

9-12 months volunteer service in the Swiss mountains

A financially covered intercultural program for young adults

Are you between 18 and 30 years old and up for an adventure in the Swiss mountains? Do you love to work outdoors and are you motivated to learn traditional handicrafts? Would you like to explore Swiss culture? Do you love winter sports and want to learn how to ski?

Then we have the perfect volunteer experience for you! The project starts the 1st of June 2021 and is for 12 months.

Who are we?

Association **Naturkultur** is an organisation for intercultural youth exchanges in Switzerland, Israel and Ireland (“Building Walls Breaking Walls”). The exchanges always have an intercultural as well as a nature component and the aim is to get to know the natural environment of the exchange location and its locals. Through the European Volunteer Service (EVS) program, it would like to give 2-4 young adults the opportunity to experience nature and culture in the Swiss mountains.

The partner organisation in the Bern Alps is the Foundation "Stiftung Urgestein" in the picturesque village of Guggisberg in the Gantrisch mountains region, part of the world famous Swiss Alps. Through the coordination of the foundation you will volunteer in social, agricultural and nature institutions that operate both in summer and in winter.

What are your tasks?

There are **different tasks during your stay**. Most of the tasks is focusing on working outdoors in the mountains, some of the tasks are in a social institution:

Work in Gantrisch Nature Parc in the Swiss Mountains

- Work and renovate a dry stone wall up in the mountains:
- Improve the habitat of countless animals and plants
- Work for the local community
- Help to organize the work with the local community and the professional builders



Work in a social institution with disabled adults

- Help out in the Christmas cookie factory process
- Work with shepherds and farmers in the mountain regions
- Daily and weekly outreach to the local farming community
- Putting up and taking down fences
- Farming
- Wood chopping
- Other handicraft work outside

Work in the ski resort there during the winter season

- Taking care of the little children in the ski school

- Help in the office of the ski school
- Work around the lifts and trails

Environment and benefits of this program

You are going to live on the Alp Walop / Kaiseregalp, near Plaffeien- Boltigen, and later on in one of the villages in the Gantrisch region up in the Swiss Alps.

On top of that you will experience the following things:

- Loads of outdoor sports: hiking, biking, climbing and more
- Learning how to ski, snowshoe walking, cross country skiing and loads of more winter sports
- Travelling around in Switzerland: We will pay for a half-fare travelcard, which allows reduced fares for public transport
- German language course: you will get a language course for free in order to get to know the culture even better
- You will get a certificate that documents all your working and cultural experience which you can add to your personal CV



Accommodation: For the renovation the first two month you will live in a group accommodation for the workers and volunteers on the Kaisereggalp/ Alp Walop (this is the property of the community Plaffeien belonging there). For catering you have to cook yourself. In addition, you get a budget for food. The organization is also going to take care of your flight and insurance expenses and you will get some pocket money for every month.



Requirements: You are between 18-30 years old and available for the full 6 months. You have good knowledge in English and ideally in German. You are motivated to work outdoors in all weathers and would like to get to know the Swiss mountains and their culture.

Basic conditions offered to long-term volunteers

- Accommodation and all meals.
- Erasmus+ Program provides health insurance and travel expenses, plus training seminars at arrival and mid-term.
- German lessons (optional)
- Pocket money
- Continuous mentoring and support since arrival and throughout all the stay.
- Final certification about the work done and competences acquired.
- The practical and logistic matters will be handled by your sending organisation. SCI Switzerland will organize all administrative matters like insurance and visa.

Please write to evs@scich.org if you are interested in becoming an Erasmus+ volunteer. Please note that you can only apply if you are between 18-30 years old and if you have not volunteered through the Erasmus+ before.

Send your application via email to your Sending Organisation with the subject **EVS-Application Verein Naturkultur, Switzerland**, and include all the following documents in English:

- 1) CV, Curriculum Vitae
- 2) Specific motivation letter for the project

Deadline for the application: **as fast as possible**

More information about the project you find here: www.nakultur.ch