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Overview of Pillars of Hope



Pillars of Hope Language and Vocational Institute is a residential school designed for young adults 18 years and older who are seeking greater hope for success in their lives. The Institute at Pillars of Hope offers special vocational internship opportunities and scholarship discounts for students who have completed specialized success programs with schools or other organizations for troubled teens. However, this is not a requirement for admission to the Institute.

Most students at *Pillares de Esperanza* are nearing completion of their high school studies and are therefore looking ahead to college or vocational training leading to prospective careers. They desire a transitional opportunity in an environment with high standards, where they will be respected as young adults with new found responsibilities to make proper choices that will lead them to lasting success at home, in their communities and in the work place.



At Pillars of Hope, the faculty and staff continue the work of motivating and preparing youth for acceptance into Colleges or Universities of their choice. The College Preparation program offered at *Pillares de Esperanza*, as we are known in Costa Rica, works to build foundations for a better future, a future that includes confidence for success in a college environment and real work experience for our graduates in a number of areas through internships offered in all areas of the hotel, restaurant, and tourism industries.

Pillars of Hope offers a new setting to replace a potentially non-working environment of counterproductive friends and influences in their communities at home. Every effort is made to provide our students a safe environment with high standards conducive to learning and having fun among other teens with similar goals. Students live in residential dormitories offering private bathrooms and showers in each.



Success in college requires self-discipline, initiative, dedication, proper study habits, time management skills, confidence, and motivation. Most incoming college freshmen are lacking in most or some of these characteristics.



This causes as many as 60% of them to drop out during their first year of study in higher education. At *Pillares de Esperanza* we work with willing students to instill these qualities of a good learner within all of our students.

Colleges and Universities seek to recruit incoming students based on the indicators that represent a greater chance for success among their incoming classes. Such indicators are well known and include scores on National exams such as the SAT and ACT. They use other indicators such as rank in class, Grade Point Averages on a 4.0 scale, recommendations by counselors, community leaders, and others who know the student well to determine if the student will fit in well with the college environment. In addition, all schools seek to diversify their student body. Students with international experiences with a proven record of community service are prime candidates for admission with some of the top scholarships offered at many schools. The Pillars of Hope experience addresses all of these attributes as its faculty and staff strives to instill them in our students. Courses in SAT and ACT preparation are offered to indicate areas needing greater emphasis in the child's preparation.



Successful techniques are also taught to maximize their test-taking experience. An additional course in Library Science is offered to assist students in their ability to research and document their resources according to the Modern Language Association's latest guidebooks. Courses in Spanish as a second language are offered that promise to help students not only fulfill College admission standards but also offer a greater opportunity to continue the study of Spanish at advanced levels. By so doing most universities offer lower division credits for up to four semesters--the first two years of College level Spanish. The national CLEP exams in this subject are also taken by some students to satisfy the general education requirements in this area. On the whole, our students who complete our Spanish Language program enjoy a great deal of success on placement exams and/or College Level Exams in Spanish offered at the universities they choose to attend.

Upon arrival at Pilares de Esperanza, each student works closely with their school counselor and Parents to create a Personal Orientation Plan for Success (POPS). The faculty and staff at Pillars of Hope utilize the methods of Internal Motivation rather than external. This involves the student to a greater extent in making decisions as to what s/he studies and when, in consultation with parents and counselor, s/he chooses to leave the facility to begin further study elsewhere, hopefully at an Institution of Higher Learning (IHL) of his or her choice.

Because of the emphasis on student choice, Pillars of Hope maintains high standards of behavior among its student body. Alcohol, tobacco, and non-prescription drugs are not allowed by neither faculty staff nor students while on or off campus while working at or attending this Academy. Students are expected to uphold these standards. Violators are asked to seek other avenues for study elsewhere. These norms include modesty in dress and appearance. Young men are taught to shave regularly and are not allowed to wear jewelry. Young men and women dress in modest uniforms and are groomed appropriately according to standards established by our student body leadership and are allowed to wear pierced earrings, one per ear is recommended.



Any valuables, clothes, jewelry, electronic devices of any kind are limited to the basics and are kept at the students' own risk. The institution cannot be held liable for loss or theft. For this reason, we encourage that valuables be left home and that parents and youth limit themselves to the recommended items checklist. In addition, high moral standards are adhered to as well. Although classrooms and many activities are coeducational, pairing off in isolation or dating is not allowed. Students must remain in their family groups and are chaperoned at all times by faculty or staff. Every effort is made to make the facility a fun environment within the well-established limits of behavior that will help all students to accomplish their POPS to attend the IHL of their choice.



On and off campus activities provide a proper balance of recreation, exercise, learning and social opportunities. Initially, all activities are on campus. On campus activities include monthly community dances, Karaoke concerts, a small 5 hole golf course, swimming, soccer, football, basketball, volleyball, a Recreation Center offering professional quality table tennis equipment, weight lifting, stationary bicycles, step machines, a 100 meter outdoor walk/jog track, a weight and exercise room, multi purpose room, a movie room.

A brick-laid multipurpose court for basketball, volleyball, tennis or the local favorite pastime "papi futbol" is available in the student quad area in front of the cafeteria and administration building. In addition, the sports program includes a multi purpose playing field for soccer, flag football, softball, and outdoor lawn volleyball. An equestrian program is also offered for interested students. Housed in the Lichfield Stables is a top quality purebred line of Andalusian horses. Interested students may qualify to assist our staff in the daily care of this noble line whose pedigrees traces back to the Golden Age of Spain. The two white stallions and two expectant mares come from champion blood lines and provide interested students an opportunity to participate in the process of breeding and caring for

champion purebreds. Studying the history and process of horse care management is just one more elective opportunity for the Pillars of Hope student.

Many teens enjoy the privilege of participating in off campus activities. The off campus activities include local service activities with the Orotina community and surrounding areas, sight-seeing, water sports, canopy tours, beach outings, and cultural events, etc. The school's setting near the Pacific coast of Costa Rica is well suited for such activities. The school is only minutes away from several world-class resort areas such as the Marriot Los Sueños resort only 20 miles away. This makes for ideal getaway opportunities for parents and their children as they visit and spend quality time with each other in peaceful environments second to none in world travel.

If you would like to speak to a consultant on resources available for your troubled teen:

Call Toll Free: 1-800-355-8336
Referred By: Kris Wilcox

[Or click here to receive the information online](#)

Following are links to our affiliate programs.

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Carolina Springs	Cross Creek Center	Majestic Ranch	Eagle Point Christian Academy	New Beginnings Maternity Home
Darrington	Cross Creek Manor			
Ivy Ridge	Tranquility Bay			
Pillars of Hope				
Spring Creek Lodge				
Midwest Academy				