Dear Volunteer,

**Pumakawa** is a non –profit organization dedicated to the conservation of our environment.

Pumakawa is about 90 km’s southwest of the city of Cordoba, looking towards the Andes. We rescue a host of different wild animals. Many are victims of the illegal pet trade or have survived attacks by hunters. If they cannot be released back into the wild after rehabilitation, we give them a home for life.

Our objective is to create a connection between man and nature; through this connection people develop compassion and a sense of responsibility towards Mother Nature.

Our mission stresses the importance of man caring for the environment. Our work is dedicated to conservation, education, investigation and recreation, as suggested by IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature). Pumakawa is a 2 hectare natural reserve in Villa Rumipal, Cordoba, Argentina.

The puma is our emblem. We strive to create awareness of the puma’s condition in Cordoba as well as the rest of the country. Through education and investigation we have created programs to improve the status quo of the flora and fauna that enrich the puma’s habitat. The puma being not only an umbrella species is a keystone species, the biodiversity and abundance of other species is directly linked to its presence.

We also have other rescued animals such as the indigenous Eagle (*Geranoaetus melanoleucus), ferrets (Galictis cuja), monkeys (Alouatta Carayá) , Llamas, Mayocastor coypus, peacoks, rabbits, hens, horses, ducks, etc.* You can see them here *http://www.pumakawa.org/#!animales-con-historia/cyw6h*

**Pumakawa has many projects alive and in action:**

-**Restoration of a section of Cordoba’s mountain range** of 26.5 hectares. Our dream is to restore the mountain range to a more natural state. After 15 years of working alongside Mother Nature we are going to take on a transforming task… “Pumakawa monte” will be born!!!! This small piece of mountain range has been affected by forest fires and urbanization. It will be restored to include native species of flora and fauna that aims at maintaining our slogan alive “one that looks after with the stealth of a puma”, which in the native tongue quechua is the definition of Pumakawa.

-**Seed Bank with native seeds of Cordoba**. This is the only seed bank that includes a wide variety of native seeds in the province of Cordoba. The seed bank was born after the forest fires that devastated the Valley of Calamuchita. We wanted to take on a reforestation project, yet had a difficult time finding large quantities of native seeds. Some species that have no commercial value were not found. Therefore, we decided to harvest seeds from all over the province and started the seed bank. We have over 24 species stored appropriately. We have planted over 2000 individuals between the two reserves. People have access to native seeds through this bank and can grow them in their homes. Over the years a network of seed exchange has emerged with universities, nurseries and those who want to plant natives!

-Pumakawa published with LaVoz del Interior, one of the largest newspapers in Cordoba, a set of collectable journals of native flora called “Plantas Nativas”. Each journal included information of the species, recipes, legends and medicinal properties of the native plants. They also included seeds with instructions on how to germinate them and care for them.

The short term goal of this project is to provide information about **native species**. The long term goal is to use the plants that people are growing in their homes, using the seeds provided to them, and reforest regions of Cordoba that are in need of natives. A community of people has already been established with the help of social media. https://www.facebook.com/pages/RecolectAndo/819614698051653?ref=hl

-Pumakawa offers the program “Classroom under the Sun” which is available to schools and groups of all ages. It includes an educative guided tour of the reserve to meet all the animals that live with us. They learn about the species and their particular stories about how they came to live on the reserve. This program aims at creating awareness about the illegal commercialization of wild animals to be sold as pets, deforestation and its impact on flora and fauna, the importance of a healthy environment, etc. The program also offers different workshops that the children can participate in such as organic gardens, building with alternative materials, native plants and their many uses, etc.

-Pumakawa offers **courses and workshops** year round on different topics such as large felines, birds of prey, snakes and arachnids, Cordoba’s mountain range forests, etc.

-Pumakawa is **open to tourism**. This allows us to establish direct communication with people and hopefully create a connection between them and their environment. “We care for what we love, we love what we know, and we know what we are taught”.

Volunteers form an important part of our workforce. Pumakawa offers a variety of areas in which the volunteer can unfold themselves. Volunteers have come form all over the world with open hearts ready to lend a hand. In return, we offer training in areas such as construction with alternative materials, nutrition and wild animal handling, tourism, conservation, etc. We invite the volunteer to share an unforgettable experience in Pumakawa nature reserve. You would probably like to watch one of our volunteer’s video about Pumakawa. http://www.charlieholles.com/pumakawa

We hope you can come to pumakawa. We are looking forward to sharing our experiences with you.

