



KIDS SAVING THE RAINFOREST (KSTR) – a registered 501(c3) non-profit organization

INFORMATION ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS

Kids Saving the Rainforest has different projects on biodiversity conservation and research. We have created a training/volunteer program that allows any animal or forest lover to join us, learn with us and work with us. We believe that we are all capable of saving the rainforest through our attitude towards nature.

Kids Saving the Rainforest opened the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, during 2005, in Costa Rica. In 2010, we opened a Wildlife Sanctuary to keep those animals that cannot be released back into the wild. Some of the animals were pets and are used to humans and others are too injured to survive in the wild. The volunteers will learn the basics of zoo keeping in a tropical environment with tropically native species.

Volunteer activities include:

- Maintenance of facilities (cleaning, repairing, building and enriching cages, trails, etc.)
- Diet preparation and enrichment
- Behavioral observations
- Health monitoring and training
- The volunteers will learn about tropical biodiversity and the natural history of some tropical animals.

Project Site

Costa Rica has long been renowned for the friendliness of its people, high standard of education, enlightened environmental policies and for its peaceful democratic government. Most of all, Costa Rica is famous for its stunning natural beauty and the density and diversity of its exotic flora and fauna.

The Central Pacific area of the country hosts a wide variety of ecosystems because it is where the dry forest of the north and the very humid forest of the south overlap. Some estimates of the biodiversity of the region are 109 species of mammals and 184 species of birds.

The Volunteer Center, Wildlife Sanctuary and Rescue Center are located in the quiet surrounding area of the Blue Banyan Inn (www.bluebanyaninn.com), 7 Km (4 miles) from the nearest town of Quepos and Manuel Antonio. The property is surrounded by forest of different ages, palm, beech, and teak wood plantations.

The Volunteer Center is dorm style with bunk beds, shared bathrooms, and a spacious kitchen where you can share the day's activities with fellow volunteers. This area includes a refrigerator, sitting area, sink and cabinet space. There are mountains nearby and a network of dirt roads to explore the area. The town of Quepos and Manuel Antonio National Park are a few kilometers away and volunteers can explore these areas during free time.

PARTICIPATION OPTIONS

Kids Saving the Rainforest offers three different types of volunteer placements:

- **Day Volunteers:** Mon., Wed, and Fri (space is limited) KSTR does not provide rooms or transportation. Activities for day volunteers will vary depending on what is needed at the time but we will always try to include at least help with one of the animal feedings.
(Minimum age requirement is 18 years old (alone) and 12 yrs-17 yrs old with PARENTAL SUPERVISION)
- **Seasonal Volunteers:** Duration of the stay can be 14 days or more depending on your availability and will participate in all aspects of the work. Applicants from any background are accepted and full training is provided. Volunteers should expect to work up to 48 hours per week.
(Minimum age requirement is 18 years old)
- **Interns:** Duration of the stay is 3 months. Applicants from any background are accepted, however this placement is more suitable for gap-year students, undergraduates or recent graduates who wish to gain more experience in wildlife management and conservation. Interns will work with KSTR staff, but will be expected to be independent and proactive and might receive extra training for specific tasks or research projects taking place. ***All Interns must go through an interview process.***
(Minimum age requirement is 18 years old)

Intern Positions Available:

- Wildlife Rehabilitation Intern
- Wildlife Zookeeper Intern
- Social Media & Administration Intern
- Wildlife Nursery Intern

If you are interested in one of the Intern Positions, please let us know and we will send you an application. At the time of acceptance to the programs, a registration fee will be due. Cost of the internship is \$800 with a minimum of 3 month's commitment.

Participant's General Duties (Seasonal Volunteers)

All participants will work under the supervision of the Wildlife Sanctuary Team; KSTR Biologist and the Volunteer Coordinator while working alongside KSTR volunteers and staff. Daily duties include preparing food for animals, feeding animals twice a day, recording animal behavior & health plus cleaning and enriching enclosures.

Requirements

All participants are expected to fulfill certain requirements in order to participate in our projects. Work is demanding, repetitive, and can also vary from day to day. Participants must know that they will be working with wild animals that are not pets and should behave accordingly. These requirements are to ensure that volunteers bring the right expectations and enjoy their experience with KSTR.

- Need to enjoy working outdoors and be motivated
- Able to converse, receive and understand instructions in English and/or Spanish
- Travel and international medical insurance
- Flexibility to adapt to changing schedules and weather

Contribution Fees Towards Participation

Kids Saving the Rainforest is a Non-Profit Organization and we rely on donations to function, as do many other NGOs in developing countries. Most of our budget is spent at our rescue center, which receives a great quantity of animals per year and has no means of making money.

Therefore we rely on volunteers to contribute towards their participation costs. These fees cover supplies for a self-prepared breakfast and dinner, a prepared lunch, accommodation (shared rooms and bathrooms), Internet (WiFi), laundry and sheets and towels. Food will be provided for vegans, vegetarians or special needs.

Kids Saving the Rainforest

Volunteers Rates 2021/2022

Seasonal Volunteers (Bunk Rooms)	Per Person/Per Night	Registration Fee (Holds your spot and goes towards invoice)	Total (Based on # of days)
1-14 days	\$70	\$100	\$70- \$980
15-20 days	\$65	\$100	\$975- \$1,300
21-30 days	\$60	\$100	\$1,260- \$1,800
OVER 30 days	\$35	\$100	\$1,085+

Seasonal Volunteers (Cottages)	Per Person/ Per Night	Registration Fee (Holds your spot and goes towards invoice)	Total (Based on # of days)
1-7 days	\$150	\$100	\$150- \$1,050
8-14 days	\$120	\$100	\$960- \$1,680
15-21 days	\$110	\$100	\$1,650- \$2,310
22-30 days	\$100	\$100	\$2,200- \$3,000
31+ days	\$70	\$100	\$2,170+

100% of the proceeds go to support KSTR projects.

