

INFOSHEET

# DISCOVER STATE FORESTRY

Help restore our natural landscapes

# Hey hello!

Great that you have signed up for the project “SIW work camp “State Forestry” in The Netherlands!.

Focused on nature preservation and cultural heritage, the project offers personal development through team building and intercultural exchange. Supported by Erasmus+, it’s open to participants from select European countries with travel costs reimbursed.

Your camp leaders are **Koen Van Oostende** & **Juri Mainardi**.

In order to get you fully prepared for these experience, we send you this letter with some information about what you can expect, what is expected from you during this project, and some practical information.



# General Information

SIW representatives will meet you at the Dutch Railway station Assen/Rolde. The best option is to fly to Schiphol Airport. From Schiphol's train station, you can catch a train to Assen station. Trains leave twice an hour, at :29 and :59, heading towards Groningen, either direct or with a stop in Zwolle. The journey takes about 1 hour and 55 minutes. More detailed travel information will be provided in the welcome letter. As this project is funded by Erasmus+, it is not allowed to arrive to the project later than 31 July, 2025.



Meeting point: 'Assen/Rolde'  
Train station



Meeting time: 31 July, 2025  
between 14.00 PM and 16.00 PM



## Volunteers

20 international volunteers,  
2 camp leaders

## Language

English

## Category

ENVI

## Whatsapp

Camp leader will  
contact you

# Project description

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The 'Drentsche Aa' area is a varied historical and cultural landscape, shaped by the ice-age old interplay of agriculture and nature. The 'Drentsche Aa' is also the name of the stream that meanders through this area, creating a typical landscape that has been declared a National Park. It includes 16 authentic villages. The partner in this project is the **Dutch State Forestry Service**, team Drentsche Aa, commissioned by the Dutch government to manage a large part of the nature reserves in the Netherlands.

You will engage in various nature protection activities such as cutting, dredging, clearing paths, and haymaking. The cooperation with the local partner has been ongoing for several years, and they are always very supportive and eager to welcome you to their beautiful area.



# Travel cost compensation

Volunteers will be compensated for travel costs by Erasmus+, according to the scheme to the right. Following the distance from your hometown to Rolde, we will reimburse based on the actual costs with a maximum of the amounts on the right. Green travels apply when at least one way travel is by bus, train or car sharing. You can calculate the distance on <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools/distance-calculator>.

Furthermore, we can also provide up to €125 for visa purchases.

It is important to **keep all the receipts**, booking confirmations, boarding passes, and travel tickets with you. Any missing documents may affect your reimbursement amount.

Distance	Max reimbursement	Green travel
10-99km	€ 28	€ 56
100-499km	€ 211	€ 285
500-1999km	€ 309	€ 417
2000-2999km	€ 395	€ 535
3000-3999km	€ 580	€ 785
4000-7999km	€ 1.188	€ 1.188
>8000 km	€ 1.735	€ 1.735

# Accommodation

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During the training and forest and nature project Drentsche Aa, volunteers will be accommodated at a campsite where they will sleep in tents supplied by us.

The sanitary facilities at the site are well-maintained and comfortable.

It is important that each volunteer brings their own sleeping mat or mattress as well as a sleeping bag to ensure a good night's rest.



## **Camping de Weyert**

Balloërstraat 2, 9451 AK Rolde, The Netherlands



# Free time

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Volunteers will discuss the recreational program together with the camp leaders. For example they can explore the area by bike, go swimming, visit the city of Assen, Groningen, Westerbork transit camp (where Anne Frank was prisoned) and other places in the Netherlands.

The local partner organises every year several great activities with the volunteers like mud walking on the bottom of the Waddenzee. The camp leaders will have some ideas, but of course it's possible for the volunteers to put forward their own



# Good to know!

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All working days, the free time starts at approx.. 16.00 hrs.

Be aware, at the working location there are no official sanitary facilities. SIW will take care of temporary solutions. This also regards issues with rain showers.

You have to bring firm shoes. You work in areas of large vegetation. For security reasons, sneakers are not allowed during work.



# Confidential counsellor

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SWI is the main contact organization for this project. The present camp leaders for the camp are your main contact persons, in case anything works out different as expected. At SIW, we have a confidential counsellor in case you would like to discuss something that you feel you can't share with your camp leader(s).

Her name is Klaske and she can be contacted via:

- Email [vertrouwenspersoon@siw.nl](mailto:vertrouwenspersoon@siw.nl)
- Phone +31621578938.

