



Volunteer pack

PERU

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01/ Intro

Firstly, thank you for your interest in volunteering with the Concrete Jungle Foundation (CJF) team. Our goal of supporting disadvantaged youth in Peru is made possible with the help of kind-hearted individuals like you, so thank you!

CJF currently runs projects across multiple continents, but it all started in Peru in 2017, when the charity built its first community skatepark attached to a school in Alto Trujillo. While that original park has since been demolished to accommodate the school's expansion, our presence in Peru is now stronger than ever.

In late 2021, the community skatepark now known as 'La Rampa' was built in Cerrito, a short journey from the quiet surf town of Huanchaco. It is here, in the coastal enclave of the city of Trujillo, that the local CJF Peru team is now based.

Today, we provide weekly skateboarding lessons at La Rampa in Cerrito, as well as at the public skatepark known as Santa Edelmira in Trujillo. Alongside teaching our curriculum of 'Edu-Skate' lessons, the work of CJF Peru has a particular focus on female empowerment, educational workshops, and community development. It is within these core goals that volunteers like you can provide vital support.



02/ Where we work

AREA DESCRIPTION

CERRITO DE LA VIRGEN

Not far from the rolling waves and beachfront apartments of Huanchaco is a humble town by the name of Cerrito de la Virgen. Despite being just a five minute taxi journey from the coast, Cerrito's location on the outskirts of town - where the arid inland deserts begin - adds to the sense that the community has been overlooked. In Huanchaco, and certainly within the city of Trujillo, it is not uncommon to find long-term residents who have not heard of Cerrito, much less visited the town. Despite this relative isolation from the greater local community, the sprawling town of Cerrito is home to hundreds of families, with many residents caring for young children.



The growth of Cerrito as a community is generally traced back to the El Niño weather event of 1997/1998, in which extreme flooding, landslides, and other related natural disasters left millions of Peruvians without homes. Among those affected were many families and communities that had already been struggling with the effects of poverty long before the devastation began. In Peru, the event caused economic losses of an estimated US\$3.5 billion, and the government fell short in its attempts to cope with the resulting housing crisis.

Here in the region of La Libertad, authorities relocated some of the El Niño victims on the barren land of Cerrito de la Virgen, at the foot of the small hill from which the town takes its name. Faced with very few alternatives, many families settled here and began to rebuild their lives following the disaster, typically with little or no support from the government. In this time of upheaval and recovery, basic needs such as running water and electricity were not made available to Cerrito's inhabitants.

Joining these early residents of Cerrito have been individuals and families who have moved to the area over the years in search of greater opportunities. Often coming from more remote regions of Peru, such as the jungle or mountain ranges, they arrive to make a new start, yet often find themselves faced with a new set of challenges. New arrivals to the town can sometimes be found in makeshift shelters of wood and tarpaulin at the foot of the hill. After eventually constructing more stable houses from adobe bricks, it is not uncommon for these homes to be bulldozed by local authorities for being illegal settlements.

Almost three decades have passed since authorities chose Cerrito de la Virgen as a suitable settlement site, yet the families who live there still face difficulties in meeting their basic daily needs. There are no schools nor health centres in Cerrito, and the town remains unconnected to the local water supply. Residents have been known to spend weeks without access to communal water for drinking, cooking or cleaning. As a consequence of these circumstances, the needs of the local children - including their education and access to safe areas in which to play and socialise - have been overlooked by authorities, while parents remain under daily pressure to provide and care for their families.

While the town of Cerrito de la Virgen has undoubtedly faced difficult beginnings, its residents have persevered to forge a safe and supportive community in which daily life can continue. Having been relegated from traditional urban planning and social development initiatives, the residents of Cerrito have appointed their own community leaders, and created various elements of the town's infrastructure themselves. Locals have helped to establish NGOs in the town to provide ongoing support and education to local children, while community initiatives have been formed to distribute emergency aid, such as those created during the COVID pandemic to provide meals to fellow residents. By establishing these pillars of support, the inhabitants of the town have created a community in which the goals and personalities of its residents can begin to shine, ultimately forming Cerrito's collective personality, one that is undoubtedly characterised by courage, resilience, and care for one's neighbour.

SKATEPARK DESCRIPTION

LA RAMPA

In response to Cerrito's lack of safe spaces for children, 'La Rampa' was originally born in 2010 with the help of a Huanchaco-based NGO called Otra Cosa Network. From humble beginnings as a small plot of land with a halfpipe, La Rampa grew organically into a social development project for the area's youth.

