

Environmental Education Program

2019



GREEN
ISLAND
CHALLENGE



GUANAJA

Summary

Climate change, plastic pollution and other environmental issues are realities that today's youth will have to face in adulthood. Island youth, like those on Guanaja, will surely experience climate change in a very personal manner given the deep relationship between the community and the ocean.

The Green Island Challenge's education program ensures that youth understand how ecosystems function and how to protect them. We strive to prepare students with the right tools and knowledge to change attitudes regarding conservation. Another aspect of our program focuses on youth engagement. The lack of opportunity on the island forces many to head mainland for employment. Our intention is to create a generation of young scientists who can contribute to their island and stem the “brain drain” currently occurring.

We visit schools, organize community events, field trips, and run a winter-vacation camp with the intention of putting into practice what we teach. We also organize environmental education workshops for adults and businesses so that they can make informed decisions concerning waste production, sustainable tourism, and land-use. Knowledge allows us to make the right choices. We strive to generate a passion for environmental issues throughout the community via education. When conservation becomes personal-- and passionate-- it can truly be sustained. This is the power of environmental education.

Objectives:

- Provide relevant, proactive and hands-on environmental education for all ages.
- Integrate environmental education curriculum at public and private schools on the island
- Serve as a resource for all educators
- Create workshops for businesses and other community organizations
- Nurture a change in consciousness regarding the need to protect Guanaja's ecosystems via education
- Generate funds to ensure the longevity of the project

We know that education takes time, which is why we have developed a month-long curriculum. One session is not enough time to grasp the big picture of environmental challenges on Guanaja. Our four main themes are Plastics, Corals, Mangroves and Extinction. Each class is accompanied by an outdoor activity as well as volunteer opportunities. All but two schools have been visited so far. This upcoming year we will begin with the two schools we were unable to reach in 2019. We also plan to tailor the curriculum to lower grades and expand its relevancy to adult audiences.

Schools Taught	Location	Level	Type	Grades Taught
Christopher Columbus	The Cay	Elementary	Public	6,7,8,9
Ramón Calix Figueroa	Brisas del Mich	Elementary	Public	4,5,6
José Trinidad Cabañas	Mangrove Bight	Elementary	Public	All grades
CEB Jose Cecilio del Valle	Savanna Bight	Elementary	Public	7,8,9
Enma Romero de Callejas	The Cay	Middle	Public	All grades
Hanson Hyde	Savanna Bight	Night School	Public	All grades
Guanaja Adventist School and Institute	The Cay	Elementary- High School	Private	All grades
Berkshire Adventist School and Institute	Mangrove Bight	Elementary- High School	Private	10,11,12

The environmental education program is central to our field work. We know that if we are constant in our educational work it will have results in the field, even if it is long term. Our main goal is to ensure that this generation of young people do not participate in trades that put at risk the existence of Guanaja's wildlife.

Yellow-Naped Parrot Population Stabilization Project

As part of the parrot program, several activities were developed to take education outside the classroom and to the community in general. Based on the experience of Dr. LoraKim Joyner, we created Welfare Brigades with the intention of creating a database on the situation of parrots in captivity in Guanaja. In addition to the survey, leaflets and laminated sheets with information on basic care were distributed.

		
BRIGADAS DE BIENESTAR PARA LOROS		
Brigadista/s _____ -----	Fecha _____	
PASO I:	PASO II:	
1.1 Presentación del proyecto de Brigadas de Bienestar.	<u>¿Tiene Loros en Casa? (En caso que no, pare aquí la entrevista)</u>	
¿Quiénes somos? ¿Qué estamos haciendo? ¿Por qué lo hacemos?	2.1 Nombre de entrevistado: -----	
Somos jóvenes apasionados por la conservación y estamos haciendo una encuesta para lograr el bienestar de los loros de Guanaja.	2.2 Lugar y domicilio: -----	



The core of our education project is centered on changing consciousness around poaching in general. We design t-shirts for both our parrot and turtle campaigns to sell at fundraisers and distributed in various cultural and educational events.



Sea Turtle Nest Defense Project

As turtle nesting season approaches, we begin to implement the four-class/ month long curriculum to all juniors and seniors after which they volunteer patrolling the beaches for a month. We examine the endangered status of sea turtles, the set of challenges presented by climate change, and the importance of conservation in ensuring a future for Guanaja. Our education program, like our field work, is continuously growing and this year we plan to reach beyond the classroom and organize environmental workshops for local patronatos, congregations and fishery associations.



Youth involvement is central to the success of the turtle nest defense project. Without our nightly student volunteers, we would be unable to patrol the span of beaches that we currently protect. Our plans for next year include more business outreach and beginning citizen science projects both for inland and marine species (bird watching clubs, coral bleach watch, rapid reef assessment). Overall, the environmental education program in coordination with monitoring and patrol work has shown success.

Budget

Project specific environmental education amounts can be found in both our parrot and turtle reports. Below is a simplified summary of the education's program total costs.

Environmental Education Budget			
Items	Description	Time-frame	Cost
Supplies	Didactic materials, art supplies, ink, printing	One Year	\$500.00
Transportation	Taxis, fuel	One Year	\$1,000.00
Events, Workshops, Adult/Evening Classes	Venue, refreshments, meals, etc	One Year	\$1,500.00
Salary	\$1,000 x Month	One Year	\$12,000.00
Total			\$15,000.00



