



“Vivero Forestal Hacienda la Cruz”

Volunteers informations

Nursery

The forest nursery Hacienda la Cruz is a family reforestation project that is dedicated to the annual production and plantation of different pine tree species. The goal is to reforest damaged areas by unsustainable logging, forest fires, change of forest land use in agriculture, pests, natural disasters, among others. Our purpose is to protect forests and preserve the life that inhabits them, thus we have managed to plant more than 9 million trees.

We have been located in the state of Michoacán de Ocampo, Mexico. Since 1993, every year, thanks to the support of donors and volunteers, we continue to protect the ecosystem, biodiversity and climate of the Mexican forests through reforestation. We accompany our work with ecological projects and awareness activities to protect the environment for schools, communities and individuals.

We wish to open the doors of the nursery to the world and thus increase the positive impact of the project thanks to the support and collaboration of all.



Volunteers

Volunteers participating in the project will learn a lot about protecting the environment, the tree production process and the organization of reforestation. They will have the possibility to visit different reforestation sites and spend time in the forest. During their stay in Mexico, they will be able to learn spanish and to exchange their lifestyles with Mexicans.

We receive volunteers during the months of July, August and September, which correspond to the periods of reforestation and preparation of new tree production.

January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Care and maintenance of trees (irrigation, weeding ...). - General maintenance of the nursery (cleaning, storage ...). - Organic fertilization to maintain the vitality of the soil where the trees develop.
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Care and maintenance of trees (irrigation, weeding ...). - General maintenance of the nursery (cleaning, storage ...). - Organic fertilization to maintain the vitality of the soil where the trees develop. - Remove frost protection plastics.



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March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Care and maintenance of trees (irrigation, weeding ...). - General maintenance of the nursery (cleaning, storage ...). - Organic fertilization to maintain the vitality of the soil where the trees develop. - Remove shade nets so that the trees have the sun. - Monitoring of the health and survival rate of the trees, conditions of the land and sustainability practices of the landowners and communities.
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Care and maintenance of trees (irrigation, weeding ...). - General maintenance of the nursery (cleaning, storage ...). - Organic fertilization to maintain the vitality of the soil where the trees develop. - Monitoring of the health and survival rate of the trees, conditions of the land and sustainability practices of the landowners and communities.
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Care and maintenance of trees (irrigation, weeding ...). - General maintenance of the nursery (cleaning, storage ...). - Organic fertilization to maintain the vitality of the soil where the trees develop.
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduction of care and maintenance of trees (irrigation, weeding ...). - Controlled decrease in organic fertilization to adapt the trees to the natural area where they will be planted without much special care. - General maintenance of the nursery (cleaning, storage ...).
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Controlled reduction of care and maintenance of trees (irrigation, weeding ...). - General maintenance of the nursery (cleaning, storage ...). - Packing of trees for transport. - Transportation of trees to plantation sites. - Distribution of trees to beneficiaries. - Organization and planting of trees in reforestation sites.
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Controlled reduction of care and maintenance of trees (irrigation, weeding ...). - General maintenance of the nursery (cleaning, storage ...). - Packing of trees for transport. - Transportation of trees to plantation sites. - Distribution of trees to beneficiaries. - Organization and planting of trees in reforestation sites.
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General maintenance of the nursery (cleaning, storage ...). - Packing of trees for transport. - Transportation of trees to plantation sites. - Distribution of trees to beneficiaries. - Organization and planting of trees in reforestation sites. - Collection and preparation of seeds. - Seedling foam boxes washing. - Filling seedling foam washing.
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Copperblock sanitization. - Filling Copperblock for seedlings. - Preparation and cleaning of the modules (installation of shade nets to protect against birds, service for irrigation robots ...). - Sowing.
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sowing. - Control of temperature and pH. - Identification of production. - Application of irrigation. - Organic fertilization to maintain the vitality of the soil where the trees develop. - Installation of frost protection plastics.
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sowing. - Care and maintenance of trees (irrigation, weeding ...). - General maintenance of the nursery (cleaning, storage ...). - Organic fertilization to maintain the vitality of the soil where the trees develop.



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There is the possibility of doing these hours of volunteering in an alternative project, for example an internship, or university project depending on the particular skills and aspirations of the volunteer.

Some examples :

- General maintenance of the nursery (irrigation systems, fertilization, logistics ...).
- Ecological project (upcycling, self-sufficiency, permaculture ...)
- Art project (decoration of the forest or the nursery, artistic upcycling...)
- Social networks and web page management (visual and written content ...).
- Scientific study (on water, land, air, ecosystems, biodiversity ...) in order to obtain research data on the environmental issue or on the production of trees.



