



INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY WORKCAMPS

The Netherlands 2019



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SIW PROJECTS 2019: OVERVIEW

Name	Code	Location	Dates	Type	Vols	Age	Extra fee p.p.	Specific requirements
Fairtransport - 'Den Helder'	SIW-1901	Den Helder	18.08 - 01.09	MANU	6	18+	€ 25	Motivation letter, good level of English
Refugee centre - 'Emmen'	SIW-1902	Emmen	14.07 - 28.07	SOC, CULT, KIDS, REFU	15	18+	€ 25	Motivation letter, good level of English, Certificate of Conduct
State Forestry - 'Oudemolen'	SIW-1903	Oudemolen	17.08 - 31.08	ENVI	20	18+	€ 25	
Emmaus - 'Haarzuilens'	SIW-1904	Utrecht Haarzuilens	18.08 - 01.09	SOC, FEST	8	18+	€ 25	Motivation letter, good level of English
State Forestry Noard-Fryslân - 'Twijzel'	SIW-1905	Twijzel	24.08 - 07.09	ENVI	16	18+	€ 25	
Zonnehoeve - 'Zeewolde'	SIW-1906	Zeewolde	03.08 - 17.08	AGRI, ENVI	15	18+	€ 25	Motivation letter

SIW projects in short

SIW Internationale Vrijwilligersprojecten (SIW International Volunteer Projects) is a Dutch non-governmental, non-profit voluntary service organisation that was founded in 1953.

Every year, SIW sends approximately 175 volunteers to foreign sister-organisations in Europe, North America, Asia, Latin America and Africa; in total about 120 organisations in more than 70 countries. These volunteers can choose between voluntary workcamp projects (2 weeks) in international groups and Mid-Long Term Volunteering (projects that last 3 weeks to 12 months).

SIW is also a host and supporting organization for the European Solidarity Corps (ESC). Candidates from ESC program countries can apply and the period of volunteering is up to one year. For further information, please contact our office.

In 2019 SIW organises 6 international work camps in the Netherlands. These take place in summer and last for two weeks (short-term projects). We organise these work camps in cooperation with Dutch social organisations such as the Dutch State Forestry, Emmaus (international charitable movement to combat poverty and homelessness) and the Central Agency for Refugees and Asylum Seekers. In the past years SIW has welcomed up to 100 volunteers from all over the world.

The mission of SIW is to stimulate people to broaden their horizon. This is achieved by bringing volunteers into contact with different cultures. This way, SIW wants to facilitate international contact and understanding, contribute to the personal growth and development of young people and encourage them to carry out social, cultural and environmental work. That work is offered in our projects in the Netherlands and in the projects organised by partners from our network abroad.

In 2019 SIW has two paid part-time office employees. In addition we have many volunteers, who help us organize inspiring projects in the Netherlands. Thanks to the current total of 70 volunteers in our organization, SIW is able to serve volunteers from all over the world!

All of our projects are put together and created in our little office in the centre of Utrecht, a city in the centre of the Netherlands, and supervised by an active and involved unpaid board, consisting of 8 members.

SIW's income largely consists of contributions and subscription fees from the project participants, and funds for projects in the Netherlands. These grants come from different sources. The organisation does not receive any regular grants.

In 2019 SIW organises 6 international volunteer projects in the Netherlands in cooperation with various Dutch social organisations. These projects take place in summer and take up to two weeks. These are all Short-Term Volunteering projects (STV). At the moment SIW doesn't organize Mid-Long Term Volunteering projects or Long Term Volunteering (LTV) in the Netherlands for international volunteers.

General conditions for participants

Age limit: 18+

Common language used in the camps: English. Volunteers must be able to speak at least basic English. For some of the projects, at least an intermediate level in English language is required.

Maximum volunteers per country: there will be a maximum of 2 volunteers per nationality in order to have an intercultural group.

Insurance: SIW insurance covers the liability for inflicted damages to/by volunteers who participate in our projects. *This is only the case when personal insurances don't cover the costs.* Please note that private liability, medical costs and theft of personal property are not covered. Therefore, all participants are obliged to make their own arrangements for travel insurance and for manual volunteer work covering medical insurance and private liability and bring proof of this insurance. We recommend 'World Nomads Travel Insurance (Explorer plan)' or 'Gouda Isis Incoming Travel Insurance' (please contact SIW when interested in the 'Gouda' insurance, at least two weeks before departure).

