



Adopt-a-Dream Program

Scholarships for Secondary & College Students



What is "Adopt-a-Dream"?

Adopt-a-Dream is a Rotary program where individuals, families, service clubs and others can sponsor secondary and university students from poor families in the Mayan villages of Copán, Honduras. Sponsors provide the funding for school supplies, uniforms, textbooks and school fees for a student of their choice. Sponsors receive letters and photos from their student, and are welcome to visit.

Why is Adopt-a-Dream necessary?

Honduras is the poorest mainland nation in Central America. Many of villagers survive on \$1 to \$2 per day per capita, much of it earned during the coffee harvest. Many families cannot afford to buy school supplies for their children. Very few can advance to secondary school without our help.

Which students are in the program?

Virtually all of the students in this program received their primary education in an indigenous Mayan village school in the mountains surrounding the town of Copán Ruinas. We select students who live under conditions of extreme poverty, who have a grade point average of at least 80%, who are enthusiastic about continuing their education, and whose parents are supportive. We have about 550 students from 40 villages in the program.



How are the secondary schools organized?

Many of our villages have a middle school (grades 7 to 9), but virtually none have a high school (grades 10 to 12). Many students in this program attend school in another village or one of the region's small towns. This often requires walking an hour or more to school.

What supplies are provided to each student?

Each year, we provide every student with a generous kit, including notebooks, pens and pencils, textbooks, a backpack and a uniform. We also pay any required school fees. Supplies are personally delivered to every student at the start of the school year in early February.

We also provide every student with health insurance.

What results does the program achieve?

Since we began this program in 2016, our scholarships have resulted in a four-fold increase in the percentage of students graduating from middle school. Demand is so high that we have been able to open 16 new middle schools in the villages. Studies have shown that incomes in rural Honduras rise rapidly with each additional year of education. Our students average nine years of education, versus their parents' three years.

Educated people make more informed decisions, have better life skills, have smaller and healthier families, contribute more to the development of their communities, and are more likely to achieve a rewarding career.

Education is an essential tool for breaking the cycle of poverty. Your generosity will improve the life and opportunities of your student and future generations.

What connections will I have with my student?

We welcome sponsors who would like to develop a relationship with their sponsored student. In this program, you are often known as your student's *padrino* or *madrina* (literally godfather or godmother).

At least once per year, you will receive a letter from your student. We visit our students every three months, and we deliver any letters and photos received from you. Your student will be thrilled to hear from you. We provide a free translation service for correspondence.

If you come to Copán Ruinas, we will gladly arrange for you to meet your student, including a translator if needed. At the same time, you can visit the world-famous Copán Ruinas archaeological park, a major center of the ancient Mayan civilization and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Can I communicate directly with my student?

There is no mail service in Mayan villages, but with the passage of time many students are gaining access to a smartphone and can exchange messages on Facebook Messenger or WhatsApp. Unless you speak Spanish, one of you will need to use a translator.

Can I choose the student I sponsor?

Yes, we will help you choose a suitable student. You might prefer a student with a specific gender, grade level or home village.



Students in the Adopt-a-Dream program

Do I have to make a long-term commitment?

We ask that you pledge to sponsor your student for at least three years (four years for university). Of course, we understand that circumstances can change, and that you might need to limit your involvement in the program.

What does it cost to sponsor a student?

Middle and high school (grades 7-12)	\$220 per year, fixed cost
Local or virtual university, covering direct education expenses only	\$1,000 per year, fixed cost
University with higher costs, such as transportation or living expenses	• An agreed, fixed annual contribution; or • Actual cost with an agreed maximum per year

Most university students also need a laptop to get started, which adds \$330 to the first-year cost.

Can I participate with a smaller commitment?

We gladly accept donations in any amount. These funds are used to support students waiting for sponsors.

Can I do more to support my student or their family?

We ask that you involve us in any decision to provide additional support. It is important for us to protect you from cultural differences and unreasonable requests from the family. We can deliver small gifts to your student, but these are not expected.

What percentage of donations actually benefits the students?

100% of every donation is used to cover direct program expenses. Deliveries and administration depend on volunteers who cover their own expenses.

Where do you buy school supplies?

We purchase almost everything in Honduras, where prices are lower than in the U.S. and high shipping costs can be avoided. Buying in Honduras also means more jobs and income for Hondurans.

Is the program means tested?

In most of villages we work with, *every* family lives under extreme poverty and means testing is pointless. In the rare cases where families have means, we have screening procedures for supporting only those with genuine need.

How do I get started?

If you would like to sponsor a student, or have questions about your existing sponsorship, please email us at adopt-a-dream@ipafoundation.org.

Are my donations tax-deductible?

Yes, the IPA Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization registered with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

When do I need to send my donation?

Please send your donation within 30 days of receiving our invoice. We begin purchasing supplies in early November, for delivery the following February.

Please make checks payable to "IPA Foundation" and write "Adopt-a-Dream" on the memo line. Mail checks to:

IPA Foundation, c/o Bernadette Halliday
PO Box 282, Burlington, WA 98233

You can also pay on-line:

1. Go to <https://IPAFoundation.org>
2. Click on SUPPORT US, then scroll down to ADOPT-A-DREAM
3. Click DONATE NOW
4. Complete the transaction.

Please send any accounting questions via email to adopt-a-dream@ipafoundation.org

How do I exchange letters and photos with my student?

Please send correspondence *to* your student via email to aad.lettersout@ipa-copan.org or via USPS to:

Peter Martin, 3220 Oakes Avenue, Anacortes WA 98221

Your letters will be translated and delivered on our next quarterly visit to Copán. Letters *from* your student will be translated and delivered to you. Student photos and available contact info are included in our invoices to you.