooms.

On the first day that the Costa Rican student attends your school, they will check in at the office with their host sibling and be introduced to administration if possible. The office will be provided with an information page which will include: Costa Rican student information, host contact information, emergency and chaperone contacts, the host student's class schedule which the Costa Rican student will shadow, and any allergies or pertinent medical information.

If you have any concerns whatsoever please feel free to reach out to the POA hosting coordinators:

Jennifer Gingerich 530-201-5331

Jani VanPelt 971-212-7506

hostatico@gmail.com