

# CHILDREN'S ETERNAL RAINFOREST SUMMER 2017

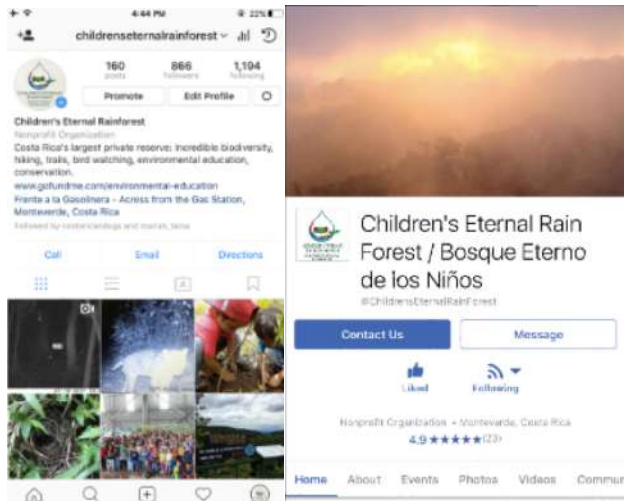
Natalee Castillo & Mariah Matias

## ACTIVITIES

**Environmental Education Program:** We facilitated an environmental education Summer camp for the local school children. Here, they made crafts out of recyclable materials.



**Social Media Efforts:** We updated the Instagram and Facebook accounts to help promote the reserve.



**Fundraiser:** We created a GoFund Me online fundraiser and raised over \$1,000 for the environmental education program



**Explore:** We also explored the neighboring reserves as well as other landmarks.



## ABSTRACT

During our time in Costa Rica, we interned at the Children's Eternal Rainforest (CER) where we worked to enhance the visitor experience through social media and marketing efforts. We managed the Facebook and Instagram accounts as well as created a promotional video for the reserve. Through these efforts, we were able to fundraise over \$1,000 for the CER's environmental education programs. Furthermore, we helped facilitate some of these programs for local elementary school children and their parents. We helped run craft stations where children learned how to make crafts out of recyclable materials. In addition, we participated in general volunteer work for both the main office as well as the Bajo Del Tigre station. These tasks included working at the reception desk and enhancing our customer service skills as well as general maintenance. We also learned the importance of teamwork by collaborating with the Hendrix College interns at the reserve. Outside of the workplace, we were immersed in Costa Rican culture. We worked on our Spanish language skills by socializing with the locals as well as our homestay families. Our homestay families exposed us to typical Costa Rican life and taught us the traditional way of "Pura Vida".



After our internship, we participated in a two-week service learning project at the University of Georgia campus in San Luis. We worked on an ongoing water quality research within the Bellbird Biological Research Corridor. We collected river samples and learned how to analyze and classify various macroinvertebrates. We got to be a part of the first testing of the water quality index. The water quality index was established for the protection of water quality, using macroinvertebrates as indicators of pollution.

## Wildlife Encounters



## Cultural Engagement



