



# VOLUNTEER VACATION

Join Nebraska Extension Master  
Gardener Volunteers, Tandana  
Foundation & Friends for a  
special volunteer vacation in Ecuador  
October 26 - November 2, 2018

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**WHO:** Nebraska Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program is organizing a week in Highlands of Ecuador especially designed for Extension Master Gardeners. This will be NE-EMG Volunteers first trip to Ecuador with the Tandana Foundation. The Tandana Foundation was started in 2006 by Anna Taft to work with indigenous communities in Ecuador and Mali to help them reach their goals.

**WHAT:** An EMG Volunteer Vacation, where we will be working with various community groups on horticultural type projects (i.e. reforestation, helping a community plant trees, assisting a school or helping to plant crops) and exploring the. The group size is limited to 16 people, but 10 are needed to make the trip possible.

**WHEN:** Leave from an airport convenient to your location on Friday, October 26, 2018, and arrive in Ecuador around 11 p.m. Leave Ecuador late on November 2 (sometime after 10 p.m. Friday) and arrive at your starting airport on Saturday, November 3, 2018. Travel before or after your Tandana experience is an individual option.

**WHERE:** In the Andean highlands outside Otavalo, Ecuador. Lodging will be at La Posada del Quinde in Otavalo; a lovely inn with great food, free WI-FI service and friendly staff. Good laundry service too! Ecuador is a beautiful country on the equator in South America that is in the Eastern time zone and uses US dollars. Spanish is the major language. Tandana will provide group leaders who are fluent in Spanish. The weather should be in the 60's during the day and quite cool at night.

**WHY:** To help various communities/groups in various horticultural projects. We will also learn about another culture and biome.

**COST:** \$1,405 per person double occupancy, \$150 additional for single occupancy, plus airfare and personal expenses. The trip fee covers all the basic expenses (food, lodging, transportation, activities) from when you land at the Quito airport on October 26, 2018, until you return to the airport on the evening of November 2, 2018. You will be responsible for making your own plane reservation -- we will share the parameters for your arrival and departure flights. This worked well on previous trips, allowing some to use frequent flyer miles, etc. Airfare will be anywhere from \$650 to \$1200 round-trip depending on when you make your reservation.

**WE DO NOT RECOMMEND MAKING RESERVATIONS UNTIL WE  
CONFIRM WE HAVE 10 PARTICIPANTS FOR THE TRIP.**

**HOW TO SIGN UP:** **1)** Contact Christine Weitzel (cweitzel2@unl.edu) to let her know that you are planning on attending, and she'll send the appropriate forms. **2)** Reserve a space by filling out the registration form at this link (<https://go.unl.edu/nemgecuador>) with a non-refundable deposit of \$250. Only when your deposit has been received can your spot be finalized. Places on the trip are on a first come basis. **3)** Final payment is due by September 1, 2018. By contacting Christine and reserving your space with the deposit we will know how many plan to attend - required by the Tandana Foundation. Christine's address: 1875 N. 38th St, Lincoln, NE 68503. If you need to discuss anything, her phone number is: 402-472-6447.



## EXPECTATIONS FOR EMG VOLUNTEER PARTICIPANTS

Our mission on this trip is to provide service to the communities. Through the Tandana Foundation relationships, we are able to help in a variety of settings not available to tourists visiting the area. This is a special and unique opportunity to meet and work with the indigenous people.

### AS A VOLUNTEER YOU ARE EXPECTED TO:

- Join in the work and leisure activities each day. The only excuse for not participating is illness.
- Be able to walk up steep hills and work on steep inclines for 1 to 4 hours at a stretch.
- Physically you need to be able to walk on your own up hills without danger to your well-being.
- Be able to ride in a bus traveling along steep, winding, and sometimes very narrow roads.
- Have a positive work attitude
- Be flexible to changes and delays

### WHAT TO EXPECT

- A life-changing experience that you will value the rest of your life.
- Meeting indigenous people who are beautiful and live a simple life.
- Working with children who will steal your heart and make you admire their way of life.
- We are headquartered in Otavalo, Ecuador. This city is at an altitude of 8,000 feet above sea level.
- Some may experience altitude sickness; staying well hydrated will help alleviate symptoms but headaches can occur. Bottled drinking water is provided, but it is your responsibility to drink it.
- The terrain is very mountainous, steep and dramatically scenic.
- You will be asked to work at altitudes as high as 11,000 feet above sea level.
- Ride a bus everyday to travel to various remote communities. Although the roads have improved greatly since 2013; some may be gravel and dirt with rock-slides along the way. Consider travel sickness aids such as patches and bracelets.
- You may be using the outdoors as your bathroom. There are not always facilities available.
- You will make friends and meet EMG Volunteers from around the state and have a memorable experience.
- Be sure to bring gardening gloves, rain gear, boots, and be prepared to dress in layers.