

# Pricing & Details For Volunteering or Interning with Grupo Fenix

Note: Most of the information below pertains specifically to individual volunteers or interns. Some information may be pertinent to groups; however, if you represent a group, we suggest you contact us directly to make arrangements appropriate for your needs.

**Please review the following sections:**

- [Registration & Orientation Process](#)
- [Volunteering Requirements](#)
- [Independent Projects](#)
- [Health Issues](#)
- [Prices](#)

## **Registration & Orientation Process**

### *1. Application:*

- Download (<http://www.grupofenix.org/volunteering.html>), fill out, and email your application to our International Education Coordinator. Preferably fill out the Spanish version if you feel confident doing so at this point.

### *2. Development of Work Plan:*

- Once we receive your application, we will speak with the various subgroups of Grupo Fenix about opportunities. Please be patient with us as communication here is not always rapid, particularly with the countryside. If you have a focused interest, please see the section below about “Independent Projects”.

### *3. Registration:*

- Once we have accepted you as a volunteer, please send your registration fee of \$50 to: Richard Komp, Skyheat Associates, 17 Rockwell Rd. SE, Jonesport, ME 04649. Make the check payable to “SKYHEAT ASSOCIATES”, a U.S.-based non-profit which supports the work of Grupo Fenix in Nicaragua. This allows us to start the registration process and begin working with you on your project.

### *4. Arrival:*

- Please send detailed flight information ahead of time and a representative will pick you up at the airport. If you have pre-paid only your registration fee, be sure to have enough money upon arrival to cover your \$100 Managua orientation fee & living costs for the first month (outlined below).
- Volunteers who are already in Nicaragua can opt for the Sabana Grande/Totogalpa orientation at a reduced fee and will travel directly to the community.

### *5. Orientation:*

- Soon after arrival, you will be oriented to our volunteer program and to Grupo Fenix. Ideally, if you are able to come for one of our courses, it will help give you a deeper understanding of Grupo Fenix’s people, offices, projects and Nicaraguan culture as well. Please note that we will waive the registration and orientation fee if you pay the course tuition.

## **Requirements**

- *Length of Stay:* Minimum 10 week volunteer or academic intern stay. Ideally, for you to get the most out of your experience, we recommend 3 months or more. 30 hour minimum commitment per week. In special cases, we will allow shorter commitments.
- *Spanish Ability:* Because you will be working directly with Nicaraguans, most of whom speak little or no English, we require a minimum of “low-intermediate” proficiency in Spanish or required 3 weeks Spanish language schooling or tutoring prior to volunteering. Please see the “Resources” section of the Grupo Fenix Handbook for a list of language schools.

## **Independent Projects**

Generally we look first at what needs we have in the organization and seek volunteers that can help us meet those needs. (Please request our list of possible projects for ideas.) However, we also want to encourage people that have an idea and the drive to make it happen—provided, of course, it fits in line with our vision and goals. If you already have a project in mind, please feel free to contact us with your thoughts. Keep in mind that successful projects can come in many forms and do not all follow the same steps. We are currently looking to expand connections with university programs, working with education in the community. Each volunteer brings a unique set of skills and experiences. Our job together is to work to share your knowledge with the community as they share theirs with you. In order to bring your project to fruition, you should be able to communicate competently in Spanish. Furthermore, the process begins with providing your own funds or finding opportunities for us to work together on sources of funding.

## **Health Issues**

Volunteers should take the necessary precautions to prevent sickness from diseases caused by mosquitoes, untreated water, contaminated food, allergies, etc. If you have any health issues, please note those in the appropriate space on your application. Also, keep in mind that *you* are responsible for obtaining any necessary vaccinations, medical insurance or for covering any medical expenses that may occur during your stay in Nicaragua (including any funds Grupo Fenix spends on your behalf in the case of an emergency). Consult a travel clinic or sites such as the Center for Disease Control (U.S.) “<http://www.cdc.gov>” for more information. For a list of some companies providing international medical insurance, please see the “Resources” section of our “Handbook for Grupo Fenix”, located on our website.

## **Volunteer/Intern Prices**

While we would love to be able to provide housing or a stipend to volunteers or academic interns, unfortunately, as a grass-roots Nicaraguan-based organization, we currently have a limited budget and we devote those resources to paying our staff. We always have more we would love to be doing and we look to the assistance of volunteers to carry out such projects. Like many grassroots organizations, we find it necessary to charge fees in order to maintain our volunteer program. We encourage you to involve your personal circle in your experience by raising funds from family, friends,

and co-workers. Several past volunteers have done so and it has been a great way for them to share their experiences with members in their own communities. If you raise more than you need to support yourself, you may consider committing funds to help expand existing projects or to start new ones.