Sincerely,

Kai Pacha Director of Pumakawa
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**Requirements for Volunteer Program in Pumakawa**

Volunteers must meet all the requirements before being accepted into the volunteer program at Pumakawa. Once the individual is accepted into the program they must send proof of documentation via e-mail. The volunteer must bring originals with them to the reserve.

* Identification (example: passport)
* Vaccines required by your home country and Argentina. Pumakawa additionally requires that the volunteer have the tetanus vaccine.
	+ - This link will help you and your healthcare provider decide what vaccines you might consider. <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/extended_student/argentina>
		- Pumakawa volunteers must have the tetanus vaccine.
* Health insurance (in case of accidents). We recommend to tell your health insurance company that you will be in Argentina. It is also important to know what they will or will not cover in another country.
* Clean Bill of Health signed off by your healthcare provider stating that the volunteer is cleared to work and they do not have preexisting conditions that impedes them to do so. If there are preexisting health conditions they must be specified. (Examples: heart conditions, diabetes, allergies to insect stings, etc.)
* Volunteer must be 18 years of age or older at the time of their arrival to the reserve.
* The **cost per month** (ask by mail to: info@pumakawa.org) includes accommodations and food for the duration of your stay. You can pay in cash upon arrival.

The volunteer must bring the following items with them:

* Sleeping bag
* Personal hygiene products
* Comfortable clothes and closed toe shoes (sneakers, work boots, whatever is most comfortable for outdoor work)
* Flashlight
* Binoculars (optional)
* Set of warm clothes (jacket, long pants) in case of cold weather
* Rain boots and rain jacket or rain poncho
* Bug repellent
* Work gloves (example: garden gloves)
* Dishwashing gloves (are useful when feeding carnivores)

**Accommodation**

Volunteers sleep in onsite in the communal accommodation provided for them. There are beds and mattresses. The bathroom is a shared space.

In winter, temperatures are below zero, our homes are rather cold as compared to homes in USA or Europe. It is a good idea to bring warm clothing!

In summer temperatures are above 30ºC. You will need to have comfortable clothes.

**Interested in volunteering at Pumakawa?**

**Send us the following to info@pumakawa.org**

**Personal Information**

Please fill out the following information to the best of your knowledge. The information you provide will not be shared with third parties, it will only be used for our records.

Please attatch your curriculum (CV) to this form.

**First and Last name:**

**Type of identification: (example: passport):**

**Identification number:**

**Date of birth:**

**Nationality:**

**E-mail address:**

**Profession:**

**Emergency contact Information**

**Name of health insurance provider:**

**Contact number for health insurance provider:**

**Emergency contact and relationship with contact:**

**Telephone number of emergency contact:**

**Interest in Volunteer Program**

**Length of Stay:**

**Date of arrival:**

**Relevant skills:** (Skills relevant to animal care, conservation work, computer skills, first aid, etc.)

**What is the highest level of education completed?**

**Are you currently enrolled in school? What are you studying?**

**Expectations of your volunteer experience in Pumakawa:**

**Have you participated in volunteer programs in the past? If so, please specify:**

**Languages:**

**English:**

Spoken: Basic Intermediate Advanced

Written: Basic Intermediate Advanced

**Spanish:**

Spoken: Basic Intermediate Advanced

Written: Basic Intermediate Advanced

**Other: (please specify)**

**What type of work are you most interested in?** (What you choose below does not guarantee that this is the work you will be doing the entire length of your stay.)

**Interpretation**: presentation of educational programs. Such as animation, guided tours or excursions, and demonstration of projects and areas of the reserve (through videos or talks) to visitors.

**Visitor Services**: meetings, lectures, and assisting visitors. Provide genera information about the reserve to visitors.

**Management of cultural and natural resources**: Research, surveys, conservation, and protection of the reserve’s resources. Participate in Pumakawa projects and assist those responsible for them.

**Maintaining Installations**: Outdoor tasks including maintenance and cleaning deposits, public areas, grooming certain animals, painting, maintaining trails, etc.

**Wildlife management**: Tasks involving animal nutrition, sanitation and maintenance.

As indicated above, updated curriculum (CV) is attached.

Date: …………………………………………………….

Signature of applicant: ……………………………………………………………………………………

Signature of mother/father/guardian: ……………………………………………………………..

(only applies if applicant is under the age of 18)

**Note**: The information provided by the volunteer will be considered as an affidavit and its submission to Pumakawa does not assure or guarantee the acceptance of the applicant into the volunteer program.