



Keene State Unearths Sustainable Agriculture in Nicaragua

December 31, 2017 – January 10, 2018

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

Students and chaperones will spend one unforgettable week immersing themselves in Nicaraguan history, culture, cuisine and service through meaningful experiential learning with Unearth the World's nonprofit partner. Students will engage in cross-cultural exchange, service and guided reflection with the goal of breaking down barriers, educating, and gaining a greater understanding of food security issues.

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

Unearth the World's partner is a permaculture farm that promotes food security and sustainable living systems on the Island of Ometepe through permaculture design, agroforestry, research, education, and community collaboration. They educate and expose local people (and visitors) to the possibilities of food production through a model permaculture farm. The project's goals are to demonstrate and offer diversified agricultural technologies to expand cropping options that have both higher market values and promote food security. Since the farm's inception in 2001, this project has offered permaculture workshops to over 180 attendees. They have shared 150,000 seeds for improved nutrition and provided over 21,000 trees. These efforts have impacted 40,000 people. Additionally, a children's nutritional program addressing deficiencies allows 70 children to have a daily serving of fresh milk, eggs, multivitamins, tooth brushing and sanitation education.

Your group from Keene State will play an integral role in advancing the mission of this farm while simultaneously learning from another culture and environment. Students will live and work on the farm with local people and have opportunities for meaningful cultural exchange. Most days will include hands-on service work from 7 am – 12 noon. Afternoons (from 1:30 – 4:30 pm) will be split between education workshops, hands-on service in the community, and free time.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Living conditions on the farm are simple and rustic. Students and chaperones will stay in co-ed, open-aired cabanas.

DAILY ITINERARY:

Sunday, December 31

- Pick-up at Managua airport.
- Private transfer to hotel in Granada for the night.

Monday, January 1

- Travel to Ometepe.

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- Settle into accommodations and receive orientation to the site, and Health & Safety orientation.
- Dinner on-site and choice of workshop.

Tuesday, January 2

- Morning work on the farm.
- Breakfast.
- Continue work until lunch.
- Lunch.
- Afternoon tour of the site and surrounding area. Dinner on-site. Evening educational film and discussion. "Where does our food come from?"

Wednesday, January 3

- Morning work on the farm.
- Breakfast.
- Continue work until lunch.
- Lunch.
- Afternoon introductory course to permaculture design.
- Dinner at local home.

Thursday, January 4

- Morning work on the farm.
- Breakfast.
- Continue work until lunch.
- Afternoon Natural Medicine Workshop.
- Dinner.
- Evening session: "Service-learning: What is service?"

Friday, January 5

- Morning work on the farm.
- Breakfast.
- Continue work until lunch.
- Lunch.
- Additional work on the farm.
- Dinner.
- Evening downtime.

Saturday, January 6

- Morning work on the farm.
- Free time until lunch.
- Structured reflection and journaling.
- Afternoon beach excursion.
- Dinner in town.

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- Movie night.

Sunday, January 7

- Breakfast.
- Volcano hike activity with packed lunch.
- Dinner on the farm.

Monday, January 8

- Final day on the island.
- Morning work on the farm.
- Breakfast.
- Continue work until lunch.
- Lunch.
- Additional work on the farm.
- Dinner.
- Closing ceremony on island.

Tuesday, January 9

- Travel day to Granada/Laguna/Masaya.
- Breakfast on farm.
- Travel to Granada hotel.
- Free time in afternoon to explore.
- Closing dinner.

Wednesday, January 10

- Morning transfer to Managua airport for departing flight

INCLUSIONS:

Pre-trip training (Unearth the World's 5-part Global service-learning curriculum)

Pre-trip logistical support

All accommodations (Granada hotel and farm dorm)

All in-country transportation

All meals – including one dinner with a local family

Volunteer projects and intentional cultural exchange

Educational activities and workshop led by on-site instructor

Post-trip support/coaching (led by Unearth the World)

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