

Caracol - YCD

Youth . Communication . Development .

Caracol-YCD is a youth oriented development project based in Crooked Tree Village, Belize, Central America. Under the guidance of a Board of Trustees, our two project directors Claudia Orantes and Jon Ottley run youth development programmes in Belize.

Projects carried out during the past two years have brought us in contact with many young people facing obstacles to their personal development such as poverty, limited education, lack of information & opportunities. We believe that group work activities that build self-esteem and encourage the development of life skills help young people overcome such obstacles.

By working in different communities throughout Belize we hope to create a 'network' of young Belizeans who share and learn about the cultures and lifestyles that exist in this Central American country. Our projects encourage exchange among young people within Belize and with it's Central American neighbours.

Crooked Tree Village ACE Camp 2004

I was the leader of the Red Foxes, our group did very well but in the end we came in last and that was a moment! This was my first ACE Camp and it won't be my last. Eric Wade, 11

For the past two years I have been attending the ACE Camp and I was very excited to go. I learned to draw but sometimes I didn't know how to draw and I got discouraged but the teachers were there to help us. April Bonardy, 13

I liked the summer camp. My favourite hobby is football and I liked the games we played. We went to Blue Hole and Lamanai. I liked the cave we went to, it was great even though we didn't go far enough in! Daine Tillett, 12

I have been a leader in the Green Jaguars and for two years the Green Jaguars have won. I loved the computer classes because I made a lot of interesting drawings that I would like to show everyone. Stacey Cadle, 13

We did some arts and played some games and we worked. Then after a few days we went to Lamanai. We learned all about the ruins and museums and all the arts and crafts. We went to bathe in the lagoon that backs on to Crooked Tree. Reece Wade, 11

To tell you the truth everything at summer camp was great. I was a leader and liked everything. I liked the games we played I liked football and the Frisbee game. Loretta Gillett, 11

For further information or to make a donation:

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Art Culture Environment

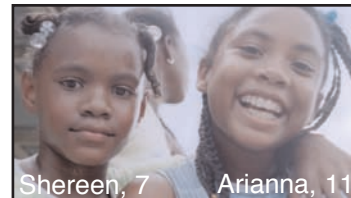
Percival, 14 Ben, 11 **CAMP 2004**



Carlton, 12 Kenisha, 10



Sabrina, 7



Shereen, 7 Arianna, 11



Deorie, 12 Roman, 10



Cameron, 10



Caracol-YCD Projects for 2005-2006



PHOTOGRAPHY - During 2005-2006 Caracol will offer 24 young Belizeans the chance to learn photography. Each student will be given a camera and film to document different aspects of their community life that they want to share with peers in other parts of Belize.

The photography programme is planned to take place in three communities and will include monthly workshops on expressive arts, creative writing and photography. The overall objective is the personal development of the young people through participation, commitment, leadership, and by experimenting with photography as an expressive art.

SPANISH - Also during 2005, Caracol will offer Spanish short-courses to children and staff of Crooked Tree and Biscayne Government Schools. Spanish is the official language in the region and being bilingual (English-Spanish) has become a requirement to obtaining a job. The Belizean national curriculum requires that Spanish be taught at Primary Level.

ACE KIDS - As well as supporting formal education in Crooked Tree, Caracol-YCD also develops extra curricula activities for students of the village school. Throughout 2005 upper school students will have the opportunity to join 'ACE Kids', a club focussed on Art, Culture and Environment as well as sports.

ACE CAMP - This year Crooked Tree will have its 3rd Annual ACE Camp with 60 children participating in sports, art, presentations, games, day trips and group work. Together with teachers and volunteers we will be running week-long programmes for a specific age range; Week 1 for lower Primary School, Week 2 for Upper Primary School with a third week of activities for teenagers.

THEATRE - Claudia Orantes is representative for Belize on the general assembly of 'El Carromato' a theatre development project offering professional level workshops to members of theatre groups throughout Central America, funded by the International Development Agency of Sweden (ASDI).

During 2005-2006 Caracol will support the integration of Belize into 'El Carromato' by working with the newly established National Association for the Development of the Arts.

EXCHANGE - The projects that we have planned for 2005-2006 have cultural exchange elements that encourage young people from different cultural backgrounds to meet, discuss and learn together by participating in group work activities.

NEWS - Caracol has been invited to operate under the umbrella of FotoKids of Guatemala, an Arts organization working with marginalised children using photography and informal education. We will invite peer educators from Fotokids to visit Caracol groups in Belize to give workshops on traditional and digital photography.



Footnotes to the Photographs

1. For the ACE Camp 2004, 60 children from Crooked Tree enrolled for two weeks of activities based on art, culture and environment.
2. Environmental education is important for the Children of Crooked Tree as their village is located in a wildlife sanctuary and is home to over 300 species of bird.
3. A central objective of Caracol's work in Belize is raising awareness amongst young Belizeans of their cultural heritage. During 2004 children from Crooked Tree Government School visited Lamanai and Altun Ha Maya sites with support from Caracol.
4. Since January 2005 a group of children from Arenal Village began a two-year photography course with Caracol. Arenal is located on Belize's Western border with Guatemala.
5. Tonya (9), Adejah (7) and Carolee (7) participate in painting the ACE Camp banner.
6. A Standard III Spanish Class at the Crooked Tree Government School where games are used to make learning a second language fun and memorable.
7. Students of Standard VI of The Crooked Tree Government School participate in a juggling session.
8. Participants in a Theatre Workshop at the Banquitas house of Culture in Orange Walk. Caracol invites artists and performers to visit groups in Belize and share their knowledge of artistic, theatrical and cultural expression.
9. A Youth Enhancement Service (YES) sexual health workshop for young women in Crooked Tree. Caracol continues to build productive working relationships with Belizean NGO's interested in youth issues.