

Name of Host Organization: Performing Life, Inc.

Contact Person: John Connell, Director

USA Address: HC 68, Box 79-S, Gila Hot Springs
Silver City, NM 88061

Email: performing_life@yahoo.com

Web Address: www.performinglifebolivia.org

Bolivia in-country contact information.

Karen Torrico, Volunteer Coordinator

E-mail: performing_life@yahoo.com; karen.torrico@gmail.com

Telephone: 4-4520633; cell 76476381. Country Code from US: 591

Mailing Address: Casilla 831

Cochabamba, Cochabamba

BOLIVIA

Mission statement and/or history:

Performing Life is a nonprofit organization incorporated in the State of New Mexico that helps youth in Cochabamba, Bolivia who are working and/or living on the streets, supporting themselves or contributing to the support of their families. Participants are from indigenous communities and outlying areas of the city. We empower youth by teaching them performing and visual arts as productive skills for avoiding drugs and delinquency while improving their economic well-being through creative activities. The core group, of approximately 15 youth, have established their own savings accounts and are developing business plans for investing in personal goals to achieve self-sufficiency. Performing Life was founded in 2005 by John Connell when he was 18. Projects are youth-led and managed. Hope for the Children Foundation, a 501c3 organization, is the tax-exempt sponsor for Performing Life.

Description of Internship Positions and Duties:

Volunteer interns work with in-country staff, assisting them with conducting performing and visual arts skills classes, assisting with performances, conducting special projects, tutoring, developing self-esteem, helping with business plans, and other tasks. Karen Torrico, Volunteer Coordinator, will interview prospective volunteers and develop a set of specific tasks with each person who is accepted.

Volunteers should be able to spend a minimum of two months with the project. At least a beginning-level knowledge of Spanish is required; higher levels of fluency will ensure rich interactions with the Performing Life youth and the Bolivian citizenry, who are friendly and open.

In-country food, lodging, and transportation is very inexpensive by US standards. After classes, volunteers share a meal with the youth and staff, which is paid for by the project. Lodging is available in local hostels. Public transportation is reliable. Bolivia is, however, lacking in infrastructure that many in the US have come to expect. The

ability to acclimatize to unforeseen situations is a must. Bolivia is a beautiful, vibrant country with much to offer the adventurous spirit.

Eligibility and Requirements:

Interns must be self-directed, able to handle change, see challenges as learning opportunities, and be willing to share their enthusiasm with youth. Experience with the performing arts, visual arts, and the creative process is helpful. Abilities and interest in youth development, education, journalism, media arts, web site maintenance, communications, sports, construction, and other types of hands-on skills are very valuable.

Those of any discipline involved in the creative process and willing to share their enthusiasm with the youth will be welcomed.

Volunteer interns will work with in-country staff in a variety of individual or in-combination areas: Conducting Performance and Visual Arts Skills Classes (possible focus areas include Crafts, Painting, Drawing, Dance, Music, Puppetry, Choreography, et cetera), Assisting with Performances (possible focus areas include Dance, Music, Puppetry, Street Theatre, Circus, and others), Conducting Special Projects (possible focus areas: Photography, Film, Writing, Improvisational Street Theatre Development, Acting, Circus Performing, et cetera), Building Self-Expression Skillsets, Tutoring/ESL Assistance, Youth Self-esteem Development, Youth Micro-Enterprise (possible focus areas include Business Planning and Financial Literacy) and many, many other areas depending on skills that applicant brings to internship (to be discussed during interview).

Organizational Volunteer Internships (in Bolivia) are also available in: Community Youth Development, Education, Journalism, and other areas, again dependent on volunteer skill sets and PL needs.

Volunteer interns in the US are needed to help with networking, selling bracelets, and letting others know about Performing Life and the talented youth of Cochabamba.

Application Procedures: Send via e-mail (performing_life@yahoo.com) a cover letter, narrative bio, experiences with youth, Spanish language proficiency, and three references.

Beginning Date: Any time - PL classes follow the school schedule (Winter in the US is Summer in Bolivia).

This Position is unpaid, though college credit may be available. Applicant should check with their academic institution.

A car is not required.

Housing is available for a small amount per month, but not provided by the project. We will help you locate suitable housing.