



Association of Environmental Educators of Cotacachi

Working together for the Advancement of Cotacachi's Youth

Greetings from the ASEAC Team!

This has been a busy school year for us and we would like to take a moment to update you!

2012-13 School Year in Review

The ASEAC Team has been working hard to strengthen the scholarship program, and continues to do so. Here are some of the highlights from the past year:

- Added 23 students to the program
- Built a new website: www.aseacecuador.org
- Generated a database for the program based on extensive household surveys with 30% of families
- Continued Eco-Club with lessons in recycled art, environmental awareness, and sexual education, among others
- Drew on the different expertise of local donors to give special lessons in Eco-Club
- Produced our first annual review (to be posted shortly)



Making journals from recycled materials at Eco-Club

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What to Expect in the Coming Months

As we continue to work to improve the program, here are some of the changes that you will be seeing soon:

- Selection of new students
- Monthly Eco-Club updates posted to the website (check out the May post now!)
- A quarterly newsletter updating donors on program news and activities (this being the first issue)
- A Facebook page with regular posts and updates for students and donors

Visit Our New Website!

Our new website (www.aseacecuador.org) provides detailed information to the public about the program, how it works, how and why to donate, and how money is monitored. It also includes photos and updates of students and activities. Please check it out and give us your feedback!

Association of Environmental Educators of Cotacachi (ASEAC)

MISSION

To create a better future for the youth of Cotacachi by providing them the opportunity for high school education and empowering them to become leaders for subsequent generations.

GOALS

- Increase the number of high school graduates in Cotacachi
- Create future leaders and role models for the Cotacachi community
- Generate environmental awareness among Cotacachi's youth
- Instill cultural pride in the youth of Cotacachi

VOLUNTEER STAFF

Paige Fisher

Carlos Alta

Ruben Galindo

Kristin VanderMolen

Tracey Krause

Patrice Baron

16 participating ASEAC Teachers

CONTACT INFORMATION

Email us:

aseac.ecuador@gmail.com

Check us out online:

www.aseacecuador.org

Visit us:

González Suárez N° 2083 y Quiroga in Cotacachi , Ecuador

Eco-Club Update (March – May)

Eco-Club is ASEAC's after-school program that provides students with additional learning activities in subjects not frequently taught in high school, including environmental education, leadership skills, and cultural awareness. The hands-on design of our activities promotes socialization among students and the formation of new friendships. Students are divided into three groups according to age and year of entry into the program. Each group meets once every three weeks. If you have interest in joining us for a lesson, or providing one yourself, please contact us: aseac.ecuador@gmail.com! In the meantime, check out our most recent activities below...

March: Art made from recycled paper

Veteran students taught newbies how to make recycled paper for greeting cards. Students then decorated the cards with an assortment of dried leaves and flowers collected from the local environment. Paige also taught all groups how to make notebooks and wallets out of recycled materials.



Making pulp...



...pressing pulp into cards...



...decorating dried cards...



...a finished product!

April: Art made from recycled tires

Paige collected old tire tubes from local "vulcanizadoras" (tire shops) that would normally have been burned. Students washed, cut, and sewed pieces of tire tubes to create coin purses and pencil cases.

May: Children's Rights and Sexual Education

Paige and a fellow Peace Corps volunteer started a three month-long course on children's rights and sexual education. Topics covered include: children's rights, human sexuality, STDs, teen pregnancy, contraception, and family planning, among others.



An Eco-Club lesson on native plants

A message from one of our graduates!

We are proud to announce the graduation of 10 students from the program and would like to share a message for you from one of this year's graduates:

I would like to thank all of the donors that provide scholarships to each one of us. For me, the scholarship has been very important because my family does not have a lot of resources, and I also have younger sisters who are studying. If I did not have the scholarship there would not have been enough money to send my sisters to school, and they would have had to work to help support the family. But the scholarship allows us to study and get ahead in life, and this, in turn, gives us the opportunity to become professionals and in the future help our own families and communities, as one should never forget where they come from.

-17 year old student from Piava Chupa

Ways to Give

You can help the ASEAC Scholarship Program through donations and volunteering! If you are interested in getting involved, please contact us at aseac.ecuador@gmail.com!

Why Donate?

Sometimes people ask us why students need scholarships to attend public high school. The answer is: to pay for the purchase of mandatory uniforms and materials and to help offset the cost of transportation to and from school. The high cost of public education and low household income in Cotacachi means that families spend disproportionate amounts of their total earnings (13%) on education, making it their third highest expense at over \$50 a month. While nowadays education has become a priority and parents are making huge efforts to send their children to school, fewer than half of the total population in Cotacachi's communities has completed elementary school, and less than 10% has a high school education. Our annual scholarships of \$200 are designed to help offset the cost of education thereby increasing the likelihood that these bright young students will be able to finish high school and have more opportunities in life.

Why Volunteer?

Our Eco-Club meets every Wednesday afternoon, from 2:30 to 4:00pm behind UNORCAC (González Suárez N° 2083 y Quiroga in Cotacachi). By volunteering your time at Eco-Club you will get the chance to connect with students through teaching and learning. In Cotacachi we are very lucky to have many talented individuals within our community, some of whom have given workshops to our students in art, music and textiles, just to name a few! If you an idea for a workshop that you would like to give to our students or if you would like to accompany us in our regular activities, we would be happy to have you!



Students, ASEAC professors and volunteers at Eco-Club