



## Internship/Gap Year Program

The **Agua Viva internship program** is a great opportunity for students studying missions, intercultural relations, any type of ministry, or who want to take a semester, summer, or year off to serve and learn in a different context. Young adults interested in a new avenue of service or who are simply looking for a change of scenery through which God can teach them will also find this program valuable. During their stay, Agua Viva interns will learn the following through hands-on, personal experience:

- Interns will learn about healthy short-term missions that empower the local church to use their gifts and talents, while providing an eye-opening educational experience for North American teams.
- They will get a front-row seat to see how God is working in the majority world through national and indigenous churches, as evidenced in Mexico.
- Through formal and informal lessons, interns will learn about different aspects of Mexican history and culture such as:
  - Religion
  - Health system
  - Politics
  - Education
- While prior Spanish knowledge is not required, interns will have ample opportunity to practice what they may already know and learn new phrases.
- Working alongside full-time missionaries, interns will see what full-time cross-cultural ministry is really like. They will also be exposed to many different short-term mission leadership styles.
- Interns will be immersed in Mexican culture by working alongside Mexican national staff, spending ministry and free time in Ensenada, and of course through daily authentic Mexican meals. There will be opportunities for homestays with local families and to make local friends. Interns will also be able to attend local church services once or twice a week.

### *What is Agua Viva?*

Rancho Agua Viva is a 142-acre campground located about 75 miles south of the San Diego border, just outside of Ensenada, Baja California. The climate is mild, and the campground is built along a natural creek bed and filled with huge oak trees.

Agua Viva Ministries currently has thirteen dormitories, and the capacity to house 400+ people (although we've "camped" up to 900 people before!) A large kitchen and dining hall can feed up to 300 at one time, and the camp boasts a soccer field, two basketball, two volleyball courts, two fire circles, a water slide, and a zip line. Agua Viva is one of the most developed Christian campgrounds of Baja California. We have flushing toilets, running water, hot water for our showers, a land-line, and internet. While some buildings have solar power, most of our camp electricity is run by generators, and only for about three hours each night after the sun goes down.

### *What makes Agua Viva special?*

Well, it's more than just a *place*. Agua Viva is a vibrant *ministry*. We believe that our calling is to reach Mexico for Christ. That is our mission and our passion, and we attempt to accomplish it through four main avenues:

- **Education**—Through this ministry we train Mexican national church leaders to be more effective in ministry in Mexico. In other words, we're teaching Mexicans to be missionaries to their own country and beyond.
- **Missions**—Agua Viva supports several national missionaries in the southern parts of Mexico, many who have graduated from our seminary and are now planting churches on the field. Our missionaries focus on ministering to unreached indigenous people groups.
- **Camping**—Picture your favorite Christian campground, maybe some place that you frequented at summer youth camps when you were younger. Well, Agua Viva is that place to hundreds of Mexican believers from the states of Baja California, Baja Sur, and Sonora. Church groups come to our campground for camps, retreats and afternoons of baptisms all throughout the year.
- **Short Term Missions**—This is our cooperative ministry with North Americans. We open our campground to American and Canadian church groups, who come to stay with us and minister in week-long missions programs during the spring and summer. We act as missionary guides and translators for them as they minister to the needs of Mexican families and churches in the Ensenada area. They might do evangelism, medical clinics, vacation Bible schools, work in an orphanage, or build a home for a needy family. The opportunities are limitless! *It is for the Short Term Missions ministry that we are looking for interns to help!!*

### *What exactly do our interns do?*

Our regular staff can handle the load of these ministries in the off-season, but during the spring and summer we host up to four groups per week, and need the supplement of additional staff. Interns help us to act as guides for the groups who come. The weekly schedule involves staff meetings for planning and devotionals (with some room for fun!), participating in all of the activities of the groups to which you are assigned, helping the full-time staff person assigned to the group (the "group coordinator") to organize and motivate the group members, as well as teaching, empowering, and sensitizing them to missions work and cross-cultural issues. (See last page for detailed example schedule.) On trips into the city our interns serve as navigators and guides to the local sites, both touristy and ministry-related- don't worry! They also receive extensive training on the city itself. Interns with Spanish skills also double as translators.

