

Quaker Leadership Program

MEXICO

Summer Workcamp

June 27 to July 5, 2010

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Mexico Summer Workcamp is an experiential, bio-regionally based educational program focusing on cloud forest conservation, sustainable development, and cultural exchange at Las Cañadas in Huatusco, Mexico.

Up to twelve interested young adults will have the opportunity to work in an ecovillage setting, enjoy the beauty of the Mexican cloud forest, develop leadership skills and forge enduring friendships as part of West-town's 6th exchange with Las Cañadas.

From June 27 to July 5, work campers enjoy a unique opportunity to learn about the natural and cultural history of the cloud forest, as well as contribute to exciting efforts to develop sustainable agriculture and forestry practices. Work campers will discover what can be learned from direct experience and living in community. Through small-group projects, ecological restoration work, meetings with experts, and interactive workshops, work campers apply their diverse skills and observe how environmental stewardship and social and economic justice work hand in hand. After work, work campers will enjoy bonfires, night hikes, visits to an organic dairy and cheese factory, visits to local markets, and a closing sweat lodge.

Small-group projects address one or more of these areas: reforestation, sustainable agriculture, seed saving, building with earth and bamboo, alternative technologies, and cultural exchange.



The group will be led by Alan Wright, Ph.D. who has more than a decade of experience in environmental education.

"Reducing negative human impacts on the earth's air, water and soils, and right sharing within the human family and with all of God's creatures have become ecological necessities...We encourage all Friends to pursue, with other faith communities, ways of bearing witness to the ecological and spiritual imperative that our society transform its relationship with the Earth."

— *The Philadelphia Yearly Meeting minute on the environment (January 1998)*

ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

The 2010 program will include up to twelve participants. A selection committee evaluates all applications, some applicants are interviewed by phone or in person. Upper-division high school students (juniors and seniors), recent graduates, and undergraduate students and adults are encouraged to apply.

- We look for work campers who are eager to learn while working, able to take initiative, are open to experimenting with new ideas, are interested in the cultural aspects of environmental issues, and have a sense of adventure. We seek work campers from diverse geographic, ethnic, and other backgrounds.
- Work campers are not expected to speak Spanish fluently. Translation will be provided.



- A valid passport (necessary for visa processing) is required by May 15 to participate. The passport must be valid until at least the end of February 2011.



ABOUT LAS CAÑADAS

Las Cañadas is a 756 acre land trust, home to one of the few remaining cloud forests in the central zone of Veracruz, Mexico. It has been designed with the goal of modeling and sharing alternative methods of food production, responsible travel and sustainable living practices. Las Cañadas hosted the 2006 conference for youth involved in NextGEN, the youth program of the Global Ecovillage Network. NextGEN is a co-sponsor of this workcamp.

PROGRAM COSTS

The program fee for participation in the 2010 program is \$800. This fee is the participant's total con-



tribution and includes program activities, local transportation, food, translation, and accommodations. Participants are responsible for the cost of round-trip international airfare (which can range from \$480 to \$700). Financial aid may be available on a limited basis. There is a non-refundable \$75.00 application fee. The balance is due one month before the workcamp.

Health insurance that is valid in both the United States and in Mexico is required.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Participants will share a simple room in the Las Cañadas ecovillage. Showers are solar and wood powered. Bathroom facilities are state of the art composting toilets. Las Cañadas has a lovely dining room with a stunning view of the highest peak in



Mexico. Meals are vegetarian and largely organic. Days are warm and evenings cool. Evening skies provide spectacular views of the Milky Way. Waterfalls and pools in the stream provide bathing opportunities.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

A completed application consists of the application form and one letter of recommendation. The application form, may be submitted by e-mail or by regular first-class mail. Applications are due by March 1st. Late applications will be considered as space allows.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Please contact: Paula Kline
kline.paula@gmail.com

Mail your application form, a \$75 non-refundable deposit by check to Westtown School
Attention: QLP PO Box 1799 Westtown, PA 19395

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