

Project Title	Le chant du pissenlit
Project's period	Long term project - 6 months
Location	Plateau de Sault La Bouichère 11140 Galinagues Aude (France) www.lechantdupissenlit.org/#Accueil.A lechantdupissenlit@gmail.com Telephone : (033)9.60.50.54.16
SVI contact	Pierre De Hanscutter www.servicevolontaire.org info@servicevolontaire.org +32 2 888 67 13 +32 495 680 934 (mobile phone)
Type	Environmental, Biodynamics farm
Max volunteers	1 volunteer

You might want to download the latest version of this infosheet [directly from our website](#).

Who are we?

We are the SVI, Service Volontaire International (International Voluntary Service), a non-profit youth association managed by and for volunteers, to whom we give the chance to engage themselves in voluntary projects all over the globe. We aim to make our projects accessible to all, regardless of their age, financial resources or skills.

Each year, we send about 350 volunteers to projects all over the globe, as we work with local associations in nearly 70 countries. Our volunteers help local independent organizations, which are not subsidized. Indeed, the local volunteers share our values.

Le chant du pissenlit



The village of Galinagues

“Le chant du pissenlit” is located in the quiet village of Galinagues, situated in the department of Aude, on the plateau of Sault. It is a place of professional training, discovery and experimentation. Its purpose is to animate this place where the respect for ecology, biodiversity and human development are a daily reality.

It is a farm belonging, since August 2009, to the SCA movement “Land of links” (www.ter-redeliens.org). It has 50 hectares, a herd of cattle, goats; as well as a backyard, a livestock building, a multipurpose room, an office, a kitchen and a cheese factory serving as a working basis. It is also equipped to receive people with physical disabilities.

There is also a baker that grows its own wheat and make bread two times a week. So you can find a small “bakery” in the farm.

Project :



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The association's goal is to make you participate in trainings, experiments and discoveries of cultural and agricultural activities such as : mixed farming, breeding, seeds, gardening, botany, landscape arts, green building, theatre, modeling, arts and all other activities related to the development of the human being and the protection of the environment.

It allows everyone to attend trainings with personalized modules through the work done in the farm, but also through the discovery of arts and crafts. The farm offers indeed a good setting for different audiences interested in different themes : agricultural settlement projects, school, social gardens, disabled people, etc... In general, anyone who wants to learn how to live on the farm, to learn different organic and/or biodynamic techniques, or that wants to connect with a well-defined project (botany, gardening, herbs, breeding, animal traction, transformation, land art, fosterling...). So, this place offers tools to deal with the current socio-economic development.

The farm was until now, a place of production since Jeannine was the head of agricultural holding during 30 years; it produced vegetables, bread, cheese... With the creation of the association, it became a place of transmission with joy and good humor.

This association is agri-cultural because it uses arts such as training and expression. Therefore, it makes it possible to associate the various activities of the farm with cultural activities such as landscape arts, theatre, modeling, music and dance...

Work :

The eco-volunteer will work in the farm, will help with the animals (for example : he will feed or translocate the goats), will go to the market to sell the products and will also help sometimes in crafts activities.

He can also be trained thanks to different workshops like : dairy goats, laying hens, gardening and bakery.

He will work 5 hours per day (so 35 hours per week) and will have to sign a convention.

Duration :

The volunteer will have to stay at least 6 months, because otherwise it would be too short; a period of adjustment is necessary to adapt and live the experience completely. He will have free time on weekends or any other day of the week.

Number of volunteers :

1 volunteer is the perfect number. It makes it possible for the organization to frame the volunteer's training.

Conditions :

- You have to be ready to face remoteness because Carcassone is 1 hour and 30 minutes away from the village, and there are two small cities called Lavelanet and Quillan 30 minutes away.

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 : +32 (0)2 888 67 13  : + 33 (0)3 66 72 90 20  : + 42 (0)3 25 11 07 31
info@servicevolontaire.org

- But you have to be very friendly, sociable and love to do things with other people.
- It is important to be fond of animal and appreciate the contact with them.
- Work can be really physical : working in a farm for several months and a cool climate (due to the altitude, 1.000 meters) requires a good physical condition.
- You must love hiking and not be afraid of getting dirty.
- Food is almost vegetarian because we do not often eat meat there.
- Volunteer must have insurance and their driving license.

