



Changing lives in Copán, Honduras

Adopt-a-Village Program Support for Mayan Villages



What is “Adopt-a-Village”?

This program provides an opportunity for individuals, service clubs and other organizations to sponsor a Mayan village in Copán, Honduras, and to enjoy a long-term relationship with the community.

Why is Adopt-a-Village necessary?

Honduras is the poorest mainland nation in Central America, and the Mayan villages of Copán are among the poorest communities in the country. People survive on \$1 to \$2 per capita per day. With your support, we can improve the quality and reach of education, and improve life in your village in many other ways.

What is the role of a village sponsor?

Sponsors fund much of our work in their adopted villages. As sponsor of a village, you would:

- Provide every elementary (K-6) student in the village with an annual kit of school supplies, backpack and uniform, under the terms of our Adopt-a-School program.
- Pledge to fund at least five secondary school scholarships in the village each year, under the terms of our Adopt-a-Dream program.
- Provide every student in the village with health insurance, under the terms of our Student Health Fund.
- Contribute a small amount each year to sustain our school library in the village.
- Pledge to donate at least \$1,000 each year to support construction and other projects in the village.
- Have the right of first refusal (i.e. an option, without any obligation) to fund any other projects in the village, in whole or in part.

What does it cost to sponsor a village?

Much less than you might think, because money goes a long way in Honduras.

The total cost of education support in a village depends on the number of students, and typically falls into the range of \$1,200 to \$3,700 per year.

These amounts are based on the fixed annual costs per student for each education program:

Education Program	Annual Cost per Student
Adopt-a-School (kindergarten)	\$15
Adopt-a-School (primary school)	\$22
Adopt-a-Dream (secondary school)	\$220
Student Health Fund	\$4.00
School libraries	\$1.50

Funding for construction or other projects is in addition to these education programs. Contributing more than your \$1,000 pledge for such projects is entirely up to you.

What connections will I have with my village?

We encourage sponsors to develop relationships with their adopted villages. Communicating with villages via social media is becoming a popular option. Most teachers and some secondary students have smartphones.

At least once per year, you will receive a report from your school, letters or art from students, and photos of the school and students. When we visit schools, we deliver any letters and photos received from you. We

provide a free translation service for correspondence.

If you come to Copán, we will gladly arrange for you to visit your village with an interpreter. You can also visit the world-famous Copán archaeological park, a major center of the ancient Mayan civilization and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Can I choose the village I sponsor?

Yes, we will help you select a village whose size matches your budget.

I already support a village in Adopt-a-School. Can I sponsor the same one in Adopt-a-Village?

Yes.

Do I have to make a long-term commitment?

We ask that you pledge to sponsor your village for at least three years. Of course we understand that circumstances can change, and that you might need to end your involvement in the program.

Can I do more to support my village?

We will send you details of any new projects in your village, so that you can decide if you would like to contribute more funding. You might have some project ideas of your own that you would like to fund.

How often do you visit each village?

We visit each village every three months, in order to sustain relationships, monitor progress and deal with any problems. After visiting your village we send you any news from the community.

Who administers the program?

The program is managed by the IPA Foundation, a large group of Rotary clubs in the Pacific northwest. Our partner in Honduras is the Rotary Club of Copán Ruinas. Since our start in 2014, we have funded many different projects in the region.

What percentage of donations actually helps beneficiaries?

100% of every donation benefits the communities. IPA administration depends on volunteers who cover their own expenses.

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 and where do I need to send my donation?

You will receive two statements each year, typically in September. One for your Adopt-a-Dream scholarships and one for the other parts of Adopt-a-Village. We ask that you send donations within 30 days after receiving our statements.

Please make checks payable to “IPA Foundation” and write “Adopt-a-Village” or “Adopt-a-Dream” on the memo line, as appropriate. Mail your check to:

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

Or pay on-line at our web site IPAFoundation.org. Click **SUPPORT US**, then the first **DONATE NOW** button.

How do I get started?

If you are interested in sponsoring a village, please contact the program’s administrator:

Marty Pease
Adopt-a-Village Administrator
Email: mcconlogue@msn.com

Thank you!



Before we support a new village, we call a community meeting to explain our programs and discuss their needs. Everyone is invited. Here is an example from the village of Mariposal (Cabañas).