



Further Information for Projects

Index

Introduction.....	2
Food and accommodation.....	2
Volunteering work.....	3
Volunteers Chose Their Placement Project.....	3
Planetary Service's Role & Project Support.....	4
Being part of the evaluation process.....	4
Volunteering areas.....	4
Promote the intercultural exchange.....	5
Spoken language - English.....	6

Introduction

In the following document you will find a more detailed description of what we hope from Planetary Service partnered projects as hosts of Planetary Service volunteers, especially considering that this first year will run as a prototype to adapt and refine the structure for future generations. The prototype year will begin in September 2023 and run until June 2024 after which the review phase will begin as well as the next Planetary Service editions.

Food and accommodation

We want the participants to be in service of the earth and the people in need, having a deep immersion into the volunteering experience for a whole year, and for that to happen they need to have the basic needs met. Essentially, participants do not have any daily costs associated with volunteering at a placement project. We do not expect the volunteers to have to find an income during their placement or spend time arranging for their basic needs to be covered. Therefore, **food and accommodation will be offered by the host project in exchange for the participant's time and contribution throughout the whole stay of the volunteers. The hosting project has to make clear and be transparent with the volunteer/s about the practicalities of how food and accommodation are going to be covered and arranged from the very beginning.**

Volunteering work

As Planetary Service we want to be very cautious that both the projects and the volunteers understand properly what volunteering work means for us to avoid misusing this concept.

We understand volunteering as an **average of 20-30 hours per week**. Giving participants **two days off a week**. We also understand that not all projects have a similar workload every day and week of the year. **Sometimes more or less work time could be required to fulfil the project's goals**. This is in principle **not a problem if it has been agreed upon between the project host and the volunteer/s previously and some form of compensation for time** e.g. more time off in a quieter period of the year is provided. Importantly, **volunteer work does not replace paid labour**. Volunteers will have certain tasks and responsibilities which may overlap with those of paid employees. However, the motivation and origin for volunteer work is based on an exchange of intercultural, personal and practical experience and basic necessities for helping out whereas a paid employee carries a larger responsibility and knowledge which is remunerated financially.

If this is unclear, we are happy to discuss it further in personal communications.

Volunteers Chose Their Placement Project

We would like to make clear that being part of the Planetary Service Movement as a project host does not assure that there is a volunteer from this same movement coming to your project every year. Planetary Service offers a mentoring framework to the participants but it is not a volunteering program where we are involved in every step the participant does or does not take. It is a self-designed and self-organised year and **it will be up to each participant to decide which project/s they will spend the year at. So being part of the Planetary Service Movement as a project host does not guarantee that there will be participants from Planetary Service coming to your project.**

Planetary Service's Role & Project Support

The role of Planetary Service is to act as an umbrella for all the projects and organisations working for a sustainable future in the areas of earth and people care, creating a big network of projects, organisations and people to connect to and will allow to find support and resources. Furthermore, the Planetary Service Movement will act as a support system for the participants via the mentoring framework design. We are keen on supporting host projects in any problem that may appear during the experience and we would like to have regular input with the project to learn how the project is going from their side. **However we would like to clarify that we do not take legal responsibility for the volunteer that comes to your project or organisation.**

Being part of the evaluation process

For the prototype we will ask the projects and organisations that host Planetary Service participants to be part of the evaluation process that will happen at the end of the trial to polish the idea together with the Planetary Service team. It will be a guided process and we will basically ask for feedback, inputs and insights from the experience so that we are able to learn from all the different parts that made it happen and try to improve or work on whatever did or didn't work.

Volunteering areas

For a project to be part of the Planetary Service Movement, it is essential that there is a commitment to solving earth or people care challenges (or a combination of both) and having some tasks which young people can help with.

> The way we understand the volunteering area of **earth** is the following:

This volunteering area has the goal of connecting young people to the earth and the nature we all are. It is a hands-on learning opportunity in a project or an organisation that is focused on solving challenges that the earth/nature is currently facing.

This could be:

- Volunteering on an organic/regenerative farm
- Volunteering on land restoration projects or tree planting projects
- Volunteering on marine/ocean conservation organisations
- Volunteering in animals shelters/sanctuaries/recover projects
- On sustainability projects or planet activist organisations
- Etc.

> The way we understand the volunteering area of **people care** is the following:

The goal of this volunteering area is to **practise the art of being at service to others** and contribute to the well-being and life quality of those who depend on others for care. How we interact and care for each other will define how we can continue to create cultures of care and wellbeing in the future.

This could be:

- Volunteering in old age homes, hospitals, homeless shelters
- Volunteering in projects or organisations focused on socially excluded people or projects that work with abused women, etc.
- Volunteering in projects for the old, the sick or the physically and/or psychologically disabled.
- Living in communities for people with disabilities (e.g. camphills)
- Volunteering in kindergartens
- Etc.

Promote the intercultural exchange

We encourage the participants to go out of their own realities and volunteer in projects and organisations where there can be an intercultural exchange. By doing so, participants can examine and reflect on their own culture, beliefs and world-views. Furthermore, it is a way for participants to see projects and organisations that are working for a better future and experience for themselves that there are points of light and hope all around the world.

We want to make very clear that intercultural experience not always means to go abroad or to another country, it can take different shapes and forms:

- It obviously could take place in a whole different continent or country
- It could also be by volunteering in projects/organisations either local or abroad where there are other international participants or people.
- Or even, if participation happens in the same country, exploring the different cultures that reside there or the cultures from different collectives that cohabit the city or the country.

We hope that **as a hosting project** you can **promote the participants' intercultural exchange**. You can **be as creative as you want/can/like** doing it, but we ask to keep it in mind and that is something that is taken care of throughout the whole period of the volunteers stay.

Some examples could be:

- Informing volunteers of activities happening around your area,
- Explaining how the culture of the country/collective is or sharing interesting facts,
- Being open to ask questions to volunteers from different backgrounds,
- Creating conversations (always with high respect and care when hearing different ways of doing things),
- Etc.

Support to the volunteers

We require that the project's hosts make the volunteers feel welcome and included and to keep in mind to look out for them. Offering caring support to check on them, being open minded, having clear communication and respect for one another throughout the whole experience is **key to having the best experience possible**. We do not guarantee that a specific type of volunteer will appear and thus we ask to be open minded with diversity and ways of being/living. Of course, if there should be an issue between the project and the volunteer we are here to help resolve any problems that exceed the capacity of the project hosting.

Mentoring framework requirement

The volunteers will simultaneously participate in the Planetary Service mentoring framework. It consists of weekly online meetings with other participants and a member of the Planetary Service team. They will also be taking part in three to four trainings and workshops that will be offered by Planetary Service throughout the whole year to give them some inspiration and resources to embody a more sustainable life and deal emotionally and mentally with a world in crisis. **We require that the projects are flexible with the volunteers' tasks and let them be part of anything related** to the mentoring framework whenever it overlaps with some of the tasks related to the project.

Spoken language - English

Given the international nature of Planetary Service we consider it important to have as a minimum a basic level of spoken English. This will be necessary to be able to host youth from all over the world and have a common language to speak with so that the experience can be as easy going as possible.

If you would like to understand what we expect from the volunteers please read through the placement host criteria document to avoid any misunderstanding.

Planetary Service team

18/5/2023