



INFOSHEET ASSOCIATION REV

Réseau d'Entraide Volontaire



WHO ARE WE ?

Association Solidarités Jeunesses (SJ)

is an association of a movement of **non formal education** which values

voluntary commitment,

Strong political will, and **solidarity** as its core principles.

Our course of actions is influenced by our ideal vision of society, in which the progress is social, respect for human beings and the environment is a fundamental and shared value, and the freedom to choose, to dream, and to resist is innate and encouraged by all.

Our activities are organised for all, regardless of gender, social and cultural background, or nationality.

Since its creation,

SJ participates in the construction and maintenance of peace by promoting intercultural and international social connections here in France and abroad.

SJ works through **participative pedagogy** which supports initiative and **personal commitment** and combines the skills and intelligences of all our volunteers and employees.

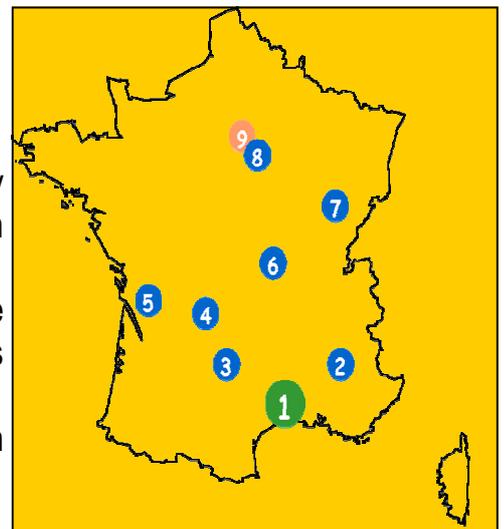
Solidarités Jeunesses is composed of one National Secretary based in Paris, 8 Regional

Delegations, Our delegations host volunteers from France and from all around the world for short or long periods of time all year round.

These places have all been renovated thanks to the work of our short- and long-term volunteers, workers and permanent staff

Did you know...?

The first workcamps were organised after the First World War, in the Verdun region of France. Citizens of countries hostile to each other during the war were hoping to actively facilitate reconciliation between their respective peoples, believing that the absence of war didn't necessarily indicate the lasting presence of peace. These men and women decided to cross their borders and unite their forces in order to work together, in the interest of all peoples, towards the sustainable **development of peace.**



ASSOCIATION REV Réseau d'Entraide Volontaire

The Occitanie EST Regional Delegation of Solidarités Jeunesses is called REV, for "Réseau d'Entraide Volontaire",

REV like a dream in French (rêve!).

Founded in 1974, the association became a delegation of Solidarités Jeunesses movement in 1979. Hosting youngsters with fewer opportunities was since the beginning in the core of the structure.

REV wants to give back this central place to this public. The implication of the association within local projects of inclusion and education bring forward the exchanges between local and international volunteers/participants. For several years, REV is settled in a old and stylish house, in Beauvoisin village.

If some of the workcamps are organised in the house itself like some renovation camps, there is no full year camp in it.

Indeed, the association organises workcamps around Beauvoisin, in different places to work on local and regional heritage. It is often the case that volunteers go to other villages to



work and discover other places, in partnership with locals and inhabitants. During summer time, life in REV gets more intense due to the rythm of international workcamps (that go on for some weeks or even some months). Those workcamps foster a lot the territorial impacts of the association in summertime, in cooperation with some local authorities and associations.

Beauvoisin is situated along the Camargue Region, 15 km from Nîmes, 35 km to the sea and 60km from the Cévennes Mountains.

VOLUNTEERING

Voluntary service is an exchange , a meeting between an individual, or a group of individuals, and a local community.

The volunteer offers time, energy, efforts and commitment to a project of benefit to a community., and through this experience and this project the volunteer has the opportunity for experimentation, intercultural learnings

In Solidarités Jeunesses, volunteering doesn't mean humanitarian actions, every volunteering experience is different regarding the country, the project, the cultures ..

In Le REV, **volunteering implies a personal commitment** which will invite any future volunteers to approach cultural diversity regardless age, origins, nationality, skills and which will invite volunteers to deep collective and personal discovery .



Ewa 's Volunteering feedback after one year experience in Le REV

« Every work and activity which i did this year tought me something new, even if sometimes it was difficult or i didn't like it from beggining, after all i can just say i'm really graceful for everything, because it was an amazing experience, which changed me (i hope) in good way.

