

Penonomé, Coclé, Panama

Community(s): Bermejo, Piedras Gordas
Partner: Sustainable Harvest International (SHI)
Projects: Environmental conservation, regenerative agriculture, and community education
Volunteers: 2024 (37) Trip Producer: Alicia Morris '99

A group of 37 Yale Alumni Service Corps (YASC) volunteers embarked on YASC's inaugural service trip to Panama, which took place July 19-27, 2024. Their work promoted environmental sustainability in the communities of Bermejo and Piedras Gordas, located on the outskirts of Penonomé, capital of the province of Coclé. Working alongside the ground partner, Sustainable Harvest International (SHI), an environmental nonprofit with over 25 years of experience partnering with smallholder farmers to adopt regenerative practices, SHI was excited to host YASC volunteers for a week of service in these two communities in impactful projects focused on environmental conservation, regenerative agriculture, and community education, all aimed at fostering sustainable practices among local farmers. This service trip and future ones will contribute to SHI's work to train Central American farmers in farming techniques that nourish families and help restore our planet.

About the community(s):

Two small farming communities of Bermejo and Piedras Gordas with a population of 650 and 280 people, respectively. Located three hours southwest of Panama City and one hour northwest of the provincial capital, Penonomé, both communities comprise families who earn their living mostly from primary-sector economic labor, such as farming and mining, as well as some craftwork.