Application and selection: SIW starts placing volunteers on **12 March 2019** on a first come first serve basis. Please make sure that you submit all necessary documents. Volunteers from Europe need to show proof of payment of the participation fee (see below). For some projects a motivation letter or certificate of conduct is required (see below). We will not start the placement procedure, if not all necessary documents are submitted. Applications received at an earlier date will receive a response from 12 March onwards. Please contact us if you need more information.

Travel arrangements

Please make sure you arrive at the day your project starts. If you arrive earlier (for example because flights are much cheaper), you will need to make your own arrangements for accommodation. If, after the project has been completed, you plan to stay longer or like to travel onwards, you also need to make your own arrangements. A later arrival or earlier departure from a project needs to be discussed and agreed upon with SIW in advance. Please also consider more sustainable ways of travelling: within Europe you can for example travel cheaply by bus and have a much lower carbon footprint (www.eurolines.com and www.global.flixbus.com). If you fly from abroad you may want to consider to join a CO2 emission scheme. For some guidance check <https://greenseat.nl/en/how-to-travel-green/>. Other options are train (www.interrail.eu) and carpooling (www.blablacar.com, www.carpooling.com, www.carpoolworld.com, www.rideforcents.org and www.roadsharing.com) .

Nearest airport and train station

For most SIW international work camps Amsterdam Schiphol Airport is the nearest airport. Right under Schiphol airport is a train platform. Several budget airlines travel to/from Eindhoven Airport as well. More information about nearest terminal and meeting points will be described in the detailed info sheets. Train tickets are not to be booked in advance, but an OV chipcard needs to be purchased at railway stations. You can use this OV-chipcard to travel on all forms of public transport including trains, buses, trams and metros. Detailed information about the different kinds of OV-chipcard, the costs and how to use it will be given later.

Work

The work carried out during our projects is organised by our Dutch partners. The work can vary from cutting trees and piling paths to working in a second-hand shop together with former homeless people. The volunteers will work up to 30 hours a week, having the weekends off. There is one exception: during the 'Emmaus project' volunteers will also work on Saturday, but will have a free day on a working day instead.



Leisure activities

During all projects time can be spent to explore the surroundings and more of the Netherlands. On most projects bikes are available and public transport is in the near vicinity to travel around the area. The camp leaders will propose how the project theme (see pg.10) can be elaborated and discuss this with the group. Some free time will be spent on activities related to this theme. The camp leaders will prepare some activities, but participants are expected to come up with ideas themselves as well.

Camp leaders

Typically two camp leaders of SIW supervise each project. These camp leaders will be trained by SIW to successfully organise the work camp. They carry out a large part of the practical preparatory work and arrange daily matters during the project. They will be living and working together with the participants during the project. The camp leaders also organise and lead most of the leisure activities and make sure that the participants will have a great time in the Netherlands! However, we expect the volunteers not to sit and wait until the camp leaders take action: we expect them to be proactive and to develop initiatives to take on and participate in the organisation of recreational and other activities.



Bicycles

In the Netherlands everyone rides a bicycle and so will the volunteers on all SIW's projects. It is easy to cycle in the Netherlands due to its flat surface and for those who have never cycled before: camp leaders or other volunteers are often willing to help other volunteers to learn how to ride a bike.

Food

For breakfast and lunch Dutch people eat typically bread and sandwiches. A warm meal is typically only eaten in the evening. SIW will do its best to take dietary requirements and allergies into account, if SIW is informed in advance.

Drugs and alcohol

The fact that soft drugs are (almost) legal in The Netherlands is for some international participants a reason to enrol in Dutch work camps. It must be made clear however that SIW has adopted the rule that for **all** our work camps it is **strictly forbidden** to use drugs. Limited drinking of alcohol is allowed, as long as volunteers respect the work schedule. Note that on the Emmaus project and the Refugee Centre project in Emmen alcohol is prohibited on working days; alcoholic drinks are allowed during the weekends but only when discussed with the Emmaus staff or COA staff.

