About The Organization

Long Way Home is a 501(c)3 that envisions communities equipped to innovate and act responsibly in the face of local and global challenges. Through promoting green building, employment, and education, Long Way Home mobilizes people to actively participate in democracy and create innovative pathways to economic and environmental justice.

Since 2009, the focus of the organization has been on building an 18-building green-designed campus in San Juan Comalapa, Guatemala. We’ve used more than 450 tons of trash and over 15,500 tires in our construction so far! On the campus, we serve 140 K-11 students who study a curriculum that integrates project-based learning and the green building process to cultivate employability and democratic participation skills for a 21st century, climate-stressed world. In addition to education, we train and employ local green builders who carry out our many green construction projects in Comalapa and throughout Guatemala.

About The Job

Long Way Home is looking for a highly motivated, collaborative thinker. We are a small organization and therefore require a team of high-energy individuals, ready to serve our mission. The ideal candidate will combine their expertise with an attitude of positivity and curiosity to help us attain our vision. As the Volunteer Coordinator Intern you are also an intern for the Hero School. Interns and volunteers are essential components for continuing endeavors crucial to the success of our school. This position operates under the supervision of our Volunteer Coordinator to perform routine tasks to support our well-established volunteer program. When volunteers are on campus, priority will be given to the volunteer’s needs and supervision. Outside of peak season, the Volunteer Coordinator Intern will support the Volunteer Coordinator and other members of the team in maintaining and generating new ideas for our outreach strategy for the Volunteer Program.

Responsibilities:

- Assist Volunteer Coordinator in communicating with volunteers from the application process through volunteer experience and post-departure follow-up.
- Assist Volunteer Coordinator in maintaining COVID protocols in volunteer housing and on-site.
- Maintain and seek out new opportunities for recruitment of volunteers and service groups through online platforms, business partnerships, and partnerships with Guatemalan organizations.
- Assist Volunteer Coordinator in maintaining a database for tracking relevant volunteer related information (i.e.: evaluations, country of origin, best recruitment avenues, etc.).
- Co-lead structured gatherings with our volunteers to discuss and critically examine our personal relationships within a global or local issue.
- Work with Volunteer Coordinator to improve upon existing programs and/or develop new programs to facilitate a more interactive and informative experience for volunteers.
- Work three days within the office assisting the Volunteer Coordinator and two days on the construction site.
- Participate in staff/event meetings when requested.
- Assist in fundraising events.

Qualifications:

- Intermediate Spanish in order to communicate with our teachers and builders and if wishing to conduct a community study.
• Must be able to walk up and down hills at high elevation (7,000 ft).
• Able and ready to engage in physical labor for 7 hours/day for 40% of the work week.
• Good attitude, team player, motivation to help out and be flexible.
• A self-starter (comfortable working with little direct supervision).

Educational Objectives:
The following objectives guide the design of this internship:
• Become well-versed in the methods and applications of green design and building.
• Understand why and how green design should be made accessible in low-resourced and climate-stressed communities.
• Understand the day to day operations of small NGO operations team working at the grassroots level.
• Develop intercultural and interdisciplinary teamwork skills.
• Gain insights into opportunities, risks, and limitations for achieving quality education, economic justice, and environmental health in marginalized communities.
• Have opportunities to increase Spanish language proficiency.
• Understand the social and professional “do’s” and “don’ts” of living and working in a new culture.
• Proficiency in writing professional reports to address identified challenges and provide workable solutions.
• Develop skills and competencies that transfer to future work situations.

Location
San Juan Comalapa, Chimaltenango, Guatemala

Housing
Long Way Home will arrange your housing in Comalapa. Housing costs do not include meals but in each accommodation, you will have access to a kitchen.

Options:
Volunteer House = US$25/week (shared rooms)
Homestay = US$25/week
Hotel = US$50/week

*Due to COVID - Volunteer House option is only available*

Academic Level
*university students only and previous professional experience*

• First Year
• Sophomore
• Junior
• Senior
• Graduate and prospective graduate students
• Working on Master thesis
• Working on Doctoral thesis
• Post Doctoral Scholar

Approximate Hours Per Week
40 hours/week; 3 days internship work and 2 days in green building construction

Compensation
Upon successful completion of the internship, the intern is offered:
• Free admission (food and transport excluded) to our 1 month long Green Building Academy in March/July. Lodging included unless the intern prefers to stay in a hotel or homestay - https://www.lwhome.org/academy
• QR one month of free housing at our volunteer house
• Internship completion certificate
• 25% OFF LWH shirts

Documents Required
• Cover Letter
• Resume

https://www.lwhome.org/internships