The part of the project which i really loved and i was happy about, it's collective life.

For me it's the weirdest idea ever, to collect group of random people from different countries and cultures and let them live together. It can sound like a mess, but surprisingly it's amazing how you can create new family in this way.

Also the thing which i was really happy of is i discovered a lot of new cultures, differences and similarities between everyone and i'm sure i will never have get this knowledges in any school.

I feel like by this year, this project i touched in beautiful, amazing and definitely unforgettable way, a real life which is waiting for me after my volunteering. »

REV 'S LOCAL PROJECT AND ACTIONS

REV's project is really diverse, in one year of volunteering you will participate to various projects and actions .You will actively participate in the life of the house, through collective dynamic and different activities.

Our approaches and activities :

- **Chantier /Workcamp**

The workcamps are changing every year, it depends on the contracts and evolution of REV's project though the years.

Mainly during the volunteering the workcamps will be dedicated to manual workshops (site maintenance, rehabilitation of patrimony and green spaces, gardening ..)

In Le REV, the workcamps are in general **2 days per week** .

In the past year, volunteers participated to the plantation of trees with the objective to preserve the natural local environment, and during the whole year the group was taking care of the maintenance of the hiking path around Beauvoisin , our hosting village .



When REV does not have outside workcamps the work is focused on the house , the garden, volunteers have opportunity to developp new project to improve the site with the team and in cooperation with our technical leader .

- **Local Animation**

Rev's association has **the aim to developp activities for the village and local population.**

As volunteers , you will be asked to developp relationships with the locals through social and cultural activities (weekly english courses for adults and teenagers, animation of monthly intercultural dinners, participation to cultural ponctual events in the local area).



The association is really involved in the village and is trying to developp as much as possible some actions to encourage the participation of the inhabitants and create intercultural and intergenerational meetings, discovery and experiences .

Local animation is a big part of REV project,

Volunteers will need to be motivated to developp interactions with the locals and the learning of basic french will of course be a big asset .



As a social and main action of local animation, the REV opened **Le Petit REV** .

We transformed a little flat in an open space for the locals. This Petit REV is a **second hand shop** (with super solidary prices) and it's also a place where people can have coffee, spend afternoon playing games . . .

On the first floor you will discover a place when you can fix, recycle, arrange old things in order to not throw it away and to struggle against planned obsolescence .

In Petit REV, volunteers have opportunity to develop any social actions they feel that will encourage mixity, diversity between people.



• **Hosting and welcoming individuals and groups**

The SJ delegations are hosting long term volunteers in their houses but not only .

The REV is open to welcome and host groups (Youth Exchanges, EVS group programmes, inclusion and discovery of volunteering for teenagers with fewers opportunities..).

Hosting group has the aim to allow the participants to discover the values of the association through their participation in the workshops,the intercultural exchanges, the collective life that we are building ..

The volunteers will be involved in hosting, accomodation and animation of these groups. Every hosting is different but the team of volunteers is really involve in the schedules of activities, the collective organisation and leisures times .

Individual hosting is mostly for teenagers with fewers opportunities , with social , familial difficulties, the goal here is to involve them in the volunteers team, support them to discover a new way of life and by this experience allow them to find their place in society, get more confidence ..

These hostings are demanding a lot of maturity by volunteers but mostly that requires a posture of full inclusion regardless to personal background, culture and this is actually one of the most precious value that we share in all SJ projects .

- **Green volunteering and environmental project**

The association is clearly involved in environmental problematics and the daily liife is organised as much as possible in a full respect of environment. The goal is to developp educational tools, ways of living that will encourage and raise the awareness of our volunteers, our staffs members and moreover the local population.

The association is really encouraging the volunteers team to developp eco behaviours (awareness on compsumption of drinkable water,electricity, meat ..). The project requires volunteers which are ready to play the game during the whole period of volunteering, to improve and developp new substainable ideas for the project itself in term of ecology .

The association will ask the volunteers to buy and eat seasoned products, local ones , to have a responsible consumption of meat, to participate in the recycling (compost and sorting waste) ..

