



# YALE ALUMNI SERVICE CORPS

February 3, 2014

Dear YASC Nicaragua Volunteers:

Thank you for registering for the 2014 service trip to Nicaragua! On behalf of the Yale Alumni Service Corps, we are delighted that you have chosen to join us in Nicaragua in March. I am the volunteer trip Producer and as you already know, Joao Aleixo is our Yale representative - see below! On a regular basis you will receive a newsletter or email with important trip information and updates from us.



Nadya



Joao

We completed our Orientation in New Haven on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all of you who attended! This in-person time helped us to prepare for a better and more organized experience in March. Everyone was able to meet new and returning volunteers, begin planning your group activities, and learn about the village of El Trohilo. The take-away from our day was that flexibility is key and we should plan to improvise and find solutions any time things do not go according to plan, which will be often!

Updates this week:

## **Booking Flights**

If you have not already done so, please book your round-trip ticket to Managua, Nicaragua as soon as possible. Airfare is not included in the YASC Program Fee.

Arrivals: Please arrive before 2pm on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. Last year, Saturday flights to Managua filled up quickly and many volunteers had to arrive one day early. If your flight arrives on Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, you will be responsible for booking a hotel room at the Best Western in Managua (address & contact info below.)

Departures: Volunteers should depart on Saturday, March 23, at any time, unless you plan to extend your stay.



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All other transportation required for our trip itinerary, (to and from our hotel, to our projects, dinners we scheduled, etc.) we will provide. More information on travel and Nicaragua is located here:

[http://yaleservicecorps.org/nicaragua\\_2014/travelinfo.html](http://yaleservicecorps.org/nicaragua_2014/travelinfo.html)

Best Western Mercedes in Managua

Km 11 Carretera Norte, Managua, RD-46, NI

Direct Phone Number in Nicaragua: +505 22 55 99 00

Best Western International Reservations from the USA: 1-800-780-7234

<http://www.bestwestern.com>

## **Immunizations**

Some immunizations are recommended for travel to Nicaragua. The AYA cannot provide medical advice, but we advise that you consult with your physician regarding immunizations. It is best to do this several weeks before the trip, since some medications may take time to order. For general information about immunizations and health issues in the Nicaragua, you may also visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

## **Connecting on Social Media**

Please join the Yale Alumni Service Corps group on Facebook, which is used by volunteers from past and present trips to post and share photos and share updates:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/168504849723/?fref=ts>

We also have an event page to be able to share more trip-specific information with one another, please make sure that you confirm you are attending this FB event to receive updates from this page.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/138268703044514/>

## **Phone calls**

I will be calling all volunteers this week to touch base about any questions regarding the trip. If you are not available to take my call, please feel free to call me back at 203-548-0608.

Best,

Nadya Zawrocki

YASC Nicaragua 2014 Trip Producer

203-548-0608

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