

Rotary District 5930 Costa Rica International Scholarship Experience

Dear District 5930 Rotary Club Leaders:

On behalf of the leadership of Rotary District 5930, I am pleased to provide for your review and distribution to interested undergraduate students information regarding the Costa Rica International Scholarship experience. Students will arrive in Costa Rica on May 26, 2018 and depart on June 8, 2018. They selected will serve as volunteer members of a medical brigade team sponsored by the International Service Learning (ISL) organization.

Role of Volunteers: ISL Teams survey the needs of a community and refer individuals in need to an ISL field clinic. At the clinic, volunteers participate, under the direct supervision of local, licensed health professionals, in-patient interviews, take vital signs, perform basic triage, and fill prescriptions. Volunteers also closely observe the examination, diagnosis, and treatment processes. Teams are led by professional staff and accompanied by bilingual assistants. The level of participation of each team member is determined by his/her own comfort level.

Qualifications for Consideration: To be considered for participation in this experience, the applicant must:

1. Have completed by the time of departure two years of college or university study and have a declared major compatible with one of the following **Rotary Foundation's Areas of Focus**:

Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution: Promote peace and conflict prevention/ resolution by: Training leaders, including potential youth leaders, to prevent and mediate conflict; supporting peace-building in communities and regions affected by conflict; Supporting studies for career-minded professionals related to peace and conflict prevention/resolution.

Disease Prevention and Treatment: Prevent disease and promote health by: Improving the capacity of local health care professionals; promoting disease prevention programs, with the goal of limiting the spread of communicable diseases and reducing the incidences of and complications from non-communicable diseases; enhancing the health infrastructure of local communities; educating and mobilizing communities to help prevent the spread of major diseases; preventing physical disability resulting from disease or injury; supporting studies for career-minded professionals related to disease prevention and treatment.

Water and Sanitation: Ensure that people have sustainable access to water and sanitation by: Providing equitable community access to safe water, improved sanitation and hygiene; strengthening the ability of communities to develop, fund and maintain sustainable water and sanitation systems; supporting programs that enhance communities' awareness of the benefits of safe water, sanitation and hygiene; supporting studies for career-minded professionals related to water and sanitation.

Maternal and Child Health: Improve the health of mothers and their children by reducing the mortality and morbidity rate for children under the age of five; reducing the maternal mortality and morbidity rate; improving access to essential medical services, trained community health leaders and health care providers for mothers and their children; supporting studies for career-minded professionals related to maternal and child health.

Basic Education and Literacy: Strengthen the capacity of communities to provide basic education and literacy to all; increase adult literacy in communities; seek to reduce gender disparity in education; support studies for career-minded professionals related to basic education and literacy.

Economic and Community Development: Focus on creating sustainable, measurable and long- term economic improvements in their communities and livelihoods by: Building the capacity of entrepreneurs, community leaders, local organizations, and community networks to support economic development in impoverished communities; developing opportunities for productive work; reducing poverty in underserved communities; supporting studies for career-minded professionals related to economic and community development.

2. Complete and submit the attached application with the required documents by November 3, 2018 to Marissa Longoria at marissa.longoria@laredo.edu.
3. Be sponsored by a Rotary Club in District 5930 and reside in District 5930, attend college or university in District 5930, or have graduated from a high school in District 5930. (Rotarians and family members of Rotarians are not eligible to apply to participate.). Membership in a Rotaract club does not affect eligibility.
4. To obtain the sponsorship of a Rotary club, applicants must be interviewed and recommended for this scholarship preferably by the President of a Rotary Club in District 5930. Applicants can obtain contact information for club presidents by: Downloading the free District 5930 app from the App Store/Google Play; clicking on the Leadership link; and finally clicking on the 2018-2019 Club Presidents link. The recommendation form, which is part of the application, must be completed and submitted as part of the application packet.
5. **Participation in a Competitive Interview:** Competitive interviews will be conducted by the District 5930 Scholarship Committee on November 10, 2018 at the Grace United Methodist Church located at 14521 Northwest Boulevard in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Expenses Paid by Rotary District 5930: ISL registration fees, room and board (some meals), and round-trip coach air fare (including airport departure tax) from Corpus Christi, Victoria, McAllen, or Laredo to San Jose Costa Rica (air transportation arranged by Rotary District 5930), travel insurance, and ID cards.

What the Costa Rica Scholarship Recipient Provides: Cover all expenses of a personal nature, including cost for passport, some lunches; personal medical equipment (stethoscope, 3-4 scrubs, blood pressure cuff, otoscope, refillable water bottle), donations of small school supplies (e.g., pencils, pens, erasers, etc.), an open mind, a sense of adventure, and a heart of service.

What International Service Learning (ISL) Provides: ISL is a separate entity not affiliated with Rotary International or Rotary District 5930. ISL provides: 24-hour accompaniment by professional bilingual staff, airport pick-up and drop-off, all ground transportation, all lodging, two meals a day, drinking water, instruction by licensed medical professionals, medications and supplies, quality experiential learning, a meaningful glimpse into another culture, and an unforgettable experience.

Additional Requirements: Selected applicants must be available to make presentations to their Sponsor Rotary Club and Rotary District 5930 Conference in the spring of 2019 and during the 2019-2020 school year (e.g., before and after the trip).

Thank very much in advance for sharing this information with interested students. Feel free to contact Costa Rica Scholarship Committee Chair Marissa Longoria (956-324-6932; marissa.longoria@laredo.edu) or me, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Juan Lira,
Rotary District 5930 Scholarship Committee Chair
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