

Seeking Participants for Grassroots Peacebuilding

John Gehring
February 18, 2015



Learn, grow and serve this summer in South America

Warm Greetings,

The Pathways to a Sustainable Future Project sponsored by the Universal Peace Federation and Let's Lead Green-USA is now accepting applications for its July 6-July 21, 2015 project in the Pantanal region of Paraguay. International participants on this unique program will work and live in an indigenous Chaco village, share cross cultural insights and take part in work in the Leda Settlement, a sustainably developed community inspired by Dr. Sun Myung Moon.

The Program: Since 2001 international volunteers have been coming to the Pantanal to offer their services in Leda and the surrounding communities. In Leda, while enjoying the natural beauty participants will gain insights on how the settlement has been developing aquaculture, agriculture and tree plantations as a path to a sustainable future. Time spent in the Chaco Indian Villages provides an experience in the lifestyle of the regions original people while an environmental project in the urban capital of Asuncion will expose participants to challenges common in cities around the world.

How to Be a Participant

All potential participants will need to submit an application and two recommendations to be considered for participation. Travel to the program orientation in Asuncion, Paraguay is the responsibility of participants. To cover the domestic transportation, housing, food, fees and program expenses a fee of \$ 700 is being asked. This fee does not reflect the full cost of the project for substantial grants have been given by the Universal Peace Federation and Let's Lead Green USA.

Qualifications: It is *recommended* that participants be 18-30 years of age. All volunteers must be in good health and willing to do physical work. Participants need to be willing and able to live humbly at times. The primary language of the project will be English but some Spanish translation will be made available.

Participants should be motivated by a desire to contribute to society and work together as a global community. The program is open to people of all faiths and is alcohol and drug free. Men and women are expected to act respectfully with each other and with all those who they come in contact with.

Sincerely,

Rev. John W. Gehring
Vice President: Let's Lead Green

Pathways to a Sustainable Future Project Plan *July 6 – July 21, 2015*

Project Stages:

Stage 1. Orientation and Integration.

The Initial orientation to the Universal Peace Federation's *Pathways to a Sustainable Future Project* will take place in Paraguay's capital city, Asuncion. During these days, the International participants will live, experience, learn and work together while engaging with new people and a different culture.

One special event will be the community service project related to our theme: *Pathways to a Sustainable Future*. This service will provide our participants an opportunity to share and work side by side with local community members.

This orientation period will conclude with a bus journey to a Mennonite Community where participants will gain an understanding of the challenges in creating and running a sustainable community far from a major population center.

Stage 2. Connecting and Serving the Chaco Villages



This stage of the program will have the participants reside in local Chaco Indian villages where members of the *Association for Sustainable Development in North and South America* have been contributing to for over a decade. The living situation is very simple as there is no electricity or running water. We will work side by side with local villages and grow to understand more clearly their life situation.

Stage 3. The Leda Experience

This important part of the program is designed to give participants a greater understanding of the vision of Rev. Moon's work in Latin America while offering a time to connect more deeply to the beauty of creation. Participants will have a chance to spend time on the river, ride horses, work and learn about farming and aquaculture work. The time in Leda will conclude with a time for personal reflection. Participants will then fly to Asuncion and have a short time to shop and attend a closing event with friends of the Universal Peace Federation.