



YALE ALUMNI SERVICE CORPS



Brazil Newsletter #1 December 2016



Dear YASC Brazil Participants:

Bem vindo! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, Nadya Zawrocki, as your volunteer Producer of the 2016 Yale Alumni Service Corps service trip to Serra Grande, Bahia, Brazil. Supporting me is a dynamic team from the Association of Yale Alumni: Joao Aleixo, Director Yale Alumni Service Corps, Kathy Edersheim, Senior Director of the AYA, and a group of YASC veterans who will be leading projects and joined us on our advance planning trip to Serra Grande last spring that include Judy Kessen Crawford, Cheryl Davis, Andrew Garling, Doris Iarovici, Ann Nock, Bill Rossbach and Phil Sussler. In addition to them, Trudie Agbozo and Wayne Caccamo, also YASC veterans, will be leading projects in Serra Grande in March 2016.

We are delighted that you have chosen to be a part of our first service trip to Serra Grande in March 2016. Our group includes 80 YASC volunteers: 66 adults, 5 teenagers, and 9 Yale students. In addition, we will be joined in Brazil by approximately 25 students from the Universidade Estadual de Santa Cruz (UESC – pronounced Wesky), located in Ilheus, for translation services, 6 of whom will assist our project leaders and students in advance planning of the service trip.

This newsletter and those that will follow contain information about travel logistics, project assignments, health and safety tips, and more. We know this newsletter has a lot of details, but we want to provide you the important information you will need in order to plan for our time in Brazil.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions about the trip. My contact information is listed at the end of this newsletter.

TRAVEL TO AND FROM BRAZIL

As you know, you are responsible for booking your own international flights to and from Ilheus, Bahia, Brazil. If you have not already done so, please book your round-trip ticket as soon as possible. Airfare is not included in the YASC Program Fee.

Arrivals:

Arrive at the **Ilheus airport** anytime in the morning or early afternoon of **Friday, March 11, 2016**. Our logistical partner, Absolute Travel, will be arranging transportation from the Ilheus airport to our two hotels in Serra Grande throughout that day. We will be sending a link for you to enter in your flight information so that we can organize efficient and expedient transportation to the hotel.

Departures:

Depart from **Ilheus airport** on **Sunday, March 20, 2016 at any time**, unless you plan to extend your stay or are participating in one of the post trips to Iguazu Falls and/or Rio. Again, Absolute Travel will arrange transportation to the airport using the flight information that you provide to us, so it is important to share via the link.

All other transportation required for our trip itinerary, such as: to and from our hotel from the airport, to our projects, dinners we scheduled, etc., we will provide.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Due to the size of our group, we will be staying in two beach hotels that are about five minutes apart and about ten or fifteen minutes to Serra Grande. Our two hotels will be Ilheus North Hotel and Sargimar Hotel. Due to Ilheus North Hotel being able to accommodate a larger group, we will have all of our group meals that are not in the community (breakfast and dinner) at Ilheus North Hotel. There will be transportation readily available between the hotels after meals and other planned times when the entire group will be located at one hotel. Otherwise, if you choose to walk the beach from one hotel to the other, the walk is approximately 15 minutes. While we have not been alerted to any issues in the general area, we always recommend that you walk with a group and in daylight.

Both of our hotels have Wi-Fi and air conditioning (as well as a pool!!) It is really as beautiful as this picture.



Please visit these links for more information on our hotels.

Ilheus North Hotel: <http://www.ilheusnorthhotel.com.br/>

Sargimar Hotel: <http://www.sargimar.com.br/>

We will be completing room assignments based on family needs, single supplement choice, and space needs. Room and hotel assignments will be given upon arrival at both hotels.

VISAS

You will need to purchase your plane tickets to Brazil before applying for your visa as it is required in order to submit your application for your visa. You may utilize the CIBT website to help in preparing your visa application for this service trip. Please visit the following link to receive Yale rates:

<http://cibtvisas.com/?login=40634>. If you prefer, call the CIBT Help Desk at [800-577-2428](tel:800-577-2428) and provide the following ID number: 40634.