When the lease on this original plot of land expired, Concrete Jungle Foundation joined forces with Otra Cosa Network to build a new and improved skatepark for Cerrito, which opened in 2021. In this latest incarnation, the walls of La Rampa contain the new open-air skatepark along with three classrooms, a reading room, garden area, and bathroom. There is running water, and electricity, provided in part by a wind turbine from the WindAid Institute.

Thanks to the vision and hard work of volunteers who have supported the local team, La Rampa is in a constant state of growth and improvement, as we work together to provide a safe, supportive and inspiring youth centre for the community of Cerrito de la Virgen. While skateboarding forms the core of Concrete Jungle Foundation's work, La Rampa is an example of the wider-reaching community development which we strive to provide.



SANTA EDELMIRA

From our base in Huanchaco, a 30-minute bus journey will take you into Trujillo, the third most populous city in Peru. Despite being home to almost 1 million people across its various districts, Trujillo currently boasts just one skatepark, known as Santa Edelmira. This outdoor concrete park sits on the edge of the public gardens from which it takes its name, and provides an essential hub for Trujillo's impressive skate scene.

Although Santa Edelmira is a public skatepark built by the municipality, over a decade has passed since any substantial care or maintenance has been carried out on its crumbling surfaces, and it currently sits in a state of semi-disrepair. With no official help being offered, local skaters have chosen to invest their own time, money and hard work in fixing the worst-affected areas, while also adding additional obstacles. One of the locals leading these repairs is CJF Peru's own construction manager Jhikson Akamine, who can be found laying fresh concrete late into the night as part of a group effort to keep Santa Edelmira skateable.

Alongside La Rampa in Cerrito, the Santa Edelmira park is CJF Peru's second base, and we offer free skateboarding lessons to the community here every week. Similar to our schedule in Cerrito, in Trujillo we devote one session per week to our girls-only classes, ensuring that we provide a safe and supportive space for local female skaters to connect and progress together.



03/ Who we are

Established in early 2020, the CJF Peru team handles the groundwork of Concrete Jungle Foundation's programming in Peru, with staff members being based in Huanchaco and Trujillo. As a volunteer, you will be in regular contact with and supported by the local team, with external support provided by the international programmes director. From introducing you to the local communities and skateparks, to showing you the ropes with our weekly classes and activities, or simply helping you find places to eat, surf and explore, the CJF Peru team will be your colleagues and family during your time with the project.

- Organisational Manager - Arissa Moreno Ruiz
- Programmes & Social Media Manager - Andre 'Karman' Sánchez
- Construction Manager - Jhikson Akamine Garcia
- Enrichment Activities & Volunteer Coordinator - Steven Bullen
- Edu-Skater - Jose 'Lumpa' Silva



04/ How we work

VISION

Concrete Jungle Foundation is an international non-profit organisation that uses skateboarding as a tool to stimulate positive personal growth and community development for underprivileged youth around the world. We strive to achieve this vision in the following ways:

1.

SOFT SKILLS

We work on soft skills primarily via our Edu-Skate Programme, a curriculum of skateboarding lessons in which each week we base the class activities around a different life skill, or value. The fundamental goal of this programme is to support our students in transferring the skills they learn from skateboarding (such as perseverance, courage, and confidence) to their daily lives both inside and outside the skatepark.

The Edu-Skate Programme itself is based upon the Self-Determination Theory, and aims at satisfying the three basic psychological needs of humans that are proposed to underlie growth and development. These three needs are defined as: competence (the ability to do something successfully), relatedness (a sense of belonging, and feeling connected, to your social environment), and autonomy (having the power to make your own decisions). We believe that, for many people, skateboarding can provide a superb foundation from which to satisfy these needs, and therefore has the power to contribute positively to someone's psychological wellbeing and general quality of life. In simpler terms, we focus on personal growth and development through doing what you love.



2.