### *Gap Year Program Option*

Another option for students looking to spend an extended amount of time on the mission field is our gap year program. Students participating in the gap year program would automatically be enrolled in the 6-month internship along with everything it entails, but would have the added bonus of a fall semester at Agua Viva. Beginning with arrival in September, gap year students will learn first-hand about each of Agua Viva's departments (camping, missions, education, etc.), as well as take some classes alongside our Bible school students. Spanish lessons, homestays, and mission trips will also help participants be immersed in the culture as they learn.

Students stay for the whole year, joining the spring and summer interns for the second half of their stay, but are allowed a two-week break in December to go home for the holidays.

**The gap year program option has an additional housing fee of \$575 USD.**

## Agua Viva Ministries provides:

- Dormitory-style housing
- All meals during your stay
- Use of camp vehicles
- Use of camp washing machines
- Transportation to and from San Diego
- Love and care from all of the Agua Viva family!

## Internship Dates

- Spring Option (3 months):
  - Arrival in February, departure in May.
- Summer Option (2 months):
  - Arrival last week of May or first week of June, departure first week of August.
- 6-month Option:
  - Arrival in February, departure first week of August, with option to go home for a week in May.
- Gap Year Option:
  - Arrival in September, departure in August.
- These dates are tentative and will depend largely on scheduling of groups. Each option shows maximum amount of time needed for interns. We are flexible with your individual schedules and are willing to work with you to find the dates that work best for Agua Viva and for you.

## Requirements:

- Interns be at least 19 years of age. Gap year students must be at least 18.
- For interns: a minimum stay of five consecutive weeks. We are always flexible regarding your individual schedule.
- For gap year students: \$575 (USD) housing fee.
- We strongly suggest fundraising so that you have spending money while you are at Agua Viva. We suggest to plan for about \$30-\$50 per week to cover outings on your off time as well as any personal items you might need to purchase.

*For more information and/or an application, write to us at [kearstin.vandermel@aguaviva.com](mailto:kearstin.vandermel@aguaviva.com).*

Updated May 2019

## Here's a typical week's schedule\*

\*When groups are at Agua Viva

### Sunday:

**3:30 pm**--Meet at the Dining Hall to make welcome posters and prepare cabins for our visiting American groups. The groups arrive sometime after 4:30.

**6:00 pm**--Dinner and meet with the group leaders to go over the week's schedule with them.

**8:00 pm**--Opening campfire with all the groups. Interns are involved in the song leading, staff introductions, and acting out a skit to teach the camp rules to the groups.

After campfire, staff meeting to discuss the activities of the different groups.

### Monday:

**7:45 am**—Intern devotions

**8:30**--Breakfast--Interns get the breakfast started.

**9:15-ish**--Groups and staff begin the day of ministry:

Our American groups are involved in diverse ministries. Typically a group will do a Vacation Bible school and another activity, such as construction projects, medical and dental clinics, Bible studies with men/women, sports clinics or competitions, or hair cutting clinics. Sometimes our groups will opt to take a sack lunch with them; other times they will eat lunch at the camp. Sometimes the groups will work on construction projects at the camp.

Interns partner with the American groups in ministry. Our job is to act as missionary guides with the groups, as helpers/facilitators to the groups and as assistants to the group coordinators.

**1:30**--Lunch

**2:00-ish**--Back to ministry!

**6:00** Dinner-Meeting to review the first day, make adjustments when necessary.

### Tuesday:

Same as Monday--except: no morning devotions and no evening meeting.

### Wednesday- DAY:

Same as Monday

### **Wednesday- EVENING:**

Special activities and fundraising dinner at camp, with a talk by a full-time staff member of Agua Viva Ministries.

Intern prayer night.

### **Thursday:**

Same as Monday, except no intern devotions and groups have the option to attend an evening service at a church in town.

### **Friday:**

7:15-Staff Meeting: prepare for following week of ministry and tie up ministry for current week.

7:45--Staff Devotions

8:30--Breakfast, Give out and collect evaluation forms to/from groups

9:15--Say farewells to groups

10:00-ish--Clean dorms and put away tools and materials; prepare materials for following week of ministry.

5:00-ish --Free time!

**Saturday**--Free day!

**Sunday**-- Church, then back to ministry at 3:30 pm.