HEALTH AND IMMUNIZATIONS

Some immunizations are recommended for travel to Brazil. The AYA and YASC cannot provide medical advice, but we advise that you consult with your physician or a travel clinic regarding immunizations. It is best to do this well in advance of the trip. For general information about immunizations and health issues in the Brazil, you may also visit the Center for Disease Control for relevant health information for Brazil:

http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/mission_disaster/brazil



PROJECTS

Based on our research and investigation trip last spring our project leaders have developed a number of tentative projects in the several general areas into which all volunteers have been assigned. Project leaders will continue developing and refining these projects with our liaison partners in Brazil over the next few months so that they will be fully finalized before we arrive in March.

Environmental led by William Rossbach BA '71 and Phil Sussler BA '79

The Atlantic Forest region surrounding Serra Grande is one of the most productive and biodiverse ecosystems on the planet. It is also one of the most threatened. One of our Brazilian partners in this trip is Floresta Viva. Floresta Viva is deeply integrated with the local community and nearby university, Universidade Estadual de Santa Cruz (UESC). Its stated mission is to “promote human development allied to the conservation of nature.” Working with UESC and Floresta Viva this project will be based on collaboration among these entities with the primary goals of 1) educating and training adults and high school students in Serra Grande on the character, importance, and value of the Atlantic Forest ecosystem, 2) engaging the participants in actual forestry/nursery field work, and 3) providing inspiration for further education and possible employment. Hands on projects may include working to begin planting a proposed botanical garden, teaching community members about planting and cultivating seedling trees and plants and the importance of forest restoration, and planting trees along the watershed at the edge of the community.

Education – Extended Arts led by Trudie Agbozo BA '05 and Library led by Judy Crawford BA '76

In keeping with what we learned about the community’s acknowledgment of the critical importance of the surrounding ecosystem, we anticipate focusing our educational efforts on environmental issues to supplement what is part of the regular school programs. We are planning a program to teach children about environmental protection and reforestation and recycling at school as well as at home, to promote their knowledge of what happens to their recycling, and perhaps to make tee shirts and books to remind them of recycling. In addition we anticipate programs to teach fun science, math, and social studies; organize arts and videography programs; and develop an oral history and reading motivation projects. To encourage awareness of and promote the value of education we are also working with the nearby university, UESC, to see if we can bring university students to make presentations to the older students to on economic and other reasons to continue and complete their education.

Public Health led by Cheryl Davis BA '76 and Doris Iarovici BA '87

Based on our advance planning trip we learned that the principal public health issues include drug and alcohol problems among youth and adults; depression and mental health issues; teen pregnancy; limited services for special needs for the elderly or young; poor dental hygiene and education; presence of dengue; and lack of access to specialist care in cardiology, neurology, ob/gyn. Tentative projects:

Because there is a community health clinic and local medical care available we anticipate developing projects to supplement existing medical resources that can be accomplished in the short time we are there and can be sustainable: setting up a health fair outside of the clinic mainly dedicated to health education focused on dengue prevention, pregnancy prevention, drug and alcohol abuse.

Conduct screenings for depression, alcoholism, diabetes.

Use our younger volunteers (Yale students, teen volunteers) to develop collaboration with the younger members of the community to create a fun project such as a video documentary, musical project, or treasure hunt to disseminate education about drug/alcohol treatment/pregnancy prevention.

Conduct “Train the trainers” program for depression treatment

Business consulting led by Ann Nock (Oxford alumnus)

Tentative projects include organizing financial literacy classes for the community, including school age children. The business consulting group may also work with Instituto Arapyaú, a local organization that helps community members apply for micro-loans and grants and helps local businesses work on their marketing and advertising. This institute recently initiated a program of micro financing and grants available to applicants in an area north of Ilheus, including Serra Grande, with an application period for a financing/grant period closing around the time of the 2016 trip, which, with proper coordination, might be an ideal time for assistance from a contingent of YASC volunteers with business skills.

