

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

PROJECT OVERVIEW FOR VOLUNTEERS

2020



Location

Akumal is situated on the eastern Caribbean coast of the Yucatan Peninsula, ninety kilometers south of Cancun, between the towns of Playa del Carmen and Tulum. Akumal means the “Place of Turtles” in Mayan.

What is CEA

Centro Ukana I Akumal A.C. better known as Centro Ecológico Akumal (CEA). It was founded in 1993, to provide environmental initiatives. The aim is to protect the marine and coastal ecosystems as well as biodiversity in Akumal. Since then, we have focused our efforts towards five main areas: investigation, monitoring, education, dissemination and community outreach. These areas are bind together through our institutional programs and projects.



CEA, since its foundation, has developed alongside with the Akumal community on the following matters:

- Protection and preservation of the marine ecosystems
- Sea turtle protection, conservation and research
- Water quality issues
- Environmental education for locals and tourists
- Community outreach and volunteer engagement

In addition to its own independent research, CEA hosts visiting researchers and experts in various fields from around the world.

Volunteer with CEA

There are plenty of opportunities for adults of all ages who wish to devote their time and expertise to help Centro Ecológico Akumal meet its goals and carry out its mission.

General Information

- Participants are expected to be enthusiastic and adventurous, be able to work as part of a team, be respectful of the host country's environment and cultures, and have a good sense of humor.
- Volunteers should be at least 18 years old. Volunteers under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.
- According to the number of applicants for the program, a strict selection of the applications will be made.
- Program fees, intake dates and time commitment vary according to program/project.
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- Accommodation is included in the program fees.
- Volunteers should read **Terms and Conditions** before submitting the application form.



Environmental Education

The CEA supports a continuous educational program to teach the residents, the volunteers and the visitors how to preserve and respect the environment. In addition of working with local schools, we do activities to disseminate information inside the community.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Volunteers can help in the different environmental and social activities, and improve their skills, values and those of the beneficiaries, by making a difference forming a new culture of respect and love for the nature.

The activities include:

- Environmental education lectures in the local schools of Akumal
- Preparation of educative games.
- Collaboration and participation in environmental workshops
- Celebrate the National and International Environmental days
- Collaborate with the program of observation and recognition of native flora and fauna
- Participation in maintaining the organic garden and compost developing
- Participation in the summer activities (from July 20th to 30th 2020)
- Participation in the materials creation and in the Sea Turtles Festival (from October 16th to 18th 2020)

PROGRAM FEE

\$276 USD / 4 weeks

\$138 USD / 2 weeks

Nationals

\$138USD / 4 weeks

\$69USD / 2 weeks

What's Included?

- Pre-arrival support
- Course materials + lessons
- Research support and supervisor guidance
- Training + orientation session
- Volunteer T-shirts

What's NOT Included?

- Accommodation
- Food/Meals
- Transportation
- Health/Travel Insurance
- Excursions or weekend activities

They must stick to a work plan with regulations, norms, and conditions to guarantee a good environmental and social service.

TIME COMMITMENT

Volunteers are asked to make a 2 weeks commitment to this program.

REQUIRED SKILLS

- Basic Spanish level.
- With or without teaching experience.
- Love working and living with children and adults
- Love for environmental conservation
- Work in team
- Be able to manage a group
- Values: amiability, respect, responsibility, prudence, discretion and proactivity.

FIELD WORK + HOURS

- Mondays to Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (with one hour for lunch)
- Saturdays from 9 to 11 a.m.
- Sundays are free days. We encourage the volunteers to explore the surroundings areas and activities (archaeological areas, cenotes, swimming with the whale sharks and turtles, visit other towns and cities, etc.)

Important to know: if your participation is required for festivals, special event and/or group management, you will have to participate, and you will re-make up your day off according to the program coordinator.

VOLUNTEER INTAKE

Environmental education classes run throughout the year; however, they follow the school calendar.

Volunteers wishing to participate during school holidays can get involved in helping to create curriculum or event planning rather than classroom work.

START DATES

January 6th – open dates until November 30th.

