

Spanish Immersion for Teachers

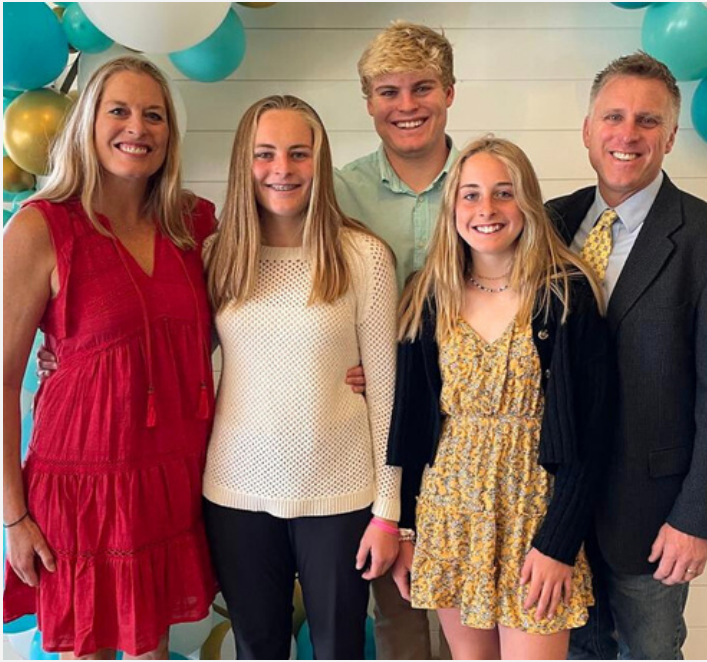
Earn CEU
& PDU
credits



CommonGround
INTERNATIONAL

Who are we?

Our history



Rory and Leslie Foster founded Common Ground International in the fall of 2001 while they were teaching Spanish at a local college preparatory school in Colorado. During this year, through various personal and professional interactions, they noticed a real and urgent need to use language to have a greater impact that was not getting met.

With backgrounds in Spanish Education from the University level to pre-school and with training in curriculum development, they realized they needed to create a solution. Common Ground International emerged with a zest for teaching language to fill real-life needs and impact communities through industry-specific language trainings, services and immersion programs.



Since 2001, Common Ground International has developed language training programs across the nation and internationally in Central and South America. Our programs and curriculum serve teachers that work with native Spanish speaking students and other professions across the nation serving limited English-speaking families who need Spanish language support.

Rory and Leslie have a bilingual family, and a wonderful team of language professionals in the United States and throughout Central and South America that they enjoy working with as they carry out Common Ground's mission:

"Impacting communities through language."

Educator's Spanish Immersion Trips



Spanish Immersion for Educators is a program inspired and implemented BY educators FOR educators. Program planning, host family coordination, language classes and leadership are designed intentionally for YOU the TEACHER!

Whether you are a classroom teacher with a high percentage of Spanish speaking families, a dual language immersion teacher that needs a deeper knowledge of the language and culture, or a Spanish teacher that needs to brush up on native skills, this program is for you.

Participating in this program results in a more effective and successful communication with your Spanish-speaking students and families in and out of the classroom.

There are two types of teachers that join our programs:

- Teachers who have a high percentage of Spanish speakers in their educational communities and need to improve their Spanish in order to communicate with their student populations, parents and guardians.
- AND Spanish teachers that feel like they need to brush up their skills and reach that near native fluency level again.

Based off of the type of teacher you are, we have two tracks of classes:

- **Spanish for educators all levels.**
- **Spanish for Spanish teachers advanced level.**

We have a small team of lead teachers that help supervise our programs in Costa Rica and Ecuador, therefore we're able to ensure that our outreach work remains ethical, accurate, and applicable to the local populations that we serve.

Conversational Spanish classes for Teachers



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Our small-sized personalized Spanish classes for Educators on our Immersion trips are a nice combination of learning new material and getting comfortable actually speaking. Too often we learn more but don't move the needle on our speaking. Our classes are taught by professionals and conversationally focused so that you build confidence speaking Spanish in and out of the classrooms, with your students, parents and in everyday life.

Our Immersion program also includes Pre-departure preparation: Multiple pre-departure webinars together as a group help you anticipate the experience, set your expectations realistically, prevent some culture shock, and prepare for your community involvement. Your Spanish level will also be assessed before your Immersion program. You will be placed in a class in accordance with your level with other Educators with the same Spanish level in order to maximize your learning.

Our programs are accredited through Adams State University. We offer two types of credits: Professional Development Units or graduate level credits. Depending on your Immersion weeks, you can get 3 professional development units (PDU's) or 3 graduate level credits in our 2 week program, 4 credits in our 3 week program and 5 credits in our 4 week program.



Community outreach work



In our Educational service projects on Immersion, participants deliver educational topics in our outreach projects to underserved communities with identified educational needs. Our community outreach works give you the opportunity to:

- Practice and improve your Spanish in an educational setting and a real life context.
- Not only will the community service activities help meet the needs of the underserved, but they also require teachers to be using Spanish in a practical context to meet certain objectives.