Construction led by Andrew Garling BA '68

Creation of a children’s room for various activities; building shelves for the public library and clearing a field behind the local school so that it can be used for the kids to play.

Athletics led by Wayne Caccamo SOM '87

There are ample facilities to organize a wide array of athletic/sports activities during the trip. Most of these activities will take place in a large soccer field. There is also a smaller soccer field with dimensions similar to an indoor soccer arena so we can organize additional sessions in this location. Based on the interaction with the key person in the community who is familiar with sports, it is important to organize boys and girls soccer sessions at multiple skill levels as well track and we can introduce other sports these kids have not been exposed to as much before such as Frisbee, jump rope, kick ball, etc.

ASSIGNMENTS

The spreadsheet with names of all participants on this trip and their tentative team assignments is attached to this email.

CONNECTING ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Please connect with us on Facebook to keep in touch with volunteers from past and present trips:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/168504849723/>

Please also join our Facebook Brazil group page to be able to share more trip-specific information with one another; you must add yourself to this group or accept joining the group in order to receive and see the updates on this group page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/YaleAlumniServiceCorpsBrazil/>

ITINERARY

Please click this link to view our tentative service trip itinerary (please note our itinerary is subject to change):

<http://yalealumniservicecorps.org/sites/default/files/files/Brazil/YASC%20Itinerary%20Brazil%202016%20Revised%206%2023%2015.pdf>

Here are the links to view pre and post trip itineraries:

Amazon pre-trip:

<http://yalealumniservicecorps.org/sites/default/files/files/Brazil/Yale%20Pre%20Trip%20Amazon.pdf>

Rio (only) post-trip:

<http://yalealumniservicecorps.org/sites/default/files/files/Brazil/Yale%20Post%20Trip%20Rio%20Only.pdf>

Iguazu Falls (only) post-trip:

<http://yalealumniservicecorps.org/sites/default/files/files/Yale%20Post%20Trip%20Iguazu%20only%20REVISED%20OPTION.pdf>

Iguazu Falls and Rio post-trip:

<http://yalealumniservicecorps.org/sites/default/files/files/Yale%20Post%20Trip%20Iguazu-Rio%20REVISED%20OPTION.pdf>

Summary of important next steps

- **Read** all the information in this newsletter!
- **Submit** the following as soon as possible:
 - Your **international flight information** via the following link: <https://goo.gl/LWYECm>
 - Signed **release forms** (attached) -- for each member of your party -- to Joao via email to joao.aleixo@yale.edu or fax to 203-432-0587.
 - **Photos** for our participant directory via email joao.aleixo@yale.edu. Deadline is December 11, 2015!
 - **Passport information** for all members of your party: we need passport numbers, dates of issue, dates of expiration, and names exactly as they appear in the passports. If you have not already submitted this information, please do so via the following link: <https://goo.gl/HE4IGz>.
Alternatively, you can call Joao Aleixo at 203-432-1943 and leave him a message with these details.
Please DO NOT submit this information via email.
- **Book** your Brazil plane tickets!
- **Apply** for your visa!

- **Let us know via email:**
 - If you plan to attend the orientation at the Rose Alumni House on Yale's campus on Saturday, January 23, 2016, 9am-4pm (snow date: Sunday, January 24, 2016, 9am-4pm).

FINAL NOTE

Please know that all of our volunteer leaders are giving much of their time to help plan and make this the most sustainable and successful trip YASC has done, for the Serra Grande community as well as you. We extend a very special thanks to Bill Rossbach, co-Leader of the Brazil Environmental project, for co-creating our first newsletter!

We are happy that you have read our first newsletter for the trip! Please make sure to read future newsletters as they will continue to provide important information in preparation of our trip.

With best regards to all,

Nadya

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