REV has access to a nice garden, 5 min walk from the house . In this garden, volunteers will have opportunity to work in cooperation with some local people, to grow their own seasoned vegetables, to learn about ecological gardening, composting, dry toilets and so much more ...

- **Collective life**

The project of SJ delegations is based on the collective, when you decide to participate to our local project, you decide to get involve with a team on every aspects of the daily life, every aspects of the actions.

You will not just spend one year with a collective of volunteers from all over the world you will actively participate to make this collective work.That means live with people caring different opinions , values, cultural expressions and history .



- **International Workcamps in Summer time**

The main activity of the movment Solidarités Jeunesses is the organisation and the hostings (by all the delegations) of international workcamps and these workcamps are at the core of our values . The season of international workcamp is from june to september for every SJ delegations. These workcamp are bringing together people of all over the world to share a collective project and experience . Indeed, the people will share the project (it can be about society, on medias, participation in a village project,environmental support to a landscape.. It can take a lot of forms) and live together for 3 weeks .

The volunteers hosted by Sj delegations will be trained during their volunteering to lead this workcamp in full autonomyduring the summer period. Every volunteer will be ask to lead one, but it doesn't mean that you can't lead more ;)

SCHEDULE AND TASKS

The project includes **35 hours of work per week**, from 9 am to 5.30 pm from Monday to Friday , and **each volunteer and staff member will work one Saturday per month**.

These hours are flexible and changing a lot through the year depending on the project activities . Some weeks volunteers will realize less than 35 hours and some weeks it will be a lot more . The association will always try to let volunteers have their leisure hours back, but that's not always the case, participating to the project is full time involvement so it requires sometimes to do more than expected.

When the association is hosting groups, the daily life gets more intense and you will work until late in the evening sometimes, groups are coming on short periods so the team is developing a lot of activities and actions to encourage the exchanges between participants as much as possible .

The weekly tasks are including the collective meeting time, the maintenance and cleaning of the hosting place, the local activities and the manual workcamps .



Everyday the collective will have a cooking team who will prepare and serve the meals for everyone, the lunches and meals are always shared with all the team, this is a collective time that association's members really value in the daily life .

If cooking is not your « passion », do not worry, it can be a learning through your volunteering experience and creativity will come !

GROUP AND ACCOMODATION

REV's house is hosting 5/6 international volunteers. The average age is from 18 to 25 years old .

The house mascot will also be your roommate, it's a cat called Shitty.

During the years, the REV is also hosting EVS for short term period and sometimes teenagers, these hostings are between 1 week to 2 months .

REV 's house is both association's office and volunteers 's « flat »

You will be accomodated in shared bedrooms with bunk beds(2 to 4 people per rooms).

There are 2 common bathrooms with showers and toilets.

The group is autonomous to appropriate itself the common areas and organise collectively.



DON'T FORGET TO BRING WITH YOU

- Clothes for rain and warm clothes
- Good working and walking shoes
- Music instruments , recipes, pictures ...
- Swimmingsuits
- Student card if you have one



And anything else you think you might need ;)

The association is providing blankets, sheets and all the sleeping and bathing supplies .

The association is not encouraging volunteers to overuse computer but there is a computer with internet dedicated to the volunteers team, so no specific need to bring a laptop .

Volunteers will have possibility to lock their valuable items in a secure place, but there is no necessity to bring those valuable things with you, we actually invite to not take it with you .

The house is an open and social place and each volunteer is responsible for its personal stuffs.

HOW TO COME

The closest city to our project is NIMES

BY PLANE

The **airports** with the best connections are those in **Marseille, Lyon, Paris, Montpellier** and **Nîmes** . All of these airports are connected then to trains and bus and will give you a direct access to Nimes.

BY BUS

There are bus connections between the airports and train stations.

<https://fr.ouibus.com/>

Nimes To Beauvoisin, **C34** bus network

https://www.edgard-transport.fr/ftp/FR_lignes/liO_C34_01012019.pdf

BY TRAIN

For train connections , France has big railroad network called SNCF, and you can access Nimes easily . Beauvoisin, our hosting village also has a train station but with not a lot of circulation but still it worths to check.

<https://www.oui.sncf/>

BY CAR

France has a famous network of car sharing which is sometimes the cheapest way to travel in the country

<https://www.blablacar.fr/search-car-sharing>

ADRESSE

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See you soon !!

