

Guide to “Women in Action” Dance Tour

Thank you for your interest in hosting Compas de Nicaragua’s 6th fall dance tour. “Compas” is a NH 501c3 non-profit organization whose mission is to improve lives and promote cultural exchange through delegations and sustainable community development work. Compas’ supports Women in Action (WIA), a women’s group organizing health, education, and income generating programs in a poor settlement of Managua. Compas also supports the Brothers and Sisters in Union cooperative (BSU) who carry out sustainable living projects in La Paz, Carazo.

The tour will bring 7 adolescent members of WIA to the U.S. to perform traditional cultural dances while educating audiences about Nicaragua’s culture and current issues. The tour will be a wonderful way to reach out to your community and raise awareness about other cultures, issues of poverty, and Compas’ important work.

Compas is pleased to bring Francis Arguello, Biana Gurdian, Katerine Solorzano, Daniela Vargas, Litzy Saurez, Teresa Jimenez, and Nicole Anduray to the U.S. as part of our fall 2017 tour. The tour is entitled, “Nicaragua Folklore Dancing.” Ana Narvaez, Compas de Nicaragua’s Executive Director, will prepare the choreography and lead the group.

The performance will include several traditional dances with costumes and dresses, including feathered hats and weaved baskets that are balanced on the head. The music is traditional, folklore music played on the marimba. The dancing is a mix of Spanish and indigenous styles. It is performed with long dresses that are held at the ends and lifted above the head. It is a beautiful, graceful kind of dance.

Segments of a video will also be played throughout the performance. The video will bring the audience into the world of Women in Action; street vendors who sell what they can on Managua’s streets in order to provide for their families; and describe how they have been able to work together to create projects that have drastically improved health, nutrition, and education in their community. The video also tells the story of the 50 member BSU coop who are supporting sustainable living and organic agriculture programs that are not only improving the lives of rural families in Nicaragua but also on the front line of work being done to combat climate change. There will also be an information table and an exhibition of gourd art from WIA’s art cooperative.

This tour provides local communities with a unique opportunity for popular education about the culture and current issues in Nicaragua. It will also offer communities a chance to get involved and support this important work.

The success of this tour is largely dependent on the pre-planning and organizing of local communities and supporters. This organizing packet has been put together in order to assist your group in this process. Enclosed, you will find detailed information on this tour, as well as general suggestions and guidelines for hosting a tour. Also included are sample invitation letters for the US Embassy, a press release, and a flyer for advertising.

Please feel free to contact us if you need additional materials or if you have any questions (msboudreau@compas1.org)

Tour Finances

Performance Fee: \$2,000 suggested performance fee, per hosting community. This money is to be paid directly to Compas de Nicaragua. It will cover expenses such as international airfare, domestic transportation, speaker per diem, travel costs, etc.

Each hosting community is asked to pay \$1,000 in advance of June 1st, 2017, so that Compas can purchase the airline tickets as soon as possible. This sum will be deducted from the total performance fee. The remaining \$1,000 will be due after the performance. Checks should be made out to: Compas de Nicaragua, 60 Merrimack Road, Amherst, NH 03031.

Local Tour Costs:

These are the expenses that the local community accrues, such as mailings, printing, copying, phone calls, etc. The host group must have a plan for covering these costs.

Travel , Housing and Meals:

In order to maximize exchanges between the Women in Action members and the U.S. communities, and to minimize tour expenses, we ask your local community to provide housing for the women while they are in your area. This should be comfortable, quiet, and secure housing. The women will be provided with a per diem by Compas de Nicaragua upon arrival to cover some costs. The hosting community should provide ALL meals or additional money for meals.

Compas suggests that communities find 5 families to host the 10 tour participants {7 Dancers and Dance Instructor, Ana Narvaez, and Compas Executive Director, Michael Boudreau, his wife Yara Sanchez and 1 year old daughter, Harolee}. This would allow 2 people per host family. Ana and Michael are fluent in English/Spanish and will be available to assist families. This will help families communicate with their guests.

Rest Days:

If the women are scheduled for a rest day in your area, it would be extremely helpful for your community to continue to host the women during this time. This will involve help with housing and meals. Making our Nicaraguan guests feel comfortable and welcome is a very important responsibility, and should be planned with as much care and detail as other aspects of the tour.