**Sueños Compartidos**

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**Maestros Colombia**

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Our website is: [www.suenoscompartidos.org](http://www.suenoscompartidos.org)

Program dates – mid-June to mid-July

Recommended travel dates – Arrival in Colombia 3-5 days prior to start date and departure from Colombia 3-5 days after end date – I will provide detailed travel arrangements for accepted teachers (contact info in Colombia, travel options from the airport, travel routes/times, etc.). Feel free to arrive earlier/depart later if you would like to arrange for personal travel before/after the program.

Passport/visa requirements for Colombia – We are entering the country as tourists; for US, Canada, UK, Australia, and New Zealand citizens, the terms are 90 days ($60 exit fee at departure) + 90-day extension (around $50) through Colombia immigration, up to 180 calendar days in Colombia.  IMPORTANT!! If you have a passport from a different country, please check your country's passport/visa requirements for TOURIST stay in Colombia and let me know what the terms are. If you are unsure about your country’s guidelines, we can assist.

General requirements - undergraduate degree (any field), five years of teaching experience, and the passport/visa requirements between your country and Colombia.  Preference is given to teachers with grade school experience and/or ESL experience, although these are not absolute requirements.  Keep in mind that in these locations few people speak conversational English, so some knowledge of Spanish is helpful; however, your students will speak intermediate English, so you do not need to speak Spanish to participate in the program.

Locations within Colombia – for a description of location options, visit our website at:

<http://suenoscompartidos.org/maestros.html>

Arrangements in Colombia – We have relationships with local- and state-level offices of Secretary of Education; through these relationships, we arrange school locations, participating students, host families, and in some cases, weekend events for the volunteers.

Lifestyle – The Maestros program will take place in towns and cities (as opposed to rural areas). Housing is homestay with families. Meals are provided by the community, sometimes with the homestay family and sometimes going to houses of other families for meals.

Planning – We will not have a formal training program. We will work via online collaboration to share ideas, materials, etc. Ultimately, each teacher will be responsible for his or her curriculum.

Responsibilities and teaching content – You will teach public school English teachers four hours a day. Content is conversational English and pedagogy training. The participants will be at a high basic or low intermediate level of English. The focus of our program is conversation and pronunciation as opposed to grammar and vocabulary, although these concepts will certainly come into play in the process of developing conversation skills.

Weekend trips – You will have weekends (Friday afternoon to Sunday evening) free. In some cases, our local contacts will arrange optional group weekend activities for the volunteers. All of our locations provide access to cities which are full of culture and provide for great weekend trips!

Security – I have traveled extensively and taught throughout Colombia. Our locations were selected with the specific intent of avoiding security issues. In any area of Colombia (or Latin America for that matter), 90% of the safety factor is common sense – not going to unknown areas alone or at night and not participating in illegal activities at any time. In contrast to the news reports, you will experience a wonderful country and wonderful people!  The warmth of the people is the best part of the program; they are grateful, welcoming, and excited about Sueños Compartidos!

\*\*\*Compensation/expenses\*\*\* - The compensation is room and board with a local community family.  Travel expenses and personal expenses (toiletries, going out, local buses) are not covered. The program is a service we are providing to the community. **Additionally, note that the schools do not pay a fee to Sueños Compartidos, nor do the teachers, students, parents, or communities.**

Expense estimate is as follows:

Airfare to Colombia – varies

Personal expenses – $150-$250

Personal weekend travel expenses – varies; $50 to $150

International insurance (for those who don’t already have coverage) – $50

One option for insurance (purely an option, feel free to use any service you like) is the following:

<https://www.insubuy.com/img/patriot/international/?affiliateid=patiinsu>

Program fee

After you accept our invitation to participate in a specific location in Colombia and receiving an introduction from the local coordinator, we request a program fee of $25 via Paypal. These proceeds contribute to our website and advertising costs. Like the teaching, all administration is 100% volunteer!

If you would like to apply, please review the application and submit with your resume and a digital photo. In addition, please request two references to email with “volunteer reference for [your name]” in the subject line. If you receive an invitation to participate and accept, we will arrange the travel schedule together to ensure that you arrive at a good time based on our start date/location.

Let me know if you have additional questions, and I look forward to the possibility of your participation with Sueños Compartidos!

Saludos,

Tomas Davis

Country Director, Colombia

Sueños Compartidos

**Sueños Compartidos**

**Volunteer Application**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Country \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Nationality \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Spanish level: \_\_\_\_beginner \_\_\_\_elementary \_\_\_\_intermediate \_\_\_\_advanced

Emergency contacts (two; name, phone number, email)

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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Education (undergraduate, graduate, technical certifications)

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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Work experience (employer, location, description, date range for most recent two positions)

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References (please request two references to email me with “Sueños Compartidos reference for [your name]” in the subject line)

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Please provide a personal profile which we can share with other volunteers if you end up participating in the program (50 words +/-).

As a volunteer with Sueños Compartidos, you are going to be alone in a culture significantly different from your own, with relatively few comforts. Describe a personal experience which demonstrates your ability to succeed in such an environment (300 words +/-).

\*\*\*Please attach: resume/CV, photo

Email application and attachments to: Tomas Davis, tomas.davis@hotmail.com