NEXT STEPS

Volunteers who are interested in this program and wish to participate should take the next steps:

1. Read the **Terms + Conditions** for Volunteering
2. Complete the online application form for Environmental Education Program.

Please allow up to 10 business days for our response to your application. Once it is received, we will be in contact—perhaps asking you for more details/info and/or informing you of your application status.

If your application is accepted, the next step is to start making arrangements for your arrival. The volunteer coordinator will work with you and provide support throughout the pre-arrival time to help you feel comfortable and confident in your new adventure.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact communications.ceakumal@gmail.com



Akumal Cero

The Akumal “Zero” program coexist within the Environmental Education coordination. Akumal Zero consists in promoting the municipal solid waste selective separations for citizens.

Its main objective is to create a collective consciousness about rescuing the recyclable waste that goes every day to the landfills and send them to recycle according to the existing regulations in the country.

The strategies that we use to accomplish this aim are talks, workshops, festivals and campaigns in schools, companies and for the Akumal residents.

Akumal Zero has three core focus areas to support the objective of having an Akumal without waste:

- Reduce and recycle waste.
- Improve and take action for the community.
- Green companies.

RECYCLE AND REDUCE OF WASTE

To minimize the amount of generated waste, it is very important to focus on guaranteeing that the recyclable products do not end in the garbage. To accomplish this, Akumal Zero will focus on:

- Create recyclable centers
- Create the service to collect the recyclable waste and special use
- Provide talks in schools, companies, and communitarian centers in and around Akumal, about how to recycle, reduce and reuse
- Composting workshops
- Campaigns to collect recyclable materials.

IMPROVE AND TAKE ACTION WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

To help create a waste free Akumal, the Akumal Zero program works with the KANAN environmental brigade, formed by children and adults of Akumal in the following actions:

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- Training + orientation session
- Volunteer T-shirts

What's NOT Included?

- Accommodation
- Food/Meals
- Transportation
- Health/Travel Insurance
- Excursions or weekend activities

- Hosting community clean-ups
- Hosting beach clean-ups
- Reforesting with native plants
- Organizing social activities (compost teaching)

There is an organic and aquaponic planting area. This space is supplied by the hotel Akumal Caribe, who is committed with the sustainability of the area and provides continuous support to the Environmental Education program. In this area, we receive groups from different schools in the municipalities of Solidaridad and Tulum, national and foreign volunteers who wish to learn about this particular topic.

GREENER BUSINESSES

Another important aspect of Akumal Zero is to try to convince the local, national and foreign companies to participate in separating materials, the compost, implementing good environmental practices, support in the community and beach clean ups, participating in forums, etc, with the aim to guarantee eco-friendly businesses. The companies committed to environmental good practices and sustainability can help lead change in our community and the world.

If you are a company that wants to lead by example and believes in environmental and social responsibility, we invite you to join us.

REQUIRED SKILLS

- Basic Spanish level.
- With or without teaching experience.
- Love working and living with children and adults
- Love for environmental conservation
- Work in team
- Will to know new things
- Be able to manage a group
- Values: Amability, respect. responsibility, prudence, discretion and proactivity.

WORK + HOURS

- Mondays to Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (with one hour for lunch)
- Saturdays from 9 to 11 a.m.
- Sundays are free days. We encourage the volunteers to explore the surroundings areas and activities (archaeological areas, cenote, swimming with the whale sharks and turtles, visit other towns and cities, etc.)
- Important to know: if your participation is required for festivals, special event and/or group management, you will have to participate, and you will re-make up your day off according to the program coordinator.

TIME COMMITMENT

Volunteers are asked to commit for at least 15 days.

NEXT STEPS

The volunteers that are interested in this program and wish to participate have to follow the next steps:

Los voluntarios que estén interesados en este programa y deseen participar deben seguir los siguientes pasos:

1. Read the **Terms + Conditions** for volunteers
2. Complete the online application for the Environmental Education program.

Please allow up to 10 business days for our response to your application. Once it is received, we will be in contact—perhaps asking you for more details/info and/or informing you of your application status.

If your application is accepted, the next step is to start planning for your arrival. The volunteer coordinator will work with you and provide support throughout the pre-arrival time to help you feel comfortable and confident in your new adventure.

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