



BCA to Start Unique Spanish Language Program

In an effort to expand understanding of the Spanish language and culture while taking into consideration the unique learning requirements of adults, BCA is sponsoring a six-week program of group conversation sessions to help adult learners acquire and exercise Spanish language skills. Each group will be assigned one or more BCA volunteer facilitators who will help the group establish goals and measure progress. At least one BCA volunteer with each group will be fluent in Spanish, and some of the volunteers will be native Spanish speakers. Starting this fall, BCA will sponsor two weekly sessions, one for beginning and one for intermediate Spanish speakers. As the program develops, BCA will add more sessions, possibly starting in 2020.

Organizational Meeting will be held Tuesday, October 15:

In order to get the program started, BCA will hold an organizational meeting for interested participants at the Tubac Community Center:

- **DATE:** Tuesday, October 15, 2019
- **TIME:** 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
- **WHERE:** Tubac Community Center, 50 Bridge Rd, Tubac, AZ 85646

During this meeting, BCA leadership and staff will introduce the program facilitators and provide a program overview, including a sneak peek at the instructional videos and study aids that will be used to prepare for each weekly conversation session.

Small Conversation Groups will start Week of October 21:

Starting the week following the organizational meeting, each of the two conversation groups will meet once a week for six weeks at the BCA offices in Tubac:

Let's Speak Spanish Group 1: Every Tuesday at 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM.

Let's Speak Spanish Group 2: Every Thursday at 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM.

Note: The first five weeks of classes will be held the weeks of October 21, 28 and November 4, 11, 18. The sixth and final week will be held the week of December 2, following a one-week break for Thanksgiving.

Register for the Program:

If you would like to participate in this program and attend the organizational meeting, please register at the BCA website. The cost for the 6-week program will be \$80 for non-BCA members and \$60 for BCA members. No special textbook will be required for the program, and BCA will provide all study guides and other learning tools needed during the program. Please note that each conversation group will be limited to no more than 12 learners, and every effort will be made to place learners with similar skill levels together. All other interested participants will be wait-listed for any openings that may occur or any additional group sessions that may be added.

IMPORTANT: After registering for the October 15th organizational meeting, it is important that you fill out an on-line questionnaire to review your current Spanish Language skills. A link to the questionnaire will be provided at the BCA website when you register.

How the Program Works:

BCA's unique learning approach will be based on a number of free video series currently available on YouTube and selected to stimulate conversation and increase understanding of important Spanish language concepts and Mexican social practices. The themes of the weekly video episodes will be used to identify conversation topics for the discussion group sessions. At the start of the meeting, each member will be asked to make a brief presentation in Spanish involving an identified topic. Next, the group will pair off and practice conversation using BCA-provided study aids. Finally, the facilitator will lead a discussion about important language features for the week and review the study topics for the next week.

Please note that the BCA program is not intended to provide a formal classroom experience for learning Spanish. Rather, the program is intended as way for interested Spanish learners to exercise language skills in an interactive environment and eliminate common roadblocks to building competence in Spanish conversation. Participants are encouraged to combine this program with other Spanish learning opportunities, including formal classes, online programs and apps, personal tutoring, and other learning formats.

We Also Need Volunteers:

BCA has lined up a number of volunteers to serve as facilitators for the first two conversation groups, but we anticipate needing more volunteers as the program expands. It is important to emphasize that the volunteer facilitators for the small groups will not be involved in a formal teaching regime, but rather as leaders of a group-centered approach emphasizing interaction among the members, with the facilitators serving as helpers rather than teachers.

BCA members interested in serving as facilitators currently should have a level of fluency in Spanish, with an emphasis on confidence in everyday conversation. A strict understanding of grammar expected of a trained teacher is not necessary since the most of the conversations in the small groups will likely use relatively simple grammatical structures.

Prior to the October 15th organizational meeting at the Tubac Community Center, BCA will invite all volunteers to participate in planning sessions at the BCA office to discuss, review, and practice how the 6-week program will unfold.

If you are interested in serving as a volunteer or if you have any questions about the program, please send an email to Jim Hoff, who is coordinating the overall program for BCA. In the email please include a self-assessment of your Spanish language skills – advanced conversational, fluent, or native speaker. Also, if you have any questions, Jim will be happy to respond to you directly.

Jim's email is jhoff@tegnos.org

Please note that Jim will be out of the country until Sunday, September 15, but he will respond to any questions as quickly as possible starting Monday, September 16.