Cancellation Policy:

- After cancellation the \$100 registration fee is forfeited.
-Except for extenuating circumstances.
- 1 Month Notice: 100% refund minus registration fee.
- 3 Weeks Notice: 75% refund minus registration fee.
- 2 Weeks Notice: 50% refund minus registration fee.
- 1 Week Notice: 25% refund minus registration fee.

Rates include the following:

- **Bunk Room-** Bunk bed, sheets and towels, access to laundry, all food (supplies to prepare breakfast and lunch and a prepared lunch) and a day off.
- **Cottage-** King, Queen and Double beds (depending on the cottage) sheets and towels, access to laundry, all meals (supplies to prepare breakfast and lunch and a prepared lunch) and days off.
- **If you need to cancel for some reason, only the volunteer fee will be refunded and not the registration fee.**
- Registration fee is non-refundable and must be paid once you submit your application. All other fees may be paid via PayPal one month before arrival.

Notes to Rates:

- Repeat Seasonal Volunteers will not be charged for the Volunteer Fee ●
Special rate for 3 month volunteers/interns

All Costa Rican Nationals will receive a 30% discount. (Proof required)

Wish List Donation:

- KSTR is solely run on donations and whenever it's possible we would love if you could bring items from our "Wish List" that could fit into your baggage.
- **Please go to our website for the Kids Saving the Rainforest "Wish List"**

TESTIMONIALS FROM PAST VOLUNTEERS

Volunteering at "Kids Saving the Rainforest" is among the best things I've ever done in my life and the experiences I made there were impressive and lasting! I fell in love with the animals and I'm so glad that I had the opportunity to help take care of them! I feel so honored that I had the chance to work with these amazing and dedicated people and to be a little part of KSTR!

Meanwhile I've been there three times and I can't wait for the next time!

Pura Vida- Andrea, Germany

I spent about four months volunteering at KSTR last year. To say this experience was amazing would be an understatement! I came through a university program and was able to live out my dream job for four months. I got to have hands-on experience rescuing and rehabilitating animals to be released, I got to learn all about the animals of Costa Rica, and I got to meet so many kind, funny, and passionate people. KSTR is about a 15-20 minute drive from the nearest town, so it's close enough to be able to go out to eat occasionally or go hang out at the beach on your day off, but it's also far enough away from civilization that you feel like you're really in the rainforest which makes for a tight-knit community of volunteers and staff.

You have to be really careful when choosing to volunteer at animal rescue/rehabilitation centers because there are so many out there that are unethical—I can tell you that with KSTR, you don't have to worry about that. It's an ethical organization that works to rehabilitate and release animals back into the wild, while also putting up preventative measures to stop so many animals from needing to be rescued. There's no unnecessary animal handling, and the interest of the animals comes before anything else.

I absolutely would recommend volunteering at KSTR to anyone interested in learning more about animal rehabilitation or anyone who is interested in stepping out of their comfort zone for a couple of weeks. I hope I have the opportunity to go back soon!

-Elena, Northeastern University

I interned for four months with Kids Saving the Rainforest. I absolutely loved my time spent with them! Not only did I gain the most incredible experiences but I made life-long friends! I truly felt as though I was welcomed into a family. I was able to work closely with the animals and vet, as well as conduct research. I would (and often do) highly recommend volunteering at Kids Saving the Rainforest to friends, or at least going for a tour if one doesn't have much time!

-Elle McGraw

I have been a volunteer, an intern, and conducted research at Kids Saving the Rainforest. I first came to KSTR in 2010 while I was on a primate research trip with Broadreach Academic Treks. On that trip, I fell in love with animal conservation, specifically primates. I knew I wanted to take a break from school after

high school in 2012, and I remembered how amazing my time was at KSTR. I sent them an email asking if they accepted interns, and sure enough they did! I went for 3 months and gained the best work experience I have ever had. While some organizations have volunteer programs that involve a good amount of observing, the program at KSTR is extremely hands-on. You get the opportunity to experience all aspects of working in an animal rehabilitation center and sanctuary. For example, you gain experience learning what it is like to be an animal caretaker: preparing food, feeding animals, cleaning enclosures, and designing animal enrichment. Long term volunteers are asked to give educational tours to visitors. I absolutely loved being a tour guide! Educating people on the importance of conservation is critical and can be very rewarding – something I learned at KSTR. Clinical Volunteers also gain experience working in a wildlife veterinary clinic. If you are considering becoming a vet, this is the perfect program because you get to work hands-on alongside a vet. The program allows you to get a feel for what being a wildlife rehab vet would be like. For me, I ended up not taking the vet route, but I am working towards a degree in animal behaviour conservation. In the summer of 2016, I returned a third time to KSTR to conduct research for my undergraduate senior thesis. KSTR was happy to have me there and worked with me to produce a project that I am now going on to get published! All in all, this volunteer program is one of the best out there. They are willing to work with you so that you can achieve your dreams, whatever they may be!

-Martie Stothoff

To Find Out More About Becoming a KSTR Volunteer, Please contact volunteer@kstr.org, or you can email KSTR's President, Jennifer Rice, at jennifer@kstr.org

Please don't hesitate to contact us for more information. We hope to see you soon!