

## Protection of biodiversity in wetlands near Camargue, S. France

[https://europa.eu/youth/volunteering/project/1743\\_en](https://europa.eu/youth/volunteering/project/1743_en)

Start: 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2017

End: 01<sup>st</sup> of June 2018

Spots: 2

Application deadline: No deadline

Pocket money:

Location: Arles, France

**Project description:** The A Rocha team offers young people the opportunity to acquire competences in scientific studies of flora, fauna and ecosystems and to put this into practice by implementing projects for managing and protecting sensitive or threatened sites. Most of the EVSs will have their own study project, and will write up a report at the end under the supervision of A Rocha's scientific specialist. EVSs can take part

in observation, follow-up or counting of species, taking samples and analyzing them, protecting biodiversity of the plots managed by A Rocha by planting hedges, creating ponds, removing invasive species, setting up nesting boxes or perches, etc. They will also show visitors round the centre or the experimental garden and participate in team logistics: meetings, helping prepare meals, etc We are looking for volunteers who have a real interest in protecting the environment. They will need to enjoy life in the country and the contact with the flora and fauna.

**Volunteer's profile:** We are looking for volunteers who have a real interest in protecting the environment. They will need to enjoy life in the country and the contact with the flora and fauna, which means sometimes putting up with difficult conditions, getting around by bike, the wind, dry heat, etc. The EVSs will have to show that they can take initiatives in the tasks they undertake and take them through to completion. They should not hesitate to ask for clarification or direction if necessary for their projects. A basic knowledge of French is an advantage for the volunteers, but not a necessity.

**Training during the project:** EVSs are under the daily responsibility of the scientific director. There is also a monthly team debriefing meeting during which the EVSs talk about how things are going and what they feel they need.

French lessons lasting 90 minutes are offered weekly for those who need it by a teacher who comes in specially, and one hour weekly conversation lessons are offered in-house. The EVSs spend time regularly on personal language study.

A system of shared tutoring will be set up between the sending organization, the young person and us, to improve the process.

**Accommodation, food and transport arrangements:** The volunteers are housed at the study centre, which is also the logistic base for the projects, the head office and the hub for running the life of the team. They share rooms (1 to 4 people of the same sex per room, depending on the number of people in the centre). Lunch and supper are eaten

together during the week with the team and any other participants at fixed times. Breakfasts are self-service. The team members take turns at preparing the meals for the group. Special diets are catered for. The centre is no-smoking. Bikes are available for getting around.

Additional information: A Rocha France was created in 2000 and has had a study centre (Les Tourades) since 2001. It is the French branch of the NGO A Rocha International, a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Since 2008, A Rocha France also manages the Domaine des Courmettes near Nice, a 600 ha privately owned nature area open to the public. In the Tourades centre, A Rocha has 2 salaried staff. One of these is the scientific director. Up to 30 volunteers and interns join the team at different times and take an active part in the projects.

How to apply: Send us an email with your CV and a letter of motivation.