Hacienda la Cruz de San Miguel

Volunteers will stay right at the nursery, at Hacienda la Cruz de San Miguel, which is a ranch built in the 19th century. The Hacienda was renovated 35 years ago, located in the mountains of Michoacán, it is for us an oasis of life, full of history, preserved in a traditional way and decorated with magnificent art works. It is a perfect place to disconnect, take walks in the forest, in the gardens or get lost in its corridors built manually during the Spanish colonization.



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Staying here is truly a unique experience!

Each room has a private bathroom, at least one bed, everything is furnished and the water is heated with a gas boiler. The water comes from the springs of the forest, and is potable water. The rooms are located between two gardens and are surrounded by a forest where a small river passes, a few steps from the nursery.



Work schedule

Ideally, each week, volunteers can participate in reforestation organized by the nursery or its beneficiaries, thus visiting different planting sites.



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	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7:30	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
8:00	Nursery	Nursery	X	Nursery	Nursery	Reforestation	X
9:00	Nursery	Nursery	X	Nursery	Nursery	Reforestation	X
10:00	Nursery	Nursery	X	Nursery	Nursery	Reforestation	X
11:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:00	Nursery	Nursery	X	Nursery	Nursery	Reforestation	X
13:00	Nursery	Nursery	X	Nursery	Nursery	Reforestation	X
14:00	Nursery	Nursery	X	Nursery	Nursery	Reforestation	X
15:00	Meal	Meal	Meal	Meal	Meal	Meal	Meal
16:00	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
17:00	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
18:00	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
19:00	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
20:00	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner

Financial contribution

The financial contribution per volunteer exists to cover the operating costs of each volunteer per week which corresponds to:

Fee per week	\$ 200 US	-
Direct donation to the nursery	\$ 10 US (20 trees)	\$ 190 US
Volunteer manager	\$ 40 US	\$ 150 US
Food	\$ 40 US	\$ 110 US
Household and kitchen	\$ 40 US	\$ 70 US
Basic needs (toilet paper, cleaning products, etc.)	\$ 10 US	\$ 60 US
Electricity	\$ 15 US	\$ 45 US
Gas	\$ 15 US	\$ 30 US
Fuel	\$ 30 US	\$ 0 US



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Tourism

During free hours, volunteers can find activities to do inside the Hacienda, such as reading in the gardens, spending time with animals (dogs, cats, turtles, birds, chickens, ponies, horses, sheep, ostriches, rabbits...), use the game room and play in the outdoors (basketball, football, ping-pong, board games...), and go out for a run or use the gym to exercise. It is also possible to take a walk through the natural forest, where there is also a small pond and spring water pools where it is possible to bath. Once night falls, it is possible to warm up around a fire in the forest or in a fireplace inside the Hacienda.

During free days, volunteers can visit nearby tourist attractions and “magical towns” such as Santa Clara del Cobre, 20 minutes from the Hacienda, which is a town known for its artisan work made of copper. Volunteers can also eat traditional Mexican food 25 minutes from the Hacienda in Zirahuen, just after plunging into the beautiful lake in "agua verde", where it is possible to swim, kayak, ride a horse or motorcycle. Pátzcuaro is a beautiful city 45 minutes from the Hacienda, with a lake containing 7 islands, a beautiful main square, and a great market. You can visit pyramids like Tzintzuntzan 17 km from Pátzcuaro on the shore of the lake, or the archaeological zone of Ihuatzio, you can also have a quiet evening at the movies. Morelia is the capital of Michoacán and the capital of culture located 1 hour 30 minutes from the Hacienda. There you can spend a lively night in the bars and parties organized on weekends, you can also attend different cultural shows such as theater and dance.

Volunteers have access to the nursery office as a workspace with wifi and a computer, or they can work on their own computer on the Hacienda's wifi.





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Travel information

For the trip, it is recommended to fly to the airport in Morelia (MLM), which is the closest, or Mexico City (MEX), and take a bus to Pátzcuaro.

For public transport from the Hacienda, there are "combis", which are small cars that cross all the cities to pick up and drop off passengers at common stops. These cars circulate every hour and charge 17 pesos to go to Santa Clara del Cobre, 25 pesos to Pátzcuaro ... There are also buses and taxis to go to Morelia for 65 pesos.



Contact

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