Motivation letter

For some of our projects, we ask for a motivation letter. Our social projects are very interesting and will no doubt be a special experience but they also require specific attention. We think it is important that participants make a well-considered decision to enrol in one of these work camps. Therefore, we ask for a motivation letter for these projects. Also, for some physically challenging projects we ask for a motivation letter. In their motivation letter participants can explain why they want to participate in the project, whether they have any kind of experience that can be a valuable addition to the project, what they expect from the project and what they would like to learn. Specific experience is not required to enrol in SIW projects; an open mind and attitude and a strong motivation to enrol in the project is most important. For the refugee centre project in Emmen we adopted the additional requirement that volunteers require a certificate of conduct.

Info sheets and welcome letter

At least six weeks before the project starts, the participants will receive an up-to-date information sheet about the work camp they will participate in. The info sheet contains information about the terminal and pick-up times, relevant addresses and telephone numbers, information about the work, a list of what to bring and a short introduction of the camp leaders.

Right before the start of the work camp the camp leaders send a welcome letter to all participants in which they will introduce themselves, emphasize what participants should bring, and have the opportunity to give the latest information about the project. It will also include the details of our Trusted Person in case a volunteer would like to share a concern.

Participation fee

The participation fee for all of our work camps in 2019 is 25 euros. The fee was introduced when SIW faced financial difficulties. SIW is doing financially better now, but still the possibilities to cover the costs of projects through local and national grants are limited. That is why we still have to keep the participation fee in place in order to be able to organise our projects. This fee is spent on project logistics such as food, utilities and transportation.

Volunteers from Europe are requested to transfer the amount of 25 euro to the following bank account: NL28INGB0000004075 in the name of SIW STICHT INTERNATIONALE VRIJWILLIGERSPROJECTEN. Alternatively you can use our Paypal account penningmeester@siw.nl. Please contact SIW in case you need to pay a significant banking fee. Volunteers from outside Europe can use our Paypal account or pay in cash on arrival at the work camp.

For volunteers from Europe receipt of the fee by SIW is required before their application can be processed. Volunteers from outside Europe can pay the fee on arrival. The fee is non refundable and will not be reimbursed in case of cancellation or no show.

Additional funds

Participants are requested to bring sufficient funds to cover the costs of travel to and from the project location, private expenses and the costs of extra recreational activities, as these cannot be covered by the participation fee. Such extra recreational activities vary from project to project and might include e.g. a visit to a nearby town (Amsterdam, Utrecht, Groningen), a boat ride in the canals of Amsterdam or Utrecht, a visit of the open air theatre at Almere or mudwalking in the Waddenzee.

Map of the SIW workcamps in 2019



Fun facts about the Netherlands

Did you know that..

- ❖ "the Netherlands" and "Holland" are used to describe the same country?
- ❖ one quarter of the Netherlands is below sea level?
- ❖ the Netherlands have approximately 495 inhabitants per square kilometre?
- ❖ with only 0.008% of the world's area, the Netherlands are the world's second largest agricultural exporter?
- ❖ the Netherlands were one of the European Union's founding nations?
- ❖ the Netherlands have at least 35.000 km of cycle tracks?
- ❖ the Dutch language is also spoken in Belgium, northern France, Suriname, the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba?
- ❖ the Netherlands still have about 1,200 traditional working windmills?
- ❖ the Dutch are the tallest people in Europe?
- ❖ Amsterdam is entirely built on poles?
- ❖ almost every Dutch person has a bicycle and there are twice as many bikes as cars?
- ❖ people in Holland eat raw herring with onions on top?
- ❖ about 20% of all Dutch babies are born at home?
- ❖ the Netherlands have the highest number of part-time workers in the EU (four in ten people)?
- ❖ the Netherlands' highest point is 323 metres high and is therefore called a "mountain"?
- ❖ most Dutch people speak at least one foreign language?
- ❖ after Scandinavians, the Dutch are the world's biggest coffee drinkers?
- ❖ Amsterdam has 1.281 bridges?
- ❖ when Dutch schoolchildren pass their exams, they hang a Dutch flag and a school bag outside their homes?



