



# Volunteer Abroad Venezuela

## (For University Study Abroad Students)

VENUSA offers many diverse volunteer projects to choose from in and around Merida, Venezuela. Whether you want to assist in a local hospital or clinic, help orphans, teach English, take care of animals at the local zoo, or assist the elderly, you are sure to have an amazing, fulfilling and memorable time in Venezuela.

**Eligibility** Volunteer must be at least 18 years old  
Flexible, open-minded, in good health and have a desire to contribute

**Location** Volunteer positions are located in Merida, Venezuela.

**Length of program** Most programs run from 2–30 weeks, though longer programs may be available.  
Positions are also available over spring break and winter holidays.

**Start dates** Year-round

**Placement** Specific details, such as exact work hours, dates, and the type of work, can only be determined by expertise, skills, mind-set, and Spanish fluency. In addition, some programs have special requirements that are needed prior to being accepted.

**Important Note to students:** *VENUSA’s volunteer placements are taken very seriously. The relationships and trust with our volunteer partners have taken years to develop. VENUSA will only award placements to students that are dedicated to their cause and committed to the position.*

**Program Fee:** \$400 includes Administrative, Placement, Confirmation, Certification & Support throughout placement. Volunteer fee is due with this application and essay (no exceptions). Non-Study Abroad students are required to contact VENUSA for volunteer program information.

( ) Yes, I am interested in the volunteer program

( ) No, I am not interested in the volunteer program

### **VOLUNTEER PLACEMENT APPLICATION – Complete if interested in the volunteer program**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel / Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: M F Age: \_\_\_\_\_

What type of volunteer placement are you interested in: Medical / Health Orphanage  
Convalescence Veterinarian / Animals Law Enforcement Anti-Drug Coalition Church  
Botanical Garden Tourism / Hotel Museum Teaching / Education Environmental  
Women’s Center Chemical Dependency Fire Department

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list all related courses and experience in desired field: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like a volunteer position while participating in the Study Abroad program in Merida? Yes No

If so, which term: Spring Semester 20\_\_\_\_ Summer 20\_\_\_\_ Fall Semester 20\_\_\_\_

Spanish Language Level: Beginner Intermediate High Intermediate Advanced

**Please attach an essay (in Spanish) regarding your volunteer placement request.**

*I understand that the confirmation & placement fee is non-refundable once my volunteer position is confirmed. Once I am placed, I understand that my placement is not based on a trial period. If I opt not to continue with the volunteer position, the placement & confirmation fee will not be prorated or reimbursed. Fee will be reimbursed only if applicant is not awarded placement.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# VENUSA

International Studies & Modern Languages  
Merida, Venezuela

## Why do I have to pay to volunteer?

All short-term international volunteer programs have a program fee which covers the expenses of operating the program. Below is an excerpt from a book on international volunteering that helps to explain the necessity of a fee.

from *HOW TO LIVE YOUR DREAM OF VOLUNTEERING OVERSEAS*  
by Joseph Collins, Stefano DeZerega, and Zahara Heckscher  
published by Penguin Putnam, Inc., 2002

*Prospective volunteers are surprised to learn that many programs charge their volunteers a fee to participate. At first, this can seem ridiculous — Why should you pay money to work for free? Aren't you already forgoing income you could be making? Here are a few things to keep in mind while trying to understand why the vast majority of programs charge international volunteers a fee:*

- The local organizations and projects with which you volunteer overseas have limited resources and are seldom able to subsidize your trip or cover the costs of hosting you. If they did have the financial resources to pay an international volunteer, it would almost certainly be more beneficial and cost-effective to hire a local person instead, someone who already knows the language and culture and is likely to stick around.*
- Identifying appropriate host organizations overseas and working with them is time-consuming, takes resources, and requires an experienced and professional staff.*
- The process of placement, preparing and supervising volunteers is not cheap. Additional services all add to the expenses of a program.*
- The costs of recruiting volunteers, producing literature, answering communications, sending mailings, developing a website, and interviewing potential volunteers and organizations are significant.*

## What does VENUSA do?

VENUSA looks for, and partners with, small humanitarian, educational, and environmental organizations without the means to recruit volunteers. The technology costs alone - computers, Internet access, website maintenance - are often insurmountable for these groups. VENUSA screens volunteers, helps with placements, provides travel planning assistance and is responsible for customer service western volunteers expect and rely on. This frees the host organization not just from technical expenses, but also from the expense of hiring an English-language staff to answer phones/emails and logistical matters. VENUSA serves as your advocate - and is here to help you have the richest, most rewarding volunteer experience possible.