



YALE ALUMNI SERVICE CORPS

Nicaragua 2013 Newsletter # 3

January 30, 2013

Dear YASC Nicaragua volunteers:

We have been busy planning the trip details. Everything is coming together nicely and our group leaders are making progress with their projects. We will have more details about the specific projects in next week's newsletter. This newsletter has important updates about early arrivals, immunizations, orientation, Facebook, and overall trip expectations.

Early Arrivals

Your program fee includes a room at the Best Western in Managua on Saturday, March 16. If you are flying into Managua early (on or before Friday, March 15), it is your responsibility to make your hotel reservation at the Best Western Mercedes in Managua for the additional day(s) before the official start of the trip.



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>

If you are arriving early, we can't guarantee that you will have the same room on all nights.

Orientation



If you have not already RSVP'd to the orientation session in New Haven on February 23rd, please do so at your earliest convenience at Evite.com:

http://new.evite.com/#view_invite:eid=038CAARBSZI3CIJXQEPCLYCIZE5ACQ

This in-person time will help us to prepare for an outstanding experience in March.

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.



On Expectations

As trip producer, I work with our group leaders, board members, and Yale staff to put together all of the moving parts of this trip. It's a beautiful team effort and the final product will be outstanding. While we do our best to plan ahead of time so that everything goes smoothly on our trips, the reality is that something usually goes wrong.

If you've been on YASC trips in the past, you know that not everything will go as planned. Our bus might break down and we might walk one mile to the village. You might switch hotel rooms 3 times in León. Our meals might be served late. You might not have hot water when you take a shower. The outlet in your room might not work. The Internet at the hotel might not work. The list goes on.

When something out of the ordinary happens, we will do our best to solve the problem as soon as possible. There will always be a waiting period between the time the problem starts and the time it is resolved. How we choose to react during that time is very important.

If something goes wrong on the trip, I'm asking you to choose a positive attitude. Last year in Nicaragua, our bus broke down. About 20 volunteers hopped into the back of a pickup truck and drove down a bumpy mountain for two hours. While it was uncomfortable, we made the most of it. The bumpy ride down the mountain is now one of my most memorable experiences from last year's trip.

If you have been on trips before, you are probably smiling now. If you have not been on a YASC trip, you might be worried, but fear not. More than half of the volunteers registered for this trip have attended at least one YASC trip in the past. Together, we can make it through anything and then come back for more. 😊

Facebook

- **YASC Group Page:** Please join the YASC Facebook group, which is used by volunteers from all past trips to post photos and share updates:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/168504849723/?fref=ts>
- **Nicaragua 2013 Event Page:** We also have an event page for the Nicaragua 2013 trip:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/288131231290964/>
Please confirm your attendance on this page. We will use this event page to stay in touch with each other before and after the trip.



Children in Trohilo

Last Week's Trivia Answer



Between the YASC and the YSN, we have 70 participants this year. 40 participants have attended at least one YASC trip in the past.

This Week's Trivia



How many volunteers attended the first YASC trip, where did they serve, and when did the trip take place?

Nicaragua Fun Fact

Nicaragua is the largest country in Central America and is slightly bigger in area than the state of New York.

Thank you for your time and dedication.

Best regards,

Crystal Astrachan, ES '04
Nicaragua 2013 Trip Producer
YASC Board Member