SIW theme 2019: “Connect with the local community!”

Theme 2019

Every year SIW connects a special theme to its voluntary work camps in the Netherlands. This year’s theme will be “Connect with the local community!”

Implementation of the theme

During the 2019 international volunteering projects, SIW wants to encourage a discussion between the participants and with the local community. The theme is broad. It is up to the camp leaders and the group to work out the theme in more detail. In addition to this general theme, SIW suggests that the group also pays attention to one of the United Nations’ SDG’s (Sustainable Development Goals). Participants are invited to find a creative way, such as a play/performance, song, poetry or art out of recycling materials, to promote the targets that are part of the chosen SDG and how people can contribute to reaching them. They will interact with the local community on this SDG by inviting them to participate in their creative activity or watch their creative product.

Aims of the theme

- ✓ To support the interaction between international participants and locals near the project
- ✓ To create more awareness on SDG’s in a creative way.
- ✓ To have fun!

Manual project SIW-1901 - Fairtransport 'Den Helder'

For the rough and the tough



Dates: 18 August - 1 September

Participants: 6

Type: MANU

Age: 18+

Location: Den Helder, province of Noord Holland, the North West of the Netherlands

Participation fee: € 25,-

Location & partner: Our partner, Fairtransport Shipping and Trading, is situated in Den Helder at the most northern point of the province of Noord-Holland, which is surrounded by water on the north and west side. In 2007, three friends began a shipping company here. They wanted to create the world's first modern "emission free" shipping company, based in the Netherlands. The prime goal of Fairtransport is to sail cargo in an emission-free way. They try to focus on special products, such as olive oil, wine and rum, which are produced or crafted in a traditional manner. By setting up this company they wanted to raise awareness about the huge amounts of pollution that is created by the modern shipping industry and to impact the way in which goods are transported around the world in a positive way.

Work: This project is specially put together for the rough and the tough. In cooperation with volunteers of Fairtransport, the participants will work on the maintenance of the 32-meter schooner sailing ship *Tres Hombres*. This type of ship was first used in the early 20th century. During the maintenance, we use tar which gives a persistent smell that the volunteers will carry with them. The work for this project will be hard and the volunteers should expect long working days. However, in the end it will all be worth it because the volunteers are given the opportunity to work on a secular ship and imagine themselves to be part of the Dutch Golden Age.

Accommodation & food: Volunteers will stay in basic accommodation near the Fairtransport grounds. Participants need to bring their own sleeping bags.

Leisure activities: Together with the camp leaders the volunteers will discuss the recreational program. Den Helder historically is home to the country's main naval base and, additionally, it has a beautiful dune landscape with low dune tops, a dune lake, dune valleys and forests, which form an ideal environment for special plants and birds. Leisure time will also be spent on the general theme Connecting with the local community.

Requirements

- ✓ Motivation letter
- ✓ At least an intermediate level of English
- ✓ Safety boots (Obligatory! Every person working on the ship is required to wear them, therefore you will NOT be allowed to work on the ship when you fail to take them with you)
- ✓ Old/working clothes
- ✓ Sleeping bag
- ✓ Towel, bathing/suit
- ✓ Rubber boots
- ✓ High top sneakers
- ✓ Rain is spread out over the year, so bring warm clothes

Social project SIW-1902: Refugee centre 'Emmen'

Bring a smile on the faces of children



Dates: 14 - 28 July

Participants: 15

Type: SOC, CULT, KIDS, REFU

Age: 18+

Location: the city of Emmen, province of Drenthe, northern Netherlands

Participation fee: € 25,-

Location & partner: The location of the project is the Refugee Centre Emmen. Emmen is a city of about 60.000 inhabitants in the province of Drenthe in the northern part of the Netherlands. This refugee centre (in Dutch: 'AZC Emmen') has a capacity for about 400 refugees. This particular place is a location for families with under age children whose application for asylum has been denied by the Dutch government. These families will in time return to their homeland.

