

# 2020 Campaign: Sustaining the Learning Center

The SCLC is currently facing a very challenging financial situation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are an organization whose management and operation has always depended on the income generated by the tourist activity. Due to the global crisis affecting the tourism industry at present, all 2020 group reservations have been canceled or reported until 2021. The post-COVID-19 scenario is uncertain and difficult to visualize for the coming months. The pandemic only makes our work more critical in our area and your support will help guarantee our continuity.



## The Sarapiquí Conservation Learning Center

*Linking  
Communities and  
Conservation  
through Education  
and Ecotourism*



JUNE 2020





RURAL COMMUNITY TOURISM



EDUCATION



CONSERVATION

## What is the SCLC?



The Sarapiquí Conservation Learning Center (SCLC) is a non-profit organization founded in 1993 and registered in the USA and Costa Rica.

The Learning Center's mission is to provide resources for the empowerment of communities in the canton of Sarapiquí through access to knowledge and the promotion of sustainable livelihoods.

To this end, the SCLC links local communities and environmental conservation through environmental education and rural community tourism.

*At the SCLC, we focus our efforts on four areas:*

1. rural community tourism
2. education
3. conservation
4. public library



# Our programs

Across four key areas, we develop initiatives to help train leaders, increase the organizational capacity of local communities, promote the sustainable use of biodiversity and landscape, support the training of micro-businesses, and offer tourism services that constitute a contribution to sustainable development.

***SCLC programs benefit hundreds of local people and thousands of tourists each year.***

## 1. RURAL COMMUNITY TOURISM

<b>GOAL</b>	Receive national and international tourists who visit the communities, share with local people, while promoting sustainable development and conservation.
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Visitors carry out different activities to choose from, among them: talks about life in Sarapiquí and the biological corridor, dance classes, typical cooking classes, visits to schools, reforestation, visits to farms, accommodation with local families, community service, preparation soap and natural shampoo. This Program trains and supports communities in serving visitors.
<b>2019 ACHIEVEMENTS</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Community service: 22 projects were implemented through which schools were painted, playgrounds were made recycling tires, community rooms, community parks, meshes and murals were painted in more than 20 communities in Sarapiquí</li><li>2. Tourists stayed in 12 families from the communities of El Roble and San Isidro who received economic income from this activity.</li><li>3. Other activities such as the cheese tour, the pepper tour, and the cooking tour take place sporadically throughout the year with approximately 6 families benefiting.</li></ol>
<b>PROGRAM COST</b>	\$18,870

## 2. EDUCATION

<b>GOAL</b>	Promote education as a component of sustainable development and self-improvement.
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Participants receive environmental education, English language learning classes, computer courses, training in various subjects. Most of the classes and trainings are free for the participants. They learn the links between wildlife, natural habitat, forests and people, and why it is important to protect natural resources.
<b>2019 ACHIEVEMENTS</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. First quarter 2019: 46 adults enrolled (31 finished): of these, 3 adults had a scholarship; 20 children enrolled and (16 finished).</li><li>2. Second quarter 2019: 80 enrolled adults (66 finished): of these, 3 adults had a scholarship; 19 children enrolled (15 finished).</li><li>3. Third quarter 2019: 97 adults enrolled (60 ended), of these, 3 had a scholarship: 12 children enrolled (10 ended).</li></ol>
<b>PROGRAM COST</b>	\$7,220

## 3. CONSERVATION

<b>GOAL</b>	Promote reforestation and conservation in the San Juan-La Selva Biological Corridor.
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Information on the biological corridor initiative is offered to visitors and communities in the area. Likewise, environmental education and reforestation activities are promoted in the corridor in order to promote the connectivity of forests. The construction and maintenance of the nurseries are essential to carry out reforestation on farms within the biological corridor.
<b>2019 ACHIEVEMENTS</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Reforestation: approximately 3,700 native trees, plants, compost were planted in approximately 5 different farms in Sarapiquí in El Roble, San Ramón, La Virgen and San Isidro.</li></ol>
<b>PROGRAM COST</b>	\$5,395



PUBLIC LIBRARY

#### 4. PUBLIC LIBRARY

<b>GOAL</b>	Facilitate and promote reading in children, youth and adults in the community. Likewise, facilitate the use of the computer lab for free.
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	There is a public library that is open to the public, as well as a free computer lab for the communities that is available to children, youth and adults from neighboring communities. The maintenance and strengthening of our facilities are key to provide free service to visitors.
<b>2019 ACHIEVEMENTS</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2019 school packages: they were donated to 59 college, school and kindergarten students.</li> <li>Letters and brushes: 55 boys and girls participated, wrote their own story, with an environmental theme. It was carried out in a community with the aim of promoting reading and environmental conservation.</li> <li>Computer courses: 73 people participated, including boys, girls, youth and adults, with the aim of reducing the digital divide.</li> <li>Living skills: 21 adults participated in a workshop aimed at families with the purpose of managing conflicts with adolescents at risk of drug dependence.</li> <li>Vacation workshop: children's cinema and storytelling with the participation of 104 boys and girls to promote reading.</li> <li>Exhibition for Book Day: 45 people participated, boys, girls and adults. The objective was to promote CECOS services and reading.</li> <li>Musical activity: 273 high school youth participated with the aim of promoting CECOS services.</li> <li>Lapa Verde Route and count: 60 children and adults sensitized about the conservation of the Lapa Verde.</li> </ol>
<b>PROGRAM COST</b>	\$11,980

*Learn more & support: [learningcentercostarica.org](http://learningcentercostarica.org)*