Below are outlined costs for long-term volunteer stays based out of Managua (the city) and Sabana Grande/Totogalpa (the countryside). For groups or short-term stays, please contact us for pricing.

**First, Please note the following:**

1. ***Thank you for understanding that all fees below are non-negotiable.***
2. ***Please send your registration fee at least 30 days before your arrival to:  
Richard Komp, Skyheat Associates, 17 Rockwell Rd. SE, Jonesport, ME 04649.  
Make the check payable to "SKYHEAT ASSOCIATES".***
3. ***Grupo Fenix and the host family begin to incur costs as soon as you arrive. Please bring enough money to cover your orientation fee and first month of room, board, & program fees). If you prefer not to carry that much money, you may include your orientation and/or first month living fees with the \$50 Registration check made out to Skyheat Associates.***

<b><u>ONE TIME FEES</u></b> -----	
Registration:	\$50 one-time fee, includes preparation costs
Orientation - Managua:	\$100 one-time fee, includes orientation, volunteer manual, food, lodging, airport pick-up and drop-off, and other transportation costs
Orientation - Sabana Grande	\$50 one-time fee, includes orientation and volunteer manual

<b><u>MONTHLY COSTS</u></b> -----	
<u>Sabana Grande / Totogalpa*</u>	
Private Room & 3 Meals/Day:	\$210/month ( <i>paid to host family</i> )
Program Fee:	\$140/month ( <i>\$80 after 3 months</i> )
<u>Managua</u>	
Private Room & 2 Meals/Day:	\$210/month ( <i>paid to host family</i> )
Program Fee:	\$140/month ( <i>\$80 after 3 months</i> )
* Includes work-related travel expenses	

**Terms of Payment**

We only require payment of one month at a time, though you are welcome to pay for everything at once. Please see below for information on different forms of payment:

- ***Payments by Check:*** At least one month prior, checks can be sent to ***Richard Komp, Skyheat Associates, 17 Rockwell Rd. SE, Jonesport, ME 04649***

- *Payments by Cash:* We accept cash payments in Cordobas, Dollars, or Euros. If you plan to use ATM's as a source of cash, they are relatively easy to find in Managua; however, make sure you have a backup method of obtaining money as ATM cards sometimes fail or are eaten by the bank machines.
- *Payments by Traveler's Check:* Unfortunately we *cannot* accept Traveler's Checks. As noted in the Grupo Fenix Handbook, Traveler's Checks are not widely accepted in Nicaragua. If you plan to use them, contact one of the banks listed in the handbook ahead of time and ask them what their policies are regarding the particular type of Traveler's Check you wish to bring. Regardless, make sure to bring enough cash to cover your first month.

### **Reimbursement Policy**

*Refunds:* Should you, for whatever reason, have to stop your volunteer/internship work, we unfortunately are unable to refund any payments made for the current month. Families set aside space for individuals in lieu of renting to others and are unable to find a new renter at the last moment. Of course, if you have already paid for future months, we will gladly refund those payments.

### **Housing Placements**

Grupo Fenix provides housing placements with families. If you require special accommodations, we may be able to meet your needs; however, depending on the situation there may be additional costs.

### **Meal Plans**

The volunteer programs above come with two meals in Managua or three in the countryside. Lunch is generally not provided in Managua as volunteers usually work outside of the neighborhood.

### **Program Fee**

Grupo Fenix funds itself through donations, grants, courses, and to a minor extent, volunteer fees. For a grass-roots organization like ours, we are always looking for sources of funding to continue our projects and to pay our staff. Thus, we are unable to provide any level of financial or housing support to volunteers. We charge a program fee which is used for the purposes below. Should a volunteer stay more than 3 months, we reduce the fee in recognition of the volunteers experience and knowledge within the organization. Your program fee helps fund:

- Application processing, confirmation, & pre-project planning time
- Accounting and other administrative tasks and expenses
- Direct support of our work that, in turn, helps enable the opportunity for your work
- Work-related travel and accommodations
- Salaries for staff in Totogalpa and for our International Education Coordinator
- Supervising the progress of volunteer projects as well as any necessary training
- Purified water, soap and toilet paper in the countryside