Our partner is the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (in Dutch: COA). The COA provides accommodation during the asylum procedure and prepares asylum seekers for staying in the Netherlands, returning to their country of origin or transmigration. At the moment COA manages about 100 centres in the Netherlands. COA is an independent administrative body funded by the Dutch Ministry of Justice.

The COA works together with a partner named 'De Vrolijkheid': the National Foundation for the Promotion of Happiness. The Happiness is a multicultural, not-for-profit network of artists, play writers, actors, musicians and volunteers who invest in children and teenagers in asylum-seeking centres. The Happiness organises creative activities on a regular basis in 30 asylum-seeking centres in the Netherlands.

Work: The project takes place in the refugee centre in Emmen which is a location for families with children. The children you will be working with are between 4 and 12 years of age. These children participate in a school program, but during the months of July and August, there is the summer holiday break. The volunteers will then organise activities for and with the children. This type of work calls for creative people who can make up all sorts of games from scratch to play with the children: music, sports, arts, language sessions, creativity, etc. Therefore the content of this project is up to you and the other participants. The games are scheduled throughout the week.

Accommodation & food: Volunteers will stay at a campsite. You will need to bring your own tent, sleeping bag and matras. There are cooking facilities in a cooking tent and the group will cook for themselves. The centre will provide bikes for every volunteer to ride between the campsite and the Refugee Centre (including bike ride lessons). Volunteers will bring a packed lunch to the worksite.

Leisure activities: Of course there will be sufficient free time. Together with your camp leaders you will discuss the recreational program. Emmen is an attractive city with lots of activities in the summertime. You can visit places nearby and explore the surroundings. The area is declared a UNESCO-Geopark by the United Nations. Emmen is very well accessible by train and bus. Biggest

attraction is the new theme park Wildlands Adventure Zoo (opened in 2016). Leisure time will also be spent on the general theme Connecting with the local community.

Requirements

- Due to the nature of the work a Certificate of Conduct and a motivation letter are required
- Relevant training or professional experience is desirable
- At least an intermediate level in English. Understanding of any other language (e.g. French or Arabic) is greatly appreciated.
- Sleeping bag, tent and sleeping mat.
- Old working clothes and shoes
- Rain is spread out over the year, so bring warm clothes, a raincoat and a swimming suit!

Environmental project SIW-1903: State Forestry - 'Oudemolen'

Working on nature preservation in a Dutch National Park



Dates: 17 - 31 August

Participants: 20

Type: ENVI

Age: 18+

Location: Oudemolen, province of Drenthe, northern Netherlands

Participation fee: € 25,-

Location & partner: The 'Drentsche Aa' area is a varied old cultural landscape, shaped by age old interplay of agriculture and nature. The 'Drentsche Aa' is also the name of the stream that meanders through this area and creates a typical landscape that is declared National Park. It includes 16 authentic villages. The partner in this project is the Dutch State Forestry, commissioned by the Dutch government to manage a large part of the nature reserves in the Netherlands. In 2019 it will be the 12th anniversary of this project in Oudemolen, so project Oudemolen is almost part of the region's collective memory. This certainly counts for the locals residents who have shown a lot of interest in the volunteers and, in some or another way, will always be involved in the project. Volunteers can count on a warm welcome.

Work: The participants will do different activities of nature protection like cutting, dredging, pilling up the paths, haymaking and light construction work. You will also work together with other local people who do voluntary nature work. The local rangers are very supportive and looking forward to host you in their beautiful area. 'The Drentsche Aa' has been nominated most beautiful landscape of the Netherlands.

Accommodation & food: Volunteers are expected to bring their own tent, airbed or matras and sleeping bag. You will stay at the beautiful situated private campsite of the State Forestry location Oudemolen. The group will cook for themselves in a barn that is equipped with all cooking facilities. There is one shower and one toilet. Bicycles will be provided, this will be your transportation to the various worksites.

Leisure activities: of course, the camp leaders and partner organization will encourage the volunteers to put forward their own ideas for a recreational program, but in this project it is a tradition that activities are being suggested and/or organised by State Forestry, e.g. a 'mudwalking' tour on the 'bottom' of the Wadden area; a Unesco World Heritage Site because of the world's largest area of intertidal sand and mudflats. A unique experience! Other activities during the week can be swimming, bicycling, visiting the flourishing city of Groningen or the Westerbork transit camp (where Anne Frank was imprisoned). Leisure time will also be spent on the general theme Connecting with the local community.

