

VOLUNTEER IN ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY



Academia Buenos Aires and Academia Uruguay offer their students the possibility to combine Spanish courses with free volunteer work. Students can work in different organizations and projects in Buenos Aires and Montevideo, discovering very specific problems and benefiting people in many sectors. We invite students to share their time, ideas and skills with Argentineans and Uruguayans and discover their culture in a unique way!

We consider volunteer work as an exchange whereby the volunteer in social organizations offers his work and the organization offers a space to share experiences. Receiving a volunteer implies integrating him into daily routines, allowing him to get to know one's way of life. Being a **volunteer**, for us, is not an act of charity. It is a way of getting to know and to **respect other cultures**.

We work with various organizations and students will have to pay neither for our help in organizing your volunteer work, nor for actually working there. If the volunteer organization depends on donations, the school will make this contribution, not the student.

Prerequisites:

- (1) Students are asked to take a minimum of three weeks of Spanish classes at our academy.
- (2) Students should dedicate at least four weeks to a given volunteer project.
- (3) Students are requested to write a motivation letter explaining why they want to volunteer.

Organization:

- (1) Tasks and projects are assigned according to the students' preferences, the host organizations' needs and the students language skills.
- (2) The volunteer program starts with a one-day orientation program.
- (3) Students can volunteer after their spanish course or in parallel to it (half-time).
- (4) While Academia Buenos Aires and Academia Uruguay serve as the students' point of reference during their entire stay, neither school assumes responsibility for accidents or risks incurred, related to the volunteer activity.

Some of the projects we currently work with:

- A home for orphans, neglected or abused children in the suburbs of Buenos Aires
- An association that runs a soup kitchen and a home for mothers and their children
- Two community centers in downtown Buenos Aires offering a wide range of projects from soup kitchens to education.
- A theatre program for street children
- A foundation that receives donations in the form of food from large companies and distributes them to social institutions and soup kitchens.
- Educational and recreational workshops for street children
- Recreation, education and health projects in impoverished neighborhoods
- and many more



"Combining my Spanish course with a participation in an education project ... has been a very stimulating experience. Working with children is a demanding job but it gives you back so much."

Claudia Tiefenshiäfer



"In addition to having done a combined Spanish course in Montevideo and Buenos Aires, I had one of the most rewarding experiences as a volunteer working with street children in Buenos Aires."

Ralph Schneider

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