



Help protect biodiversity and raise awareness for environmental issues in southern France!

Description

Are you passionate about protecting the environment and biodiversity in particular? Do you want to discover a region full of natural beauty and history, between a stunning mediterranean coastline, the mountains of the Pyrenees, castles and vineyards? Would you like to meet other young people motivated to protect the planet, as part of a team of eight including five French volunteers?

Come join us in Carcassonne!

Our missions consist in two main programmes that are closely interconnected and cooperate. One is focussed on working in nature (planting trees and hedges, taking care of natural spaces, observing biodiversity, ...). The other one focusses on raising awareness and doing educational work in various settings (e.g. community centres, schools and our association's headquarter that we are trying to transform into a "tiers-lieu" and where we already organise a monthly repair-café), especially in the socially disadvantaged neighbourhoods of Carcassonne and with a focus on promoting saving energy and energy efficiency. Both programmes function on a project basis, in close cooperation with partner associations and are subject to seasonality (= planting trees in the winter months, organising actions outside during spring and summer, ...). Both teams will work together frequently.

You will work as part of a team of eight (two teams of four, one for each focus) young people from different backgrounds, five of whom are French and eager to meet you to show you around the region! Furthermore, our organisation hosts volunteers on other projects, which will also help you to get to know France and enrich your experience of the area.

During the mission, a tutor as well as the team of Unis-Cité Carcassonne will also be at your side to help with any difficulties and coordinate the volunteers' work.

Accommodation, food and transport arrangements

The volunteers will be hosted in a "Résidence Habitat Jeunes", a residence for young people in the north of Carcassonne. European volunteers will share flats of two, with each volunteer having their own room and access to shared space (one person may share their apartment with a French roommate; unfortunately, the residence does not have flats that can host three people). The residence is very recent and can be reached by bus or by foot from the city centre and train station. A regional train pass is available at relatively low cost, allowing volunteers to discover the region. Also, there is a team in charge of cultural programme within the residence, proposing diverse activities and possibilities to get to know other young people.

The volunteers will also receive a food allowance and pocket money.

Training during the activity

We organise training on several topics linked to the mission, in cooperation with local partner associations. Many of our actions are organised together with local NGOs and prepared in cooperation with them, through training sessions.

In cooperation with a local language teacher, you will also be able to participate in four hours/week of French class (A1/A2 or B1/B2 class, difficulty adaptable depending on your current French skills). Depending on the profiles of our French volunteers, we can also organise a language tandem with them to help you learn even faster!

Of course, volunteers also take part in a “séminaire d’accueil” and “séminaire de mi-parcours” organised by the national agency.

Participant profile

We are looking for motivated volunteers – and that is pretty much the only condition!

Both French and international volunteers will start their mission the 5th of October with an integration week.

Prior knowledge on environmental issues and some French language skills are welcome, but not required: however, our working language is French and some French volunteers may not speak English, so volunteers should be motivated and open to learning French.

We are happy about any application that identifies with the described missions and are looking forward to meeting you soon!