Requirements

- Tent, an airbed/mat and sleeping bag
- Old/working clothes
- High top sneakers (needed for mud walking)
- Rubber boots (working fields can be very muddy!)
- Rain is spread out over the year, so bring warm clothes, a raincoat and a swimming suit!

Social project SIW-1904: Emmaus 'Haarzuilens'

Help out former homeless people in a second-hand store



Dates: 18 August - 1 September

Participants: 8

Type: SOC, FEST

Age: 18+

Location: Haarzuilens, province of Utrecht, the middle of the Netherlands

Participation fee: € 25,-

Location & partner: Our partner, Emmaus Haarzuilens, is situated in the small, beautiful neighbourhood of Haarzuilens. It is very close to Utrecht and to the Castle of Haarzuilens. Emmaus Haarzuilens is a community which provides home for former homeless people and others who strongly feel related to Emmaus ideology. Within the community the residents work to bring back value to second hand objects and, at the same time, build their self-esteem. All the people who live at Emmaus work at the second hand store that also includes a recycling section. The money earned by doing this work is used to finance the community and for supporting international social projects. Volunteers will not only work, but also live together with the inhabitants of Emmaus Haarzuilens. We thereby want to emphasize that living together also means preparing and eating the meals together and do some cleaning and light house work. It means that volunteers are expected to live by the rules of Emmaus; following the Emmaus philosophy and considering the background of some of the Emmaus residents, **use of alcohol is prohibited during working days.**

Work: The most important aim of the project is for volunteers to get a better understanding of Emmaus and the Emmaus philosophy. The volunteers will live and work together with the residents of Emmaus. Because of the summer market, which will take place at the end of the project, this period of the year will be extra busy. The volunteers will help out where necessary, which can mean that some days are busier and others less so. The work will include picking up second hand goods together with the Emmaus residents and placing them in the shop. The volunteers will help with gardening and other maintenance works on the grounds of the community and they will help in the kitchen. At the end of the project the volunteers will help with the set-up and break-down of the festival and the organization of a fashion show to present the second hand clothes that are for sale. The income from this sale is fully used to support a chosen special project.

Accommodation & food: Volunteers will stay in comfortable accommodation at the Emmaus grounds. Beds are provided, but participants need to bring their own sleeping bags. They will cook and eat together with the residents of Emmaus.

Leisure activities: Together with the camp leaders the volunteers will discuss the recreational program. For example, they can explore the beautiful historical city centre of Utrecht by bike, climb the Dom Tower, go canoeing on the canals, visit a museum, or visit other places in The Netherlands. The camp leaders will have some ideas, but of course it is possible for the volunteers to put forward their own ideas for this program! Leisure time will also be spent on the general theme Connecting with the local community.

Requirements

- **Motivation letter** required, due to the specific rules and motivation of the residents
- At least an intermediate level in English
- Sleeping bag
- Rain is spread throughout the year, so bring warm clothes, a raincoat and a swimming suit!
- Mosquito repellent, as the location is situated next to the water there are a lot of mosquitoes.

Environmental project SIW-1905: State Forestry Noard-Fryslân - 'Twijzel'

Helping the rangers protecting the swamps of the Netherlands



Dates: 24 August - 7 September

Participants: 15

Type: ENVI

Age: 18+

Location: Twijzel, province of Fryslân, northern Netherlands

Participation fee: € 25,-

Location & partner: The working area of 'State Forestry Noard-Fryslân' offers a various landscape with a rough swamp nature. It is a perfect area to walk around so you can see the various landscapes. There are a lot of little lakes here in the north of Fryslân. The partner is the Dutch State Forestry, commissioned by the Dutch government to manage a large part of the nature reserves in the Netherlands. Working towards a sustainable living environment for man, plant and animal is central to their mission. It is a social organization, working for and on behalf of society, cooperating actively with Dutch citizens and the organisations and institutions that represent them.