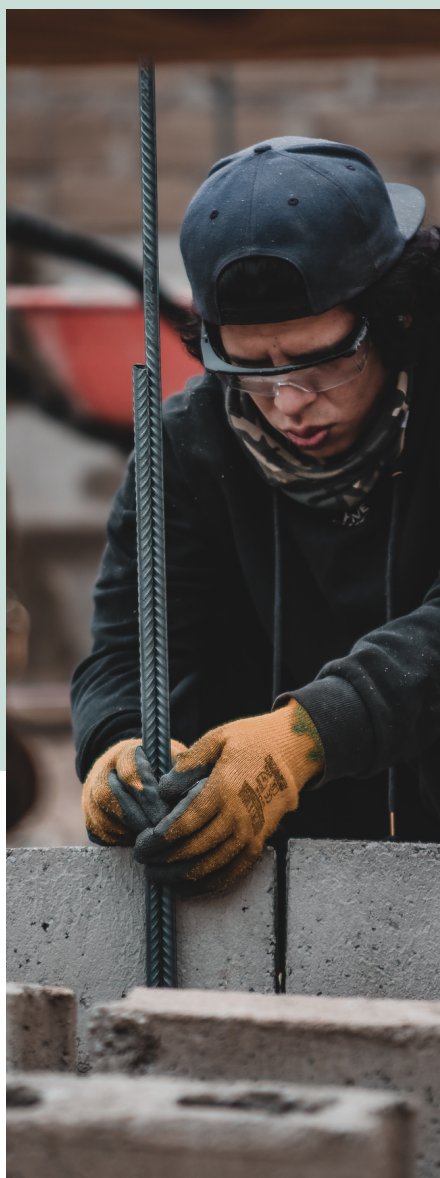
We also believe that skateparks have the potential to provide communities with an important social hub for both children and adults; a place that brings people together in their shared pursuit of joy and escapism, while encouraging the development of supportive attitudes, empathy, and friendships. Therefore, an important goal with the skateparks we build and the classes we run is in ensuring that they are accessible and welcoming, and nurture an engaged community to grow around them.

Hard Skills

We work on hard skills in part via our 'Planting Seeds' Programme, which provides paid apprenticeship placements and jobs for local youth at Concrete Jungle Foundation's project locations around the world. Aimed at adolescents aged 16 and up, the programme focuses upon teaching hard skills in areas such as skatepark construction, teaching, photography, filming and editing, event planning, project management, entrepreneurship, and more.

At La Rampa, we also host a range of weekly workshops under the name of 'Enrichment Activities', in which we encourage the children of Cerrito to explore, develop and express their passions outside of skateboarding. By working with local teachers from various fields, and with the support of our volunteers, we are able to offer free classes and workshops on subjects such as singing, dancing, photography, art, and caring for the environment.

We additionally seek to promote a sense of shared ownership of La Rampa among our students, while providing them with opportunities to gain experience in useful skills. This is typically done by welcoming the children to get involved in various projects in and around the skatepark, such as: Designing and painting murals; constructing garden areas and caring for plants; carrying out repairs and physical improvements; decorating the park and rest areas, etc. In doing so, we hope to stimulate a feeling among the children and parents of Cerrito that La Rampa is a communal hub that is open to all, and in which the residents can be a part of its growth.



05/ How can you help

VOLUNTEERING IN PERU

Here in Peru, volunteers play an important role in our pursuit of delivering this shared vision. We know that each volunteer brings with them a unique set of passions, skills, ideas and perspectives, and with this fresh injection of energy the project can develop and grow in new directions: It grows in experience, regarding the management of the park and how we deliver our programmes; and it grows in diversity, regarding the approaches that we take in seeking to make a greater social impact. By sharing your time, effort and experience with the local CJF Peru team, you have the potential to make a positive impact upon the individuals and communities with whom we work. As with all of Concrete Jungle Foundation's efforts worldwide, the CJF Peru project is locally driven, yet globally supported.



VOLUNTEER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

We believe that people thrive in their work when they are able to devote their time and energy to the tasks which they feel most passionate about. As such, we invite you to consider the following options for how you divide your time with the project.

→ Your primary role (approximately 12 hours per week)

In your main position, the majority of your time will be spent at La Rampa in Cerrito, in one of the following roles:

Option 1: Class Assistant

Typically, a volunteer's primary role is to help the local team in running our full range of programmes across our two locations; this includes Edu-Skate lessons, open skate sessions, and enrichment activities. When you first arrive, you will be supported in joining the classes as an assistant. As you become more familiar with the class structure and the local students, you are welcome to step up and try your hand at planning and managing the classes yourself as the main teacher.

Option 2: Class Videographer/Photographer

If you feel that your skills lie in documentary work, rather than teaching, you are welcome to join our classes as a filmer or photographer. The direction of your work can be discussed and defined with the local team, but could include: Producing a short film or documentary of the CJF Peru project and the communities we work with; creating regular content from our classes to be shared across our social media accounts; working on magazine articles or blog posts to help raise awareness of CJF Peru and our projects, etc.

→ Your secondary role (approximately 8 hours per week)

In your secondary position, you can choose to work in Cerrito, Trujillo, or from the comfort of the volunteer house, by supporting the project in one of the following areas:

Skatepark improvements and repairs

As previously mentioned, the two skateparks that we work from are in a constant state of growth and improvement, and help is always needed in this area. Responsibilities could include: Designing and painting murals; building furniture, such as tables and chairs; constructing play areas for the children; repairing damaged obstacles, etc.