You will have 24/7 access to CGI coordinators and leadership:

1. You have someone you can rely on for logistical help.
2. You have a Spanish teacher around you all the time for those random language questions borne out of real-life situations.
3. You have a trip leader close by to assist you in your community work and help you ensure that the outreach work you're doing is always relevant and sustainable for the community.

We focus on your language proficiency while we turn you loose to help the community – but NEVER at the community's expense. We're responsible to ensure that the work you do complies with our mission statement for responsible volunteer work abroad.

The intentional combination of Spanish classes, outreach work, and learning cultural norms of education in Latin America work together to make you a more effective educator.



Visit Local Schools



Our Immersion participants also visit local schools and interact with local teachers.

Not only will this improve your Spanish fluency, but you'll also gain important cultural insight about educational perspectives in Latin America when you partner with a local teacher, help in the classroom and work directly with students. The objectives of the volunteer work are to:

- **Use your Spanish to help in the educational context.**
- **Help support marginalized educational communities.**
- **Learn about the educational systems in Latin America.**

Take all this knowledge back with you and have a great understanding and impact in your own educational community!

Lodging with a local host family



Participants are immersed in speaking Spanish 24/7 and acquiring Spanish as they relate to the host family and experience daily culture in Central and South America. Your host families will take care of all of your basic needs:

- **Provide you with a private bedroom.**
- **Share breakfast and dinner with you.**
- **Make sure that you are as comfortable as possible in their home.**



We recommend host family stay to complete the 24/7 immersion aspect of the program, your general Spanish conversational skills will sharpen quickly!

Of course, you have the option in both Costa Rica and Ecuador to stay on your own in a hostel or hotel. You will miss out on some conversational Spanish, but if you need your private space, you can certainly get it.

Weekend Adventures

Saturday through Monday mornings we have time off to explore the countries we visit! You can do this on your own or with the CGI group. We speak Spanish on these excursions and help you capture teachable moments as they pop up!

*In Ecuador you can expect mountainous & “hikey” weekend excursions.
In Costa Rica we have multiple excursions to volcanoes, national parks and white sand beaches where we may have a chance to see turtles nesting and laying their eggs!*

Costa Rica



Participants at Poás Volcano, Costa Rica



La Fortuna, Costa Rica. Participant's photos.



Ecuador



Participants in Turín, Cuenca, Ecuador



Ingapirca ruins, Ecuador. Participant's photos.



Components of our Immersion trips in Ecuador and Costa Rica



**Immersion participants in Cuenca, Ecuador*

Costa Rica:



Great day trips around the Central Valley, amazing beaches & unique eco-tourism in Costa Rica (like Manuel Antonio, La Fortuna, Poas Volcano, etc.)

Ecuador:



Great day trips to the Equator, mountain hikes, hot springs, etc. You can also visit the world-famous Galapagos Islands.

- Lodging with Host family
- 20hrs/week Spanish Classes
- Educational outreach projects in local schools and educational organizations
- Work directly with local teachers and students
- Learn about the public education system
- Public and private school tours
- Interprofessional mix of fellow travelers
- 24/7 leadership, coordination & support by Common Ground program leaders
- You can do a combination of Immersion in both countries.
- Weekend adventures to amazing beaches, active volcanoes, cloud forests & Andean mountain hikes.

General Program Itinerary

The following is a weekly general sample of our Educator's Immersion program Itinerary. The specific details vary depending on the country and are only available to our registered participants:

- **First Saturday:** Saturday is generally the day we ask you to arrive in country so that you can get settled in with your host family and have a tour of the city with the group.
- **Mon – Fri:** Small group Spanish classes 4 hours a day, volunteer work, optional extra activities like local cuisine classes, museum tours, etc., and hang out with your host family.
- **Weekends:** Take time to explore the country! Join us on excursions or explore on your own.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday and Sunday
Mornings: Educator's Volunteer orientation	Mornings: Educator's Volunteer Preparation	Mornings: Educator's Volunteer Work	Mornings: Educator's Volunteer Work or 1/2 day excursion	Mornings: Educator's Volunteer Work or 1/2 day excursion	Optional Excursions, hang out with your host family or explore on your own.
Afternoons: Educator Spanish classes	Afternoons: Educator Spanish classes	Afternoons: Educator Spanish classes	Afternoons: Educator Spanish classes	Afternoons: Educator Spanish classes	
Evenings: Optional Activities, Dinner & Host family	Evenings: Optional Activities, Dinner & Host family	Evenings: Optional Activities, Dinner & Host family	Evenings: Optional Activities, Dinner & Host family	Evenings: Optional Activities, Dinner & Host family	



Dance and cooking classes are some of the optional extra activities our Immersion students enjoy in the evenings after their Spanish classes!



For more Information

**For more Information on our Educator Immersion program,
please contact our program coordinator:**

Leslie Foster

Educator's Immersion Coordinator

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Important Links

Our Website:

<https://commongroundinternational.com/>

Educator Immersion Programs:

<https://commongroundinternational.com/spanish-immersion/spanish-for-educators/>

Link to register:

<https://commongroundinternational.com/store/immersion-trips/teacher-immersion-trip/>

Our socials



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