



Amigos Grants

A Service of Amigos de Nicaragua, the RPCV group for volunteers who served in Nicaragua

This document was produced in May 2003 by the Board of Directors of Amigos de Nicaragua (Amigos) and updated April 2004.

Background:

Amigos de Nicaragua is the Group for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Nicaragua. Though largely composed of RPCVs, being a returned Peace Corps volunteer (RPCV) is not a requirement of membership. In fact, several of our members served in other countries, and a few were never Peace Corps volunteers at all. All Amigos share one thing: the desire to improve the living conditions in Nicaragua. Amigos Grants is one of the mechanisms we have implemented to do so.

Amigos Grants:

An Amigos Grant is a one-time grant to a currently active Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV) serving in Nicaragua. The grant provides funding for small sustainable projects whose goal is to better the capacity of Nicaraguans to help themselves and better their quality of life. An Amigos grant can not be extended and it does not provide continuous funding. It is a single disbursement. Under extraordinary circumstances, however, a volunteer can win Amigos Grants on consecutive years. This year's Amigos Grant is \$300 (three hundred dollars).

How Amigos Grants Work:

The granting process is competitive. Once a year (twice a year if finances permit), Amigos de Nicaragua will accept solicitations for Amigos grants. All solicitations require a completed application form detailing the PCV, the project, and the project site. All solicitations will be reviewed and screened for suitability by the Board of Directors of the Amigos de Nicaragua. Suitable projects will be voted on by all members of the Amigos who care to cast their vote, including members of the board of directors. Voting lasts for a limited time, after which no additional votes are accepted. The ballots cast will determine which solicitation wins the Amigos grant for that calendar year.

If You Win an Amigos Grant:

You enter into a contract with the Amigos de Nicaragua in regards to the execution of the project. Failure to comply with the terms of the contract may require you to refund the grant to the Amigos. Your contract with the Amigos for execution of the project include clauses for accountability (the Amigos must remain informed about your project and how it is progressing). The winner of the grant will be notified on August 10, 2004.

If you don't win an Amigos Grant:

You may consider resubmitting your project for adoption through our "Adopt a Project" program (AAPP). Placing a project up for adoption requires an individual RPCV to agree to fund a small project. Amigos will help advertise your project to the RPCV community but the final relationship is determined by the PCV and RPCV. See our website for examples of projects: http://www.amigosdenicaragua.org/get_involved.htm

How to Apply for an Amigos Grant:

1. On a separate piece of paper, answer the questions provided on the solicitation form included as completely and accurately as possible. Sign the "Contract between Volunteer and Amigos de Nicaragua" to indicate you agree with the terms of this grant.
2. Submit it to Amigos de Nicaragua so that we receive it by **30 July 2004**. Submit your solicitation to Amigos webmaster Andrew Middleton. You may submit electronically by emailing the information to andresm_dc@yahoo.com, or on paper by sending the written documents to this address: Andrew Middleton. 7208 15th Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912.
3. If you submit electronically, you must also return your signed agreement by mail, as we must have your signature (no faxes please).
4. The deadline by which the Amigos must receive all your documentation including the signature page, is **30 July 2004**.
5. Voting will occur from August 1-7 2004.
6. The winner will be notified by email and/or post on **August 10, 2004**. The money will be disbursed through the Peace Corps Nicaragua office.

Good Luck!



Solicitation for an Amigos Grant

I. ABOUT YOU

1. What is your name and COS date?
(preference is given to volunteers in their second year of service, though all volunteers whose projects are valid are eligible to be considered).
2. What is your address and/or email address?
(for staying in contact and advising you about the grant, should you win one).

II. ABOUT YOUR SITE

3. What is the name and location of your site, and what is its population?
(example: Telica, Leon, population 3500)
4. Include a narrative about the site to help understand where it is and what it's like.

III. ABOUT YOUR PROJECT

5. Describe as completely as possible what your project entails.
 6. Describe what the Amigos Grant would be used for. Be more specific than "A training on water sanitation." Give details, prices, and your budget.
 7. How many Nicaraguans would benefit from your project?
(If it's, for example, a gardening project, estimate how many people would be involved. If your project includes elements that can be reused, such as books or materials, mention them. If additional people other than the direct beneficiaries of the project will also benefit, mention how this will work).
 8. How sustainable is your project and in what way is it sustainable?
(In general, preference will be given to projects that are able to sustain themselves without additional resources or infusions of cash).
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Contract between Volunteer and Amigos de Nicaragua

By accepting an Amigos Grant from the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers group "Amigos de Nicaragua" you agree to the following terms:

1. The money transferred to you in the form of an Amigos Grant will not be used for personal benefit, including your travel expenses and/or meals as part of the project. Nicaraguans will be the sole beneficiaries of the money.
2. The money will be used in accordance with the information you submitted as part of your solicitation for the grant. If extenuating circumstances preclude your project from being implemented, Amigos de Nicaragua will be notified immediately before you use any of the money. Amigos de Nicaragua may, at its discretion, grant the money to a different project.
3. You agree to be held personally accountable for the use of the project funds. In the case of misuse of funds, you agree to reimburse Amigos de Nicaragua for all funds the Board of Directors of the Amigos de Nicaragua considers to be misused.
4. You agree to provide a detailed budget, expense report, and project narrative, both at the beginning and end of the project. The Board of Directors will notify you if the budget you submitted with your solicitation was sufficient for your initial budget. If so, your initial report will be waived and you will only be responsible for the final report. You will submit an additional budget, expense report, and narrative at mid-term if your project lasts longer than one year.

I agree to these terms.

Volunteer Name

Date
