TITLE	Paleozoic walks
NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS	2
EVS DURATION	10 months (flexible)
PLACE	Monsagro (Salamanca)
COORDINATING ORGANISATION	AFAIJ
HOSTING ORGANISATION	Monsagro municipality
STARTING FROM	2020 (flexible)
DEADLINE	No

MONSAGRO - Project Environment

Monsagro is a small village located in the district Salamanca (Castilla y León). It has a population of around 140 inhabitants, but due to its peaceful beauty and ideal climate, this rises to around 1000 in the summer months. It is located in the national park *Las Batuecas-Sierra de Francia*, and it belongs to the former 'Las Batuecas' National Hunting Reserve, made up of various neighbouring towns. It is located around 90km from Salamanca, the region's capital, 33km from Ciudad Rodrigo (to which it belongs in administrative terms), and 300km from Madrid. You can easily get to Salamanca on buses that leave daily from Ciudad Rodrigo.

About the town:

Monsagro has a town hall, a small primary school, a communal library, a botanical, garden, a recreational centre for the elderly and a bar. It has a brand new interactive fossil museum, since the village is an important showcase of over 400 million year-old marine fossils, which are embedded all around on paths and walls. The museum contains a newly-installed interactive virtual reality (VR) simulator!

Obviously, it is quite a small place that is fairly isolated. This means that if you are coming from a bustling city, or even a large town, you will likely experience a bit of a 'culture shock'. Don't let this put you off, as volunteers take it in their stride as a different – and often valuable – new experience. For information on one volunteer's experience of this, follow this link: http://awanderingcasiedilla.com/2015/06/01/i-lived-in-a-spanish-village-for-8-months-and-it-changed-me-forever/

AFAIJ: Asociación para la Formación y Actividades Interculturales para la Juventud

Calle de las magnolias 35 – 28029 Madrid, España. Tel/Fax +34 91 378 04 13
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Aims and Activities

The activities you can do as part of the project are either environmental (the volunteer will be placed in a work team with a few local workers who can guide them through what needs doing. Their hours are usually 07:00-15:00) or working with children (they leave mid-way through September). There is also the option to do a mix of both. The tasks included are listed below (but this is not an exhaustive list)…If they like, the volunteer can also participate in the museum. This would generally involve giving guided tours of the museum, so a good level of Spanish and/or English is important if you are interested! Someone with experience in IT would also be a good candidate for a position at the museum.

Environmental area:

- Helping maintain the national park (e.g. keeping tourist hotspots accessible and tidy such as viewpoints, paths, etc.)
- Helping maintain the botanical garden
- Helping keep areas at risk of forest fire clear and safe
- Supporting associations that work to prevent forest fires (helping with prevention methods etc.)
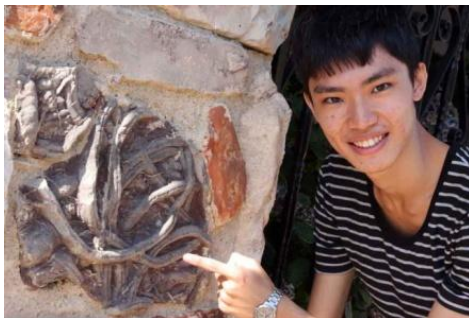
Children/young person's area:

- Teaching English to the children and the other volunteers (adults)
- Supporting school staff with carrying out activities, games and workshops with children
- Participation in the various activities organised by local volunteers
- If they like, offering their own new activities and games to the children

Fosils' museum

- Reception
- Maintenance
- If your level of Spanish/English is good enough, giving guided tours of the museum might also be an option

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Hosting situation

Volunteers will stay in a flat located at the centre of the village with their own bedroom (usually private, but it is possible they share with another volunteer). The bathrooms and kitchen is shared, and volunteers buy and cook their own food. There is WiFi. Volunteers are given 120€ a month (by AFAIJ) to buy food.

Volunteer profile
It would be convenient if the volunteers are/have:
- Over 20 years old.
- Medium level in Spanish.
- Medium level in English language.
- Flexible and open-minded.
- Interest for cultural, environmental or geological activities.
- Capable of living in a small village for months.
- No specific or professional training is required.

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