In case you want to call, please send her a WhatsApp message first.



# What to organize upfront

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**Insurance:** You have to organize or anyway check your travel insurance which also should include volunteer work. Your health insurance should be applicable for your stay in The Netherlands. SIW acts as the placement officer for this project and has arranged a general liability insurance for the camp, the volunteers, and the camp leaders.

**Travel tickets:** You have to book your trip to the camp location, which includes a flight trip and a trip by train.

**Visa:** If needed, you have to organize your visa. SIW can be helpful at the application.

## **Pre-Project Training:**

Before the work project begins, you'll join a 3-day Erasmus+ training led by experienced SIW trainers. Through team-building activities, you'll strengthen group cohesion and build skills in intercultural communication. You'll also reflect on your learning goals and explore themes like sustainability and environmental responsibility. This training sets the stage for personal growth and teamwork in an international nature preservation project.

# What to bring?

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*You have already received information about what is necessary to bring to this work camp. See the complete list below:*

## **Must bring (necessary)**

- Sleeping bag
- Old working clothes, solid work shoes and rubber boots
- Rain is spread out over the year, so bring warm clothes, a raincoat and a swimming suit
- High sneakers that cover the ankles for the mud-walking experience or buy them nearby the camp.



## **Private valuables**

In most accommodations, it is not possible to separate private property such as laptops, iPhones, iPods, digital cameras, etc. separately and thus protect against damage and theft. The accommodation has no lockers. The accommodation is surrounded by a fence and the gate will be locked during the night and all volunteers have left the accommodation during work time. SIW is not liable for theft and damage to personal objects that are brought to the camp. We therefore advise every participating person to either insure your/ his valuables or not take them to the camp.

## **Wise to bring (recommended)**

- Recipes from your own country
- Sunglasses and something on your head against the sun!
- Driver's license that is valid in Holland, in case you have one

## **Nice to bring (optional but fun)**

- Musical instruments, ideas for games/activities
- Board games
- Flashlight
- Energy, enthusiasm, and an open mind!
- A sense of humor 😊

# About SIW.

## General Information

SIW Internationale Vrijwilligersprojecten (SIW International Volunteer Projects) is a Dutch non-governmental, non-profit voluntary service organization that was founded in 1953.

Every year, SIW sends approximately 112 volunteers to foreign sister organizations in Europe, North America, Asia, Latin America, and Africa; in total about 120 organizations in more than 70 countries. These volunteers can choose between voluntary work camp projects (2 to 3 weeks) in international groups, Mid-Long Term Volunteering (MLTV) projects that last 3 weeks to 12 months, and European Voluntary Service (EVS) that last between 6 – 12 months.

community  
new culture  
skillset  
interests  
friends  
Discover your impact abroad  
world  
self  
purpose  
values  
community  
new culture

# About SIW.

Besides that, SIW organizes around 5-7 international work camps in the Netherlands every year. Most of these take place in summer and last for two weeks. We organize these work camps in cooperation with Dutch social organizations like the Dutch State Forestry, Castle Veashartelt, and cultural or festival organizations. In the past years, SIW has welcomed up to 100 volunteers from all over the world.

The mission of SIW is to stimulate people to broaden their horizons. This is achieved by bringing volunteers into contact with different cultures. This way, SIW wants to facilitate international contact and understanding, contribute to the personal growth and development of young people and encourage them to carry out social, cultural, and environmental work. That work is offered in our projects in the Netherlands and in the projects organized by partners from our network abroad.



SIW. 

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**DISCOVER**  
**YOUR SKILLSET.**  
**YOUR SELF.**  
**YOUR GOALS.**  
**YOUR IMPACT.**  
**YOUR NEW FRIENDS.**

Volunteer with SIW —  
and have the time of your life.

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# What else?

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## **Send us your confirmation slip!**

Please inform us if you know what time you will arrive at the meeting point so that the camp leaders can wait for you.

If you need a visa; please inform us if you have received it!

Send us an e-mail: [info@siw.nl](mailto:info@siw.nl)

## **Join the WhatsApp and Facebook group!**

It would be nice to get to know each other before the camp starts. So we have created a group on Facebook called "SIW State Forestry" which you can join. Come and say hello to your fellow volunteers! (to do).

# Contact Details

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## Office SIW International Volunteer projects

Alex Folkerts

Email: [alex.folkerts@siw.nl](mailto:alex.folkerts@siw.nl)

Phone: 0031 620 539 442

### **Emergency:**

+31 6 27403759

(direct contact with  
SIW-office)