Accommodation :

The volunteer will eat and sleep in the house of the person in charge of the project; he will have an individual room in the house.

Clothes and material :

- Volunteer need to bring clothes to go outside, clothes that can be dirtied, that are hot and comfortable. It is important to bring boots and walking shoes, a rain jacket and sweaters (it can be really hot or really cold and/or rainy).
- Computers, cameras etc... can be kept securely in your room.
- Volunteers will not have access to the internet all the time.
- It is an isolated village and it's perfect for those who like walking in the nature.

How to prepare your trip to France?

Plane trip to France :

Volunteers might want to visit [our website](#) for cheaper plane tickets.

Visa :

European citizens only need a national ID or a passport. Non-European citizen may need a visa. The visa must be requested at the embassy or French consulate of the country where you live. If there is no embassy or French consulate in the country where you live, you should contact the French Embassy, which is responsible for your country. It is usually located in a neighboring country. The procedure for visa application can sometimes take a long time. Therefore, you must [apply for a visa](#) at least four weeks before your departure.

Health :



You need a health insurance to cover your entire trip to France. Your sending association may help you find a suitable one. No vaccine is required but if you are going to do some physical work, we recommend that you take the vaccines against lockjaw and hepatitis. Make sure that you have seen a dentist before you leave home.

Volunteers must bring all the medicines they need. It might be complicated to buy it in France if you do not have the necessary documents to get it. The medicine you need might have a different name from the one it has in your country.

In case of accident all participants from foreign countries are insured by the International Volunteering Service.

Nevertheless you need to have your insurance and a health insurance.

European volunteers need their **European Health Insurance Card** up to date. You can get it for free!

Seven days before departure :

You need to confirm your trip seven days before departure by sending a confirmation form to your sending association (at home). That form will be communicated to the SVI, and allows us to organize your arrival with our partner association.

Volunteers need to know that their sending association is allowed to require some subscription fees independently from the project in France. These fees allow you to work and provide you with volunteering projects. For more information, volunteers need to contact their sending association. Once you arrive in France, there is no fee to pay to the host association.

When you arrive in France :

You can arrive by plane or by train at Carcassonne and then take the bus to go to Quillan. If you arrive at Perpignan, by plane or by train, you can also take the bus to Caudiès de Fenouillède or Axat. Once you are in one of these two cities, the association will come and pick you up by car.

If you want to come with your personal car, there is a map with the itinerary on the website of the association.

Phone :

To give a phone call in Belgium, it is necessary to dial +32 or 0032 and then the number without the initial 0. For example, if the volunteer needs to call SVI (International Volunteering Service) for any question or help about their volunteering, the local phone number is 028886713, but with a phone from any other country, you need to dial +3228886713 or 003228886713. The same principle applies if your relatives want to call you from abroad.

To give a phone call in France, it is necessary to dial +33 or 0033 and then the number without the initial 0.

Cheaper international phone calls

When you are abroad, giving and receiving phone calls can become very expensive. SVI recommends two services that are cheaper than traditional phone services :

- For a short term workcamp, **buy an international SIM card**, it will allow you to receive phone calls from a foreign country free of roaming fees. The person who calls you will only pay the price of a call to Europe, or nothing if you have a phone package in Europe. This card costs only 12€ and allows to write an unlimited number of text messages and have a cheaper internet access (if available).

Emergency phone numbers

If volunteers encounter any trouble related to their volunteering project, they can call SVI at +3228886713 or +32495680934.

The following numbers can be called free in any emergency situation:

	15 and 18	Medical emergency and fire service
	112	European service in case of accident or aggression
	05 61 77 74 47	Poison center
	05 61 32 27 43	Burn care center
	04 68 25 14 35	Help in case of sinister and catastrophe

It might be useful to check the address and phone number of **their country's embassy or consulate in France**.

How to prepare your luggage?

- It is crucial that volunteers bring all their stuff in a backpack and not in any other type of suitcase, which might become very uncomfortable to move after a long journey.
- You need to bring a sleeping bag.

We hope you will enjoy your stay in France !

Volunteers might want to download the latest version of this infosheet **directly from our website**.