Work: The volunteers will work in the area surrounding Twijzel, a small village in Fryslân, known for its cultural-historic and blooming blue-grass landscapes and swamp forests. The participants will play an important role in the preservation of the flora and fauna of the area. Together with the state forest rangers the volunteers will do different activities such as cutting, dredging and maintaining the paths. Because of the unique status of the area this is work that cannot be carried out by machines. So the volunteers will play a vital role in the nature preservation. The rangers are very enthusiastic and will tell you all about the special species that live in this area. During the week they will organise excursions and volunteers will work together with local volunteers.

Accommodation & food: Volunteers will stay in small bungalows with 6 beds per bungalow. Each bungalow has its own bathroom, toilet and kitchen with equipment. The group will do groceries and cook together for themselves. The State Forestry provides bikes for every volunteer to go back and forth from the accommodation to the worksite. Volunteers will bring a packed lunch to work and eat on the site, either outside or inside a work trailer depending on the weather.

Leisure activities: Together with the camp leaders the volunteers will discuss the recreational program. For example they can explore the area by bike, go swimming, visit a museum or other places in the Netherlands, such as Leeuwarden, a city nearby. The camp leaders will have some ideas, but of course it is possible for the volunteers to put forward their own ideas for this program! Leisure time will also be spent on the general theme Connecting with the local community.

Requirements

- Old/working clothes
- Rubber boots (working fields can be very muddy!)
- High top sneakers
- Rain is spread out over the year, so bring warm clothes, a raincoat and a swimming suit!

Agricultural project SIW-1906: Zonnehoeve Zeewolde

Participate in life on an organic farm



Dates: 3 - 17 August

Participants: 15

Type: AGRI, ENVI

Age: 18+

Location: Zeewolde, province of Flevoland

Participation fee: € 25,-

Location & partner: The organic farm Zonnehoeve is located near Zeewolde, a small town in the province of Flevoland. Flevoland is “new land”: some 50 years ago, in 1968, this area was recovered from the Zuiderzee, a branch of the North Sea. Zonnehoeve was created in 1981. It is an exciting development in agriculture based on a closed production cycle: cattle breeding and agriculture service each other; all waste remains within the farm and is reused. The livestock of the Zonnehoeve - horse and cattle - graze on the lands of the Dutch State Forestry, the organisation commissioned by the Dutch government to manage a large part of the natural reserves in the Netherlands. In close cooperation with the State Forestry Zonnehoeve is working towards a sustainable living environment for man, plant and animal. Apart from its agriculture and cattle breeding branch the Zonnehoeve has a care branch: a living - working community for persons with development problems. This activity is integrated in the production cycle: the participants of the care facility work on the farm and in the bakery.

Work: the volunteers will work on the farm and in the natural reserve areas around the farm. They will carry out farm tasks, such as working the land, preparing a piece of land for a new purpose, cutting trees and plants, taking part in harvest activities, repairing fences and guarding cattle. In farming, weather conditions determine to some extent what is urgent. What will be done during the project period will therefore depend on what the farm management considers necessary at the time. Please note that this is a new project: things may turn out different from what SIW as well as the volunteers may expect initially. Therefore, volunteers need a flexible attitude. At the same time, Zonnehoeve is a unique experience and should not be missed !

Accommodation & food: the volunteers will have a common room, where they can relax, prepare food and eat. They will bring their own tents. They will camp in a field near the common room. In case of bad weather, they can sleep in the common room.

Leisure activities: Together with the camp leaders the volunteers will discuss the recreational program. The camp leaders will have some ideas, but of course it is possible for the volunteers to put forward their own ideas for this program! Leisure time will also be spent on the general theme Connecting with the local community. The farm management is available to explain the philosophy behind the Zonnehoeve operation. Zonnehoeve is located in the vicinity of some beautiful natural reserves. The forest rangers will be able to organise excursions into these areas. Also, the relatively

new city of Almere, and of course, the city of Amsterdam offer interesting options for excursions during the weekends.

Requirements

- Motivation letter
- Tent
- Sleeping mat
- Sleeping bag
- High top sneakers
- Rain is spread throughout the year, so bring warm clothes, a raincoat and a swimming suit

