YMCA COLead3rs is a program offered by the YMCA Colombia that allows its participants from different cultures to have intercultural experiences in Colombia through its association in different academic and social contexts for 5 to 10 months.
“The YMCA believes in the unlimited potential of young people to use their ideas, talents and voice for the greater good. YMCAs in 12,000 communities across 119 countries share a commitment to empower youth – from childhood to young adulthood – with the support they need to reach their full potential and create a better future for all.”

From World YMCA
Over the last 55 years the YMCA Colombia has taken an important part in Colombia’s social panorama, the National Movement is composed by 14 YMCA Associations, located in main cities and reaching 43 municipalities, with a volunteer movement that fosters Youth empowerment and social development.

For more than 30 years we have enrolled young people in volunteering and participating in English Immersions. Our leaders and volunteers have become more aware of the importance of building connections with the participants and being a part of their social development, to empower them into building a brighter future.

“There were many lamps and lights in the street with music. We sang songs, we danced, we talked each other, in short we shared our moments. ... Now I have many amazing new friends. Salsa class was more fun with them. They encouraged me and at least I tried to learn to dance salsa.”

Burak 2019 - Turkey
This past weekend, I went to a camp counselor training for all of the counselors going to the United States. These people were some of the most kind and welcoming people I have ever met. They made me feel included, unique, and made me love Colombia even more.

“Maggie B 2018”

WHAT TO EXPECT

You will be part of a cultural exchange program, where you will share your life experiences and culture with students, while learning about theirs through assisting English courses. Get excited for our English immersion programs and camps that may even require you to travel to different parts of the country.
You will be placed at a school or university leading English learning activities in non-conventional spaces, in which you will live the cultural exchange, learn about Colombia and share your culture.

**Cultural Agent**

You will have the opportunity to support the YMCA programs in an administrative and social context in the Regional or International office.

**Camp Leader**

Occasionally you will be invited to volunteer at our English Immersion Camps. You will lead recreational and leadership activities with youth.

“Not only were the immersion camps great, but working with other volunteers that have passion working with kids too was just warming to me because you understand that you are part of something grander than yourself and the team. I understood that I was part of a tradition that stems back decades of improving lives. I understood that I have the capacity to be a true leader when also being surrounded by other true leaders.”

Jeremiah, 2015 - from Arizona, USA
We are looking for enthusiastic and dynamic people that cherish cultural exchanges, are passionate about empowering youth, and truly want to be a part of what we are doing in Colombia. Our program requirements are:

1. Men and Women from 21 to 40 years old
2. English Speakers from all over the world, with passion for the language, excellent pronunciation and communication skills.
3. Excellent health.
4. Graduated from a higher education institution is preferred.

**BENEFITS**

- Learning about Colombian cultures
- Practicing and consolidating the Spanish language
- Getting to know new life styles while making new friends and life experiences.
- Opportunities to sightsee in Colombia with the support of regional YMCAs
- If placed at a school or university, the stipend ranges between $430 - $550 USD per month and that allows participants to cover their room & board costs in Colombia.
“My Spanish has improved so much, I have made friends all over the country, and every day is something new. I have learned about myself, about Colombia and the world, about working with all types of people, and how to handle so many different kinds of situations.”

Hannah Young, USA

GET INVOLVED

INVESTMENT
Round Trip International Flight
Cost: $500 - $900 USD*
Visa
Cost: $255 USD
National ID
Cost: $60 USD approx.
First Month’s Living Expenses
Cost: $500**

* It is an estimated price, depending on the date of the booking and the destination
** Estimate depends on the budget and spending of the volunteer

Apply now
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For more information on our programs, history and achievements visit
www.ymcacolombia.org