

History

Partners of the Americas originated in 1964 under President John F. Kennedy. "Partnering" states in America with Latin American countries enabled the two to form friendships, cultural exchanges, and assistance in various forms. Under this program, Oregon was partnered with Costa Rica. Current programs have expanded beyond the early business and governmental exchanges. Today, Partners is a non-profit, voluntary organization. Oregon and Costa Rican Partners are dedicated to promoting support networks and sharing ideas, knowledge and cultural experiences.

Project Planning

When partners observe an opportunity to work together on projects, they initiate action. The only limits are in the imagination! Projects have varied over the years but, true to the Partner motto, "we roll up our sleeves and make a difference!" Two examples of our newest programs are:

FIREFIGHTER EXCHANGE



Costa Rican firefighters will join Oregon team for training.

ARTISTS PLAN FIRST EXCHANGE



Oregon Partners invited Grecia's artist guild to Oregon to begin exchanges between artists of Costa Rica and Oregon



THE LURE OF COSTA RICA

"It was amazing to have people share their lives with me..." Natalie

"I've greatly improved my Spanish skills, as well as practiced my patience, my tolerance, and my flexibility..." Nā'ama

"It was really cool seeing another culture and place!" Chelsea

"The best experience of my life!" Joe

"What an amazing place..." Mark

www.oregonpartners.net
<http://studentexchange-oregoncostarica.com/>
www.partners.net

We not only dream of a better world, we roll up our sleeves and make a difference.



PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS



OREGON AND COSTA RICA

Our common mission is to work together as citizen volunteers to mutually improve and enrich our lives and communities.



STAY WITH COSTA RICAN FAMILIES

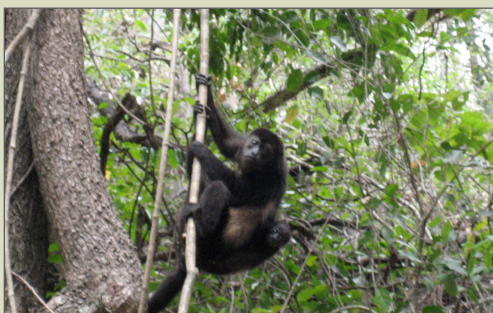


Visiting partners are hosted by Tico families and included in their daily lives. Lifelong friendships develop.

SHARE CULTURAL EXPERIENCES



EXPLORE COSTA RICA'S NATURE



Partners share projects & lives

THE ADULT CULTURAL EXCHANGE

The adult exchange provides an inexpensive opportunity to experience the joys of Costa Rica's land and people. Oregon participants host the Costa Ricans for a portion of their fall trip as they visit various areas of Oregon. Likewise, Ticos in five to eight different communities host Oregonians in February. Travelers experience family and community life and visit major tourist attractions in each country.



VOLUNTEER ENGLISH TEACHERS

Retired teachers provide English instruction—these lively classes are hands-on experiences to enrich the exchanges between Oregon and Costa Rica. The Oregon teachers develop their Spanish skills while staying in Tico homes and the hosts improve their English in class. It is a true educational exchange.

THE CASITA HEALTH CLINIC

The former hearing clinic is being repaired to provide health and other services to a San Jose neighborhood. We are also working on a project to send refurbished wheelchairs to hospitals.

HIGH SCHOOL AMBASSADORS



The high school exchange enables students to become bilingual and bicultural, and to make long-lasting friendships. Students have a chance to improve their language skills, attend high school for two months, and experience family life in Costa Rica.

YORKIN SOLAR ELECTRIC PROJECT

Yorkin Village's solar electric system was destroyed in a flood. Oregon Partners, thanks to a grant from Harvey Taub, have provided about one-third of the funds to begin replacement.

SISTER SCHOOLS

Oregon and Costa Rican schools work together to give their students an opportunity to interact with each other through cards, letters, electronic communication, and project work.

