The Appropriate Technology Collaborative

Volunteer for a Sustainable Future

Solar Energy Service Trips

Come to Guatemala to install solar power at schools, nutrition centers, community centers and medical clinics! ATC projects improve the sustainability of local organizations with solar energy solutions, engaging local community members in this appropriate technology through training and group installations.

Learn-by-doing solar electrical connections around Quetzaltenango and beyond. Recent participants report ATC volunteer work projects as “life changing” and “the best vacation we ever had”. While most tourists never experience Guatemala up close, engaging in solar energy for community development benefits the whole group, including you!

Take our Circuits & Solar workshop with community members introducing the group to solar technology concepts in a hands-on workshop. Basics covered, work hand-in-hand with local talent and volunteers to install the system together.

Eat local meals and gain insight into an indigenous Latin American culture. Most local ATC staff speak the Mayan languages Kachiquel, Tzutujíl and K’iche'.

Maya way of life remains intact here in the Guatemalan highlands, weaving and wearing traditional textiles and making tortillas from corn raised on their fields. See people planting maize and harvesting coffee on steep hillsides. Visit the gorgeous Lake Atitlan, and its surrounding volcanoes. Take a historic walking tour of Antigua Guatemala, a World Heritage site and former capital of Latin America. If you are game for hard work, daily hikes in the mountains and making new friends, an ATC Solar Volunteer trip is for you.

Contact us at: http://apptechdesign.org/volunteer-travel-information-form/

Where we go in Guatemala:

Guatemala is located in Central America. It borders the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea located just south of Mexico. Guatemala is rich in natural beauty and travel opportunities; it's a country that offers much to those willing to step off the beaten track for a little while.

Antigua Guatemala is often regarded as the traveler's hub, a picture-perfect Central American town ringed by volcanoes. La Antigua is a great place to learn Guatemalan history or simply sip some coffee in a street-side cafe and watch the world go by. Quetzaltenango is Guatemala's second largest city. Set in the highlands, Quetzaltenango attracts various indigenous language groups, creating a rich multiethnic city set in Spanish colonial architecture.

Guatemala hosts a tropical climate along the lower elevations and cooler weather in the mountains where our projects are located. Guatemala has a poverty rate of nearly 75%. It is the third poorest country in the western hemisphere, and 1 of every 2 children is chronically malnourished.

Guatemala, like many countries, has a problem with crime in some areas. ATC follows the U.S. Embassy STEP program and receives regular updates on what areas of the country are safe to travel in. Our Solar Energy Volunteer trips, stays far away from troubled areas. All ATC transportation is with highly qualified professionals. Most of the time we will travel in a minivan and on the back of a pickup truck.

Hotels / Hostels include double- or triple-occupancy rooms and are simple, clean and typically located near the project site. Guatemala's climate can be hot during the day and cool at night. Hot water is provided but will probably not work 100% of the time. Hotel rooms will be cleaned and maintained daily. Lake Atitlan is at an altitude over 5,000 feet so mosquitoes are rare. If you are staying in a Hostel room please check your valuables with ATC staff or the Hostel desk.

Upcoming Volunteer Trips in 2017

Saturday August 5th to August 13th 2017

Itinerary:

Day 1: Greeted at the airport by ATC Guatemala staff, a shuttle to Antigua.

Day 2: Morning historical walking tour of Antigua; travel to Quetzaltenango, dinner at Central Park

Day 3: Breakfast at 8 am, meet SEA at their storefront and learn about our business model; Volunteer Prep work assignments till 4pm; free time after work

Day 4: Circuits and Solar Workshop in community outside of Xela. Begin solar installation in the afternoon. Back at Hotel by 6:30pm.

Day 5: Solar installation with community, lunch on site. Back at Hotel by 6:30pm.

Day 6: Solar installation and building fix-up work with community, lunch on site. Back at Hotel by 6:30pm.

Day 7: Finish solar installation and building maintenance work, lunch on site, closing ceremony.

Day 8: Travel to Antigua; free time/ visit the Antigua Markets, overnight in Antigua.

Day 9: Departure day, ATC provides transportation to Airport.

Program costs cover all food, accommodations and in-country travel. They also pay for technical trainers, solar materials and a guide and translator. Beverages and snacks other than coffee or tea at breakfast and safe drinking water are not covered by the program.

Program Cost:

US $1,450.00 Based on Double Occupancy Hotel Room

US $1,550.00 Based on Single Occupancy Hotel Room

US $1,250.00 Based on staying in Hostel Dorm Room

(airfare not included)

To Reserve your spot please contact travel@apptechdesign.org for application forms and return with a $200 non-refundable Deposit to the address below.

Check in Name of: The Appropriate Technology Collaborative

Mail to:

The Appropriate Technology Collaborative
3765 Plaza Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

2015 Circuits and Solar Workshop **2014 Wiring up the Batteries**

Volunteers Build and Repair a School Wall

Comfortable Accommodations in Antigua and Quetzaltenango, Guatemala

Team leaders:

John Barrie, Executive Director

John is an Architect and Industrial Designer who noticed the lack of investment in improving technology for the majority of the world. John started ATC to re-direct research and development into Appropriate Technologies to improve the health and dignity of low-income people worldwide. John has also been an Adjunct Professor of Architecture at the University of Michigan. He led the design of our innovating women´s empowerment in alternative technologies program, Mayan Power and Light.

Monika Goforth, Guatemala Director

Trained as a rural development worker specializing in community empowerment, she works with communities to plan and implement sustainability projects. Raised in Latin America by Australian and North American parents, she is fluent in Spanish and English and serves as a translator and cultural bridge between local communities and volunteers. With a MA in Social Change and Development she has a special interest in permaculture, food security and women's empowerment for sustainable development.

Jose Ordoñez, Technical Expert in Solar and Electronics

Jose is co-owner of theATC-incubated social enterprise, Soluciones Energeticas Apropiadas.

Jose has worked part time with ATC since 2007. He has a Bachelor's degree from the Instituto Técnico Industrial para Varones de Occidente, and certification from Solar Energy International. Jose has experience working on the design and construction of micro-hydro power systems, biodigestors, bio-fuels, and solar power. Jose helped create the ATC solar vaccine refrigerator. Jose teaches classes in electricity, circuits and solar power and installs multi-panel and grid-tied solar power systems.

Julio Rocóp, Business Training and Incubation

Julio Rocóp is a trained lawyer and accountant with over 19 years of experience working with NGOs and 13 years working with appropriate technologies. He has worked with ATC to provide water to a rural village, he participated in ATC's award winning Woven Wind project, and he provides business incubation counseling for Mayan Power and Light.

Find out more!

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- ✓ Check out our website: www.apptechdesign.org
- ✓ Visit our GlobalGiving Profile: https://goto.gg/10651