

Descriptions of Parents of Latin American Children Programs

La Semana Latin American Culture Camp

La Semana is a week-long culture day-camp for children in elementary through high school, adopted from Latin America and their non-Latin American siblings and other family members. Started in 1981, La Semana was first held at the Minnesota Science Museum. La Semana has grown from attendance in the double digits, to a camp welcoming more than 400 campers, born in over 20 different countries, traveling from their homes all across the United States and Canada. Our current location is at the All Saints Catholic Community in Lakeville Minnesota, where we have been since 2002.

Registration is open to children who will enter first grade (in the fall following camp) to young adults who just graduated from high school (the spring before camp). Younger children may stay in our daycare or attend our pre-k or kindergarten programs provided they (1) have an older sibling registered at camp, (2) a parent is volunteering on site, and (3) we have the space.

Campers spend each day rotating through different classes. They learn Latin American crafts and try Latin American foods. They hear Latin American music and spend time in “Specialty” which is where they learn about a different Latin American country each year. Campers and family members are given the opportunity to contribute to a Service Project in a number of different ways. They can purchase food items during lunch time, give monetary contributions or donate needed items, which will be given to help children in Latin America. Market day is always a fun time for campers to shop for items produced in Latin America, and offered by vendors from the Latin American community. In “Life” they focus on adoption related issues, presented at age-appropriate levels. Dance class teaches campers authentic Latin folk dances, using authentic costumes. La Semana culminates with a “Fiesta” on Friday evening, where all the campers show off the dances they have learned during the week.

Corazon Latino Dance Troupe

Corazon Latino is a group of boys and girls, adopted from various countries in Central and South America, and their siblings, who come together to learn dances from those countries and have fun. Dancers from second grade through age twenty are welcome to join the group, and no prior dance experience is necessary.

Practices usually begin in early January of each year and continue each week through the end of April. The highlight of the season is when all dancers get to perform at the Festival of Nations gathering in downtown St. Paul in May.

Corazon Latino is a unique and exciting way for kids to learn more about their heritage through dance, and share that pride with their community.

To receive registration information, please contact
corazonlatino@lasemana.org.

Los Alumnos Group

Los Alumnos was started in 2002 as a program designed for those adopted adults and others who are former participants of PLAC activities. It includes former La Semana campers, and past Corazon Latino Dance Troupe participants, whether adoptees or non-adoptees. As well as recognizing that not everyone who was adopted may have had the opportunity to participate in one of these PLAC activities. We are inclusive of those adopted adults who believe in the initial value of the Parents of Latin American Children: to create a place for Latino children and youth to learn about their heritage from Latinos in our communities, and fall in love with their native cultural heritage, as they blend it with their current culture, and who desire to give back to the greater community of PLAC.

Los Alumnos activities are organized and carried out by Alumni who wish to have a voice and are able to contribute to the PLAC Organization in their own unique way, by volunteering, being a positive role model for other children who are adopted, and being supportive to the new young adults as they find their own direction in their communities and world.

To receive more information about Los Alumnos activities, please contact
alumnilasemana@gmail.com.