

[Costa Rica, Here I come!](#)

Wednesday, July 4, 2007 at 2:08am |

I have recently gotten word of my acceptance to volunteer with Youth Challenge International. I'll be in Costa Rica for 10 weeks, starting May 2008, on a project where I will be aiding in the construction of a classroom in a school, and another undetermined project. Possibly road construction or building a community hall.

The main reason I applied for this isn't because I feel that the world is in dire need of my physical help. Actually it's the opposite - I almost feel that humanitarian aid could, in essence, be a waste of resources. I want to find out first hand by making many sacrifices in order to make this trip go through and actually being on-site.

I'm doing it because I get to work in a country that is new to me - I'll get to discuss various topics with the locals and have my world view and horizons broadened. I will need to be conversational in Spanish before I even leave, so I should be proficient when I return.

I have learned that Costa Rica has disbanded its military. It has a literacy rate of 98%. It is not a completely run down country. It has industry. However because of globalization, it has yet to be competitive in world markets and is a net importer. That is why there are some indigenous populations in Costa Rica that lack some of the most basic needs.

I hope to learn as much as I can from this challenge. It's going to be tough to raise all the money I need to get there, learn and practice a new language, get other training and do well in school.

Wish me luck!



PS: Merci Édith, c'est toi qui m'a inspiré d'appliquer au même programme que toi en automne 2006...

In this note: [Edith Beaudry \(notes\)](#)

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[Alana Chuchmich](#) at 3:39am July 4

congrats on the acceptance!! i know you will do a great job!



[Chris Belliveau](#) at 9:20am July 4

Congratulations man, you're living the life! I envy you. haha



[Richard Léger](#) at 9:28am July 5

Your the right man for the job andrew! good luck!



[Meghan McDermott](#) at 4:42am July 6

That is so awesome, man! I am so happy for you that you are doing so much cool stuff. I met some Youth Challenge volunteers in Tanzania and they were fab and having a wonderful adventure.