Lazy Hostel Interview Questionnaire

Thank you for contacting us about a volunteer position at the Lazy Hostel! This questionnaire will help us get to know you and your skills as well as clarify exactly what we’re looking for. Write as much or as little as you’d like, just answer all the questions to the best of your ability and return to us as soon as possible. We are a youth hostel with mixed dormitories, therfore, applicants must be between the ages of 18-40

* **We host volunteers of all ages from all over the world working hard to fit both the needs of the hostel and those of our volunteer community. Please provide the following information:**
* **Full Name:**
* **Gender:**
* **Age:**
* **\*Country of origin:**
* **Languages Spoken:**

\*Please note that if you are not a US citizen you will need to provide proof of a valid work permit or your eligibility to obtain a valid work permit. All applicants must be able to complete an I-9 form showing they can legally work in the US.

* **If you could keep only three things out of everything you own, what three things would you choose?**
* **We wouldn’t be here without our guests so keeping them happy with a clean and comfortable hostel is our #1 priority. While the work you will be doing is rarely physically strenuous we do work hard sweeping, moping, scrubbing, power washing, picking up trash, cleaning bathrooms, etc. We understand that work stay arrangements vary with hosts but here at the hostel we stay busy for the whole shift. How do you feel about your ability to put in a consistently productive days’ work?**
* **Volunteers live in communal housing sharing rooms and common areas while also working together. That’s a lot of togetherness! It is very unlikely that you will become best friends with everyone, but everyone needs to live together and get along. All volunteers need to be respectful of their housemates and help with the household chores so the house stays clean and livable. Volunteers who are not able to live together and comply with house rules will be asked to leave. Have you ever lived in a communal setting before? Have you had roommates? How do you think you would handle living and working with your friends every day?**
* **Vieques is one of the most beautiful islands in the world with secluded white sand beaches and wild horses wandering down our narrow streets. One of the things that make this place so special is that we don’t have chain stores, but this can also make things difficult. Items that you could drive to the corner store and pick up in ten minutes are not available here. You can always catch the ferry to Ceiba to get new shoes or a CD, there’s even a Walmart and Home Depot, but that’s a day trip. How do you feel about living without these modern conveniences?**
* **Although we are an international hostel and have guests from around the world we mainly communicate in English. How comfortable are you speaking on the phone and taking in person reservations in English?**
* **Please list the title and responsibilities of your last three jobs**
* **Please add any other information you think would be helpful during the hiring process. Experiences, background, expectations. Pile it on!**

**Here Are Some Things To Keep In Mind When Applying:**

* Please remember that this is a work exchange program. That means that you will be working a real job with a time clock, schedule and lunch breaks and in exchange for your work you will get a bed, food, extended days off, tours and other perks. It’s absolutely fine if you’re looking for a laid back hostel where the majority of time is spent in the office or chatting with guests, but this hostel will not be a good fit for you.
* Our hostel is attached to a bar and there are many other bars on the island. Tourists are on vacation and enjoy staying out until 4am drinking because they can sleep through the next day, but for those of us who live and work on the island we need to show some self-restraint and know what our limits are. It is not acceptable to come to work late or hungover to the point that you cannot complete your job. If you have a substance abuse problem of any kind this position will not be healthy for you.
* You will be living with other people and some of them may get on your nerves from time to time. Maybe they don’t keep things as clean as you do (or they keep things cleaner!) or maybe they have different sleep schedules. It’s important to be flexible, kind and keep a sense of humor. Roommates are a lot of fun but can also be challenging at times. Make sure that you are up for communal living in a beach bum/dormitory like setting.
* Caribbean islands are romantic oasis’ cut off from greater civilization, but remember how Swiss Family Robinson had to build their house out of sticks and make due with what they had? Sometimes it can feel that way here so volunteers need to be flexible and keep a sense of humor. Sometimes a broom will break and we can’t get another for a few days or we need to channel MacGyver to fix a leaking faucet. We love the island but sometimes lack of supplies or expensive supplies can be frustrating. Keep in mind that we’re not a big resort with white linen and unlimited resources and come with a willingness to dance in the rain when the roof springs a leak.
* Sometimes volunteers arrive on the island expecting their living accommodations to be much like a house they would find in the US or Europe. Here on Vieques we live a more beach bum/island life. Most houses are made of concrete, windows have screens and shutters but no glass, furniture is second hand or handmade (again, the scarcity of materials), covered spaces are used for sleeping while outdoor spaces are used as “living rooms” and even kitchens, and most houses rely on fans instead of AC. We work very hard to make crew quarters comfortable and fun for our volunteers, but remember that this may be a different culture than you are used to so be open to adventure.
* We want to make sure your stay on the island and your time at the Lazy Hostel is a fun and rewarding experience. As the hostel manager I can always be reached and you should feel free to bring any work or living concerns to my attention. I cannot fix a problem if I don’t know about it!

*Excellent! Now please email this form back to* [*info@lazyhostel.com*](mailto:info@lazyhostel.com) *with any questions you may have and I will be in touch ASAP!*