

Bainbridge Ometepe Sister Islands Association Volunteer Delegate Application

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in applying to participate in the Bainbridge/Ometepe Sister Islands Association (BOSIA) Volunteer Delegate program. In addition to the interview, the written application is an important step in becoming a delegate. You will need to be thorough in completing all sections of the application and submitting them on time. Your responses to the questions should be written legibly or typed. You may use more space (back of sheet, or expand space on computer) to answer any of the questions, but concise answers will be appreciated (except, see #10 below). BOSIA volunteers must be organized and responsible while in training and in Nicaragua and that process starts with the application. If you have any questions about the application process, please contact: bosia-board@bosia.org

Mission Statement: The purpose of the Bainbridge Ometepe Sister Islands Association is to promote friendship and mutual understanding between the residents of Ometepe and Bainbridge Islands through peaceful exchanges of all sorts. We expect the relationship to deepen over time, and to involve a steadily increasing number of participants from both islands. Our friendship will be mindful of human dignity and the necessity of expanding cooperation among peoples of the earth, irrespective of political philosophies.

What BOSIA Can Provide: We can help with logistical information: how you can make travel arrangements, how you can arrange for room and board on Ometepe, and names of people to contact in order to work on the project you are interested in. We require an interview prior to approval of the application. If the application is approved, we will also require that you attend several orientations sessions prior to your leaving. This will prepare you for your trip and give you background information about Ometepe and our experiences there. While on Ometepe you will have limited access to e-mail and fax at our office. We may have a long-term volunteer on Ometepe during your stay who can on occasion provide advice and help with logistics. There is a part-time office manager who also may be of some limited help, but this person is responsible for managing our projects and will not have a lot of time to devote to your needs. So, it is important for you to be willing and able to accept a large degree of personal responsibility in setting your own goals and following through on them both while preparing for your trip and while on Ometepe.

Proposed date of departure: _____

Proposed date of return: _____

The application process and timeline consists of the following:

1. Volunteer Delegate data sheet and Disclosure of Risks and Dangers, Assumption of Risk sheet completed, signed and returned 3 months prior to departure.
2. Interview 2 months prior to departure.
3. Medical Form completed and returned 1 month prior to departure.
4. Orientation Sessions completed no later than 1 week prior to departure.

**Bainbridge Ometepe Sister Islands Association
Volunteer Delegate Data Sheet**

5, References we may contact (not family):

Name:	Name:
Address:	Address:
Phone:	Phone:
Relationship:	Relationship:

6. Why are you applying as a volunteer delegate with Bainbridge/Ometepe?

7. Each volunteer is considered to be an individual with strengths and weaknesses. What do you consider your strengths?

What do you consider your weaknesses?

8. Bainbridge/Ometepe requires a Volunteer Delegate to be flexible and able to work with people from different backgrounds in sometimes stressful situations. Please give an example of how you have coped with such a situation in the past.

9. Are there any other comments that you would like to add, skills or interests you have, etc.? (use back if needed)?

10. On a separate sheet of paper, describe the project(s) or activity(ies) that you plan to be involved in while on Ometepe. We are looking for a carefully thought out plan, so the more detail the better. How long do you plan to stay, what do you want to accomplish, how will you go about it, what resources do you need to be successful?

**BAINBRIDGE OMETEPE SISTER ISLANDS ASSOCIATION
VOLUNTEER DELEGATE**

**DISCLOSURE OF RISKS AND DANGERS
ASSUMPTION OF RISK**

Disclosure of Risks and Dangers

The Bainbridge Ometepe Sister Islands Association (hereafter known as BOSIA) provides the opportunity for individuals to visit our sister island of Ometepe, Nicaragua, to stay in commercial lodgings and/or with a family there, and to engage in such activities which are in accordance with our stated purpose of developing peaceful exchanges and friendship between the peoples of the two islands. In order to carry out this purpose, the Volunteer Delegate will live and travel while in Nicaragua as the local people do, which may expose (them) him or her to concomitant risks. The list below does not cover every conceivable risk, but is intended to be representative:

General Risks and Dangers: There are general risks associated with travel of any sort. In addition, in Nicaragua there may be additional risks and dangers:

Transportation: Standards of transportation safety, including but not limited to the following, are lower in Nicaragua than in the U.S., and are outside the control of BOSIA: the condition, maintenance and safety requirements of surface, air, and water vehicles; the condition, maintenance and policing of roads, airways, and waterways; training and licensing of vehicle operators; requirements for personal safety such as seat belts; travel in the back of an open truck; provision for rescue operations in case of accident; and general safety standards with respect to any aspect of public or private transportation.

Health and Sanitation: Standards of health and sanitation are lower than in the U.S. As a result, the Volunteer Delegate may be exposed to contaminated food and water and to other medical problems and diseases endemic to the area, including but not limited to those discussed during orientation sessions or in private meetings.

Medical Care: While there are doctors and clinics in Nicaragua and on Ometepe which can provide basic medical care, appropriate medical care under some conditions outside the control of BOSIA will be limited or unavailable for the following reasons: limited medical supplies and facilities to treat a condition that otherwise might be manageable, inadequate training of medical personal, limited or non-existent diagnostic tools and laboratories, lack of an ambulance or other medical transportation, and limited or non-existent communication systems such as radio or telephone.

Bites: Delegates may be exposed to poisonous snakes, insects, spiders, scorpions, etc. Mosquito bites may cause Malaria or Dengue Fever.

Other Conditions: Various other types of risks and dangers occur in Nicaragua, including but not limited to the following: inadequate supply of life preservers on boats, lack of lifeguards at public swimming places, fewer police and other enforcement officials, sexual assault, other criminal or terrorist activity, political unrest, personal or family conflict, uncontrollable disease epidemics, volcanic eruptions earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, or mudslides. Unknown and/or unanticipated risks may be encountered during the trip.

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**DISCLOSURE OF RISKS AND DANGERS
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Assumption of Risk

I the undersigned Volunteer Delegate understand that the risks described above exist, and that as a result there is the possibility of serious illness, disability, accident, or even death. I have read completely the "Disclosure of Risk" info above and I have had the opportunity to ask questions about the risks and dangers associated with such a trip. I understand these risks are inherent in the trip, and as a condition of participation in the trip I hereby assume the risks and dangers associated with such a trip voluntarily and without any coercion of any kind.

While participating in the trip I agree to carry my own medical insurance and to take responsibility for decisions regarding my personal medications, medical care, procedure, or treatment for any illness or accident. I understand that BOSIA strongly recommends that I consider taking out a travel insurance policy (available through most travel agents) that covers trip cancellation, medical expenses, and/or evacuation, if needed.

Release and Hold Harmless Agreement

I hereby release and agree to hold harmless, and to indemnify to the fullest extent allowed by the law of the State of Washington, the Bainbridge Ometepe Sister Islands Association, its members, volunteers, Board of Directors, and the chaperones from all claims for liability and damages resulting from the trip, whether arising from their own fault or otherwise. This Release and Hold Harmless Agreement extends to damages for economic loss, property damage, personal and bodily injury, and death. I/we recognize that there may be hazards encountered or injury or damages incurred which we did not foresee at the time we signed this Release and Hold Harmless Agreement, but it is nevertheless my/our intention that this Release and Hold Harmless Agreement apply to such injury or damages

First Name_____ Last Name_____ Mid.Initial____

SIGNATURE OF VOLUNTEER DELEGATE

DATE