

July 2017
Playa Del Carmen, México

Contando con un Amigo Summer Camp

Objective

Provide the children with a fun environment during their summer, where they can take part in various different activities that would not be available to them otherwise. To draw upon the skills of the volunteers and the interns to ensure that the children are able to get the most out of the activities.



FIG 1. Kids and GVI volunteers in their first activity, painting

Summary

GVI Mexico is committed to ensuring that the children have a safe space for recreation as this is not always provided in Torres de la Paz community. The GVI summer camp has the aim to provide the children with a fun environment to experience different and new activi-

ties as well as learning about responsibility, teamwork and expressing yourself through dance, food and fashion.

This is how we spent two weeks, going every morning with different planned activities for the kids. This great effort was done and organized by the interns, Shinkni and Rebecca and with the help of staff and volunteers.

Report

In order to teach the children about responsibilities, each child was given an 'older sibling' who was to take care of them for the entirety of the summer camp. This was successful as the younger children were able to make the most of the activities we planned and older children were given an extra responsibility whilst also enjoying themselves. In pairs, they also carried out a blindfolded obstacle course, which taught them the importance of communication and trust.

The activity of using old plastic bottles and planting a flower was important to inform the children about recycling, sustainability and nature. Furthermore, we took the children out to a small local cenote and also encouraged them to pick up litter to teach them about respecting the environment and maintaining a clean community.



FIG 2. Last day of summer camp, kids showing how much their plants grow in a little time

To allow children to express themselves creatively we used various mediums such as crafts and dance. The children designed their own plastic bottles, cut-outs of their hands and cookies. All of which were enjoyed by both children and staff members. The dance activity allowed children to witness different cultures and also encouraged them to go beyond their comfort zone in learning and performing Arabic, African and Hip-hop dances.

To wrap up this two-week fun filled camp, we gave the children a small token to demonstrate our appreciation of their efforts. On the final day we brought in water balloons and played some games that were thoroughly enjoyed!



FIG 3. Goodbye picture

For more information on the projects here in Mexico, visit:
<http://www.gvi.co.uk/location/yucatan/>