Costa Rica—El Centro Verde Farm

Organization/Agency: El Centro Verde
Supervisor/Sponsor: Tom Peifer, Founder/director
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# of interns needed/ Up to 4
Needed for quarters: Options (choose one)
__Fall__ __Winter__ __Spring__ X Summer__ X Or keep on file for one year

Describe the internship assignment:
El Centro Verde is dedicated to applied research, demonstration and outreach around issues faced by smallholder farmers in the wet-dry tropics. For almost two decades we have worked with techniques of permaculture, agro-forestry, runoff management techniques of different Amer-indian groups, erosion control, bio-char in an effort to build and share a knowledge base that is relevant to changes in climate, economics and demographics.

We also provide students with an opportunity to experience a realistic, but secure and relatively comfortable, immersion in small-farm realities in a developing country. It is a great opportunity to broaden one’s knowledge through daily practice, while reinforcing the theoretical underpinning in our ample reference library.

Daily tasks involve all phases of rainy season cultivation, from seeding to harvest and food preservation. Students with a special interest are encouraged to “take the reins” if the project is compatible with our core interests and philosophy.

We also partner with Restoring Our Watershed, http://www.ourwatershed.org/, to work on reforestation, community outreach, community gardening and strengthening the local agricultural economy.

Prerequisites:
• Enthusiasm, self starter, physically robust and able to perform labor in warm humid conditions. Ability to work in teams as well as individually.
• Gardening experience helpful.
• Willingness to learn
• Flexibility…(able to work hard, but drop everything and head to the beach or go dancing.)
• Note: See application form on web site, housing is $75 per week, $200 per month