Environmental sustainability

True to our name, we always strive to make room for nature within the concrete confines of our skateparks. In Cerrito, the town as a whole lacks public gardens and green spaces, in large part due to the barren landscape and limited access to water. Therefore, if you have green fingers and would like to help transform our skatepark into an urban oasis, this could be the role for you. This also includes helping us to improve upon the recycling capacity of the skatepark.

Enrichment activities

If you have a particular passion outside of skateboarding, we welcome you to join our weekly enrichment activities as a teacher, where you can share your interest and knowledge with our young students. The theme of your classes will depend entirely on you, but could include: Wellbeing workshops, covering yoga or meditation; arts and crafts workshops; foreign language lessons; nutrition workshops, etc.

Fundraising

As an NGO, we are constantly looking for new ways to reach donors and raise funds, thereby allowing us to continue to run our projects on the ground. If you have experience in fundraising or would like to get involved, we welcome your help in this area. Responsibilities could include: Organising local fundraising events; setting up and sharing online fundraisers; researching and applying for grants; creating and selling merchandise, etc.

Graphic design/Artwork

While there are plenty of talented designers and artists involved in our community, we always welcome new ideas and fresh perspectives. If you are excited about creating artwork around the skatepark, or helping with graphic design work for information posters and documents, this could be the side project for you.

Personal Project

If you have experience in an area that isn't mentioned above, and would like to bring your skills and passion to the local team or the communities that we work with, you can choose to devise your own personal project. Prior to your arrival, your project proposal can be discussed and planned with the help of the local team.

WHAT WE ASK OF YOU

By providing this level of autonomy to our volunteers in terms of choosing their roles and responsibilities, we ask for the following from our applicants:

- That you apply with relevant skill sets for the roles you wish to take on
- That you are self-motivated and proactive in your work-ethics, and take responsibility for your tasks
- That you maintain regular contact with the team during your time with the project, and report to your supervisor about any changes or issues within your role

In addition to these points, we also have the following general criteria for our volunteers:

- That you are at least 18 years of age
- That you can commit to a minimum timeframe of one month with the project
- That you have at least a basic comprehension of speaking and listening skills in Spanish
- That you provide us with a criminal background check, due to the fact that you will be working with children
- That you arrange travel insurance for the time period that you will be volunteering



VOLUNTEER FEES

We strive to ensure that our volunteers feel safe and supported during their time with the project. As part of this, we provide comfortable accommodation in our volunteer house, along with support on the ground from the local Volunteer Coordinator and the Organisational Manager.

In order to accommodate our volunteers, coordinate their arrival and ongoing responsibilities, and to sustain Concrete Jungle Foundation's work in Peru, we ask for our volunteers to make the following contributions:

- 1st month: \$375 USD
- 2nd month: \$325 USD
- 3rd month onward: \$300 USD

If you are interested in volunteering with us but are currently unable to make these contributions, please [contact us](#), and we can discuss your options. Some volunteers carry out fundraising at home within their local scene before their trip, to help offset their volunteer fees. If you're interested in doing this, please let us know, as we can support you here as well.

Your monthly volunteer contributions cover the following costs:

Housing

Volunteers will have their own private room in our volunteer house in Huanchaco. Utilities such as WiFi, gas and electricity are included, but please note that you will need to buy your own food and drinking water.

Coordination and support

From the moment that you first make contact with us, through the interview and selection process, right up to your arrival in Huanchaco, you will have regular contact with our volunteer coordinator who is based on the ground in Peru. They will be on hand to answer any questions or concerns that you may have along the way. Once you arrive, they and the rest of the local team will introduce you to the project, making sure that you feel comfortable and fulfilled throughout your time here.

Project donation

The remainder of your contribution goes directly towards the costs of running Concrete Jungle Foundation's projects on the ground in Peru. These donations help make it possible for us to keep the doors of La Rampa open and to continue offering classes and workshops there every week.



NEXT STEPS

Now that you have learned a little bit more about who we are, where we work, our projects, and our vision, we hope that you feel inspired to join us in planting the positive seeds of skateboarding in Perú.

If you would like to take the next step and apply to be a volunteer, please do so by filling out our [application form](#), and we will contact you shortly. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to [contact us](#)

From everybody at Concrete Jungle Foundation and CJF Peru, thank you for your time and interest in our projects. We sincerely hope to hear from you soon. - The CJF family

