

Indigenous Waldorf Inspired School Project

Sharamentsa Achuar Community, Ecuadorian
Amazon



The Bay Area Center for Waldorf Teacher Training (BACWTT) is excited to partner with the Achuar community in Sharamentsa, deep in the Ecuadorian Amazon.

This project aims to create an educational model that honors the Achuar's indigenous culture and nature-connected wisdom, helping young people value their heritage while preparing for contemporary life. Following an initial gathering in spring 2024, BACWTT has committed to a three-year project to co-design a program that integrates Waldorf education's adaptable, artistic approach with Achuar traditions. We look forward to supporting the Sharamentsa community in realizing a "life-centered" education for a sustainable future.

An initiative of Bay Area Center for Waldorf Teacher Training in association with Children of the Rainforest, Kusi Kawsay Andean School and La Selva Sabe.

JOIN US IN THIS UNIQUE PROJECT

We are looking for experienced Waldorf teachers (intermediate spoken Spanish required) to come to Sharamentsa in the Ecuadorian Amazon to teach and inspire local teachers. We have two programs available:

Short term (2-4 weeks): During this time, you will work with and guide indigenous teachers by demonstrating approaches to Waldorf Education. We plan to have a 2-week gap between teachers, allowing the indigenous teachers time to implement what they are learning.

Long term (3-6 months): During this extended stay, you will be the primary teacher while working with an indigenous teacher. You will also collaborate with short-term teachers to support the indigenous teachers in creating their own unique education model to incorporate Achuar culture.

While in Achuar territory, you will have a rare and profound opportunity to deeply immerse yourself in the lives of intact Indigenous communities. You can engage in intimate conversations and participate in a variety of activities, including interpretive rainforest hikes, serene river excursions, exploration of cultural practices and traditions, and waterfall, guayusa, and tobacco ceremonies.

The Ultimate Vision

This project embodies the Achuar's vision for the future of the Amazon. While they appreciate efforts to stop mining, oil extraction, and logging, they believe these measures only slow the inevitable destruction of the Amazon. They see the true future of the Amazon in their children receiving an education grounded in the natural world—what they call a life-centered way of being, as opposed to a human-centered one. They believe their children can lead the world into an eco-civilization.



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