

Kids' Camp Boquete – Creating smiles since 2006

During my 2017/18 winter visit to Boquete, I was introduced to the “[Kids' Camp](#)” program. I was intrigued after being briefed on the background of the camp, so I offered to volunteer. Although it was already week six of a seven-week program, new kids and volunteers were welcomed with open arms and hearts. Some children were dropped off at camp by their parents or custodians, while others arrived in buses that were rented using funds raised through donations. Run entirely by volunteers, the camp is geared toward children ages 5 – 11 and includes Expats, Indigenous and Panamanian children from the Hogar Triskar Orphanage. The venue, volunteers, activities and food all exceeded my expectations.



The camp currently operates on Thursdays, with the day starting at 9:30 am. Board games are laid out on various tables, so the children can play and interact until all campers have arrived. After registration is complete, the kids join in a circle for a sing along and receive instructions before being split into groups for the day's activities. They start with a fun game of musical chairs and a snack tray of fresh fruits. Fueled and ready to go, they head off to the first of five activities, where they spend 20-minutes participating in each. Activities for the two days I attended included; soccer (futbol), tennis, baseball, basketball, arts & crafts, a bouncy castle, and water balloon toss.

Special events included a clown performing magic with audience participation, and an educational session by the owners of the Javier Magaly Dog Camp, on the proper treatment of dogs. Seeing the smiles and hearing the children laugh was the most rewarding experience of my stay in Boquete.



At the end of the morning activities, lunch and beverages were served, followed by 90 minutes to swim, run in the park, play board games, or work on more arts & crafts. As the days events were winding down, each child was given a treat while they mingled and waited for their ride home at 3:00.

[Kids' Camp Boquete](#) is held at the Santa Lucia Club and was originally created in 2006 by two expatriates by the names of Monalisa and Liz. They wanted to ensure that the children in this region had an opportunity to be active and interact with friends during the school break. At \$5/week or \$35/season, some families can easily afford the camp, while others can't. This is where your support is needed. The average expenses for the 7-week camp run close to \$3,000. That money goes toward the venue, food, water, art supplies, equipment, first aid kit, a lifeguard, and transportation.

Some choose to [donate](#) money to sponsor a child, either for a day or for the full camp season, while others participate in the annual [Scavenger Hunt Fundraiser](#). April 5th, 2018, will be the 3rd annual *Adult*

Road Rally Scavenger Hunt... and from what I've heard, this is an event you won't want to miss. 100% of all proceeds raised go directly to the camp to sponsor the kids from the Hogar Triskar Orphanage, as well as others who need support.

Since children benefit in a myriad of ways by attending day campsⁱ, from learning new skills and building confidence, to making friends and interacting with peers without social stigma, your [donation](#) will make a lasting impression. Donations can be specific or generic - send a kid to camp for a day or a season, or simply contribute toward covering peripheral costs, such as transportation, the lifeguard, bouncy castle, art supplies, food or equipment. The next Kids' Camp Boquete will start January 10th, 2019 and run for a period of 7 to 8 weeks.

If you'd like to support the program in 2019, please contact Alie at 6922 0984, or send an email to: jam2e@hotmail.com

Your donation will make a difference, and together we can create memories that last a lifetime.

Written by [Geordie Seed](#), Freelance writer

ⁱ www.ourkids.net/